

THE CLARK MESSENGER

JANUARY 2012



George Rogers Clark Heritage Association
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From the President's Quill for January, 2012

December 28, 2011

Next General Meeting: January 4, 2012

Dear Members,

I hope that you are having a pleasant Holiday Season. As I write this, Christmas is past and New Years yet to come. I am still working on my resolutions list, and I hope that I can keep some of them.

At our December general meeting we held election of Trustees. Elected for three year terms were Bill Smith, John Wysocki and John Hays. We thank all six who ran for the three positions on the Board. As Rusty indicated in the last newsletter, after 10 years in that position, he took himself out of consideration for the office of president. Officers of the Association, elected by the Board of Trustees are: Andy Shuirr – President; Tom Rumpke – Vice President; Sheri Forness – Secretary; Bill Smith – Treasurer. Many thanks go to Rusty for his years of leadership. Those are some big moccasins to fill. While this indicates a change in the leadership of our organization, we cannot foresee any change in the success and operation of our group. Any changes our members may notice will most likely be right here in the newsletter, with an emphasis on projects and membership benefit events.

The Liberty Dancers and several other GRCHA members attended the “Old Williamsburg Dinner” at the Officers Club at Wright Patterson Air Force Base on Sunday, December 18. We were again well received and were paid for providing the entertainment for the evening. Please note that the Liberty Dancers will NOT be practicing on January 3 because of the holidays, but will resume practicing on January 17. Practices are on the first and third Tuesdays of each month and are open to ANY members who want to learn period dances while having a good aerobic workout (not to mention a good time). Wine and cheese and other snacks are usually included during practice. To current dancers, come prepared to dust off some of the dances we have shelved in the past and to work on some new ones.

We want to remind everyone of our annual Twelfth Night Party to be held on Saturday, January 7, at the Gathering House. Please register at the General Meeting on January 4 or call Linda Katon if you have not already placed your name on the reservation list. Also, don't forget to get your 18th century recipe.

Just a reminder: annual dues are due in January. As you pay your dues this year, please check to make sure we have your correct e-mail and phone number. We plan to rework our call list and update the “call tree/notification list.”

Our deepest condolences go out to Rusty Cottrel and Cindy Jackson and their extended families at the death of their father, William Cottrel, on December 24, 2011.

Congratulations to Katie Nowack on successfully defending her Master's Thesis.

Finally, if you have any submissions for the newsletter, please contact me or our editor, Mary Pacinda, before the trustee meeting date. Articles may be edited for length or content.

Andy

News and Notes of Interest

January Meeting Education: Henry Knox's Noble Train of Artillery In November 1775, Boston had been under siege by the British since late spring and there seemed to be no end in sight. But native Bostonian and Patriot Colonel Henry Knox had an idea. The Continental Army had recently captured Forts Ticonderoga and Crown Point in New York. Bringing the cannons from those forts and placing them in the Dorchester Heights overlooking Boston could change the balance of power and end the siege. Washington agreed and put him in charge of bringing the cannons to Boston.



Thus, in early December 1775, Knox traveled to Ticonderoga and began what came to be called the Noble Train of Artillery. With very few roads and through sparsely populated and rugged land, Knox's men and their teams of oxen hauled more than 50 tons of cannons and other armaments over 300 miles in ice and snow and bitter cold. On January 25, 1776, the cannons arrived in Cambridge where they were immediately deployed. The threat of these cannons firing on British ships in Boston Harbor led to the British evacuation of Boston, a major victory for the fledgling Continental Army.

Following January's general business meeting, Benjamin Smith, managing editor of *Patriots of the American Revolution* magazine will give a presentation about his planned Knox Trail walk. In April of next year, he and another staff member will walk the entire length of the trail to honor Henry Knox and the Noble Train of Artillery. GRCHA members receiving this newsletter by email will find a poster about the Knox Trail following the last page. Copies of the poster will also be available at the January meeting.

GRCHA Fundraiser: Patriots of the American Revolution magazine For every subscription that bears our membership code number, *Patriots* will donate \$10.00 of the subscription price to GRCHA. This includes renewals, so if you are already subscribing and you like the magazine, now might be a good time to extend your subscription. You will find an order form at the end of this newsletter. It already has our code number on it. All you need to do is fill it out and send it to the Yellow Springs address on the form. Remember, we get the donation from Patriots with paid subscriptions only. So, please include payment or credit card info with your order. Thanks!

Floor Cloth Workshop A floor cloth workshop will be held on March 17 and 18. Visit the GRCHA Face Book page for details or contact Diane Berezcky at 325-9700 or diane_b_history@yahoo.com.

Historic Cooking GRCHA members Dan and Lisa Hrinko have found a new resource for 18th century cooking. Chef Walter Staib of the City Tavern in Philadelphia produced a series of shows for PBS called *A Taste of History*. He uses historically correct recipes and cooks in historic kitchens on an open hearth. The series is not broadcast in our area, but the first two seasons are on video. The Hrinkos would be happy to share these videos and the companion cookbook with anyone who is interested. They would also like to form a special interest group focusing on this topic that would meet at the Hrinko house one Sunday afternoon each month to discuss historic foods, bring samples, and cook. If you are interested, contact Dan and Lisa Hrinko at danhrinko@att.net.

Crabill House Update As you may know, the Crabill House was vandalized the weekend of December 16. A lot of our unique architecture was damaged, including our copper spouting and parts of our roof. However, we are working to resolve this problem and are expecting estimates on roof and spouting repair shortly. We are also researching other security measures to further combat this situation.

On a lighter note, we have set the date for our January meeting. Our meeting will take place on January 11 at the Gathering House at 7 p.m. In this meeting we'll have a presentation about a proposed tavern dinner for the spring and we'll cover some basic information about house museums and historic preservation. At that time, we'll recognize our new Crabill Homestead Officers, Katie Nowack, Amy Henry and Alice Dayhoff-Miller. We'd like to thank Diane Berezcky for her wonderful work as co-chair this year. Her efforts really got the Crabill House going!

Calendar of Events

January

Jan 4: General Meeting, 7 p.m.

Jan 7: Twelfth Night

Jan 11: Crabill Committee meeting at Gathering House, 7 p.m.

Jan 17: Liberty Dancers dance practice, Gathering House, 7 p.m.

Jan 19: First Fair Meeting

Membership Reminder

Memberships run from January 1 to December 31. All membership renewals are due January 1. Please fill out form below and mail to: PO Box 1251, Springfield, OH 45501.

Name(s) _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Home Telephone: _____ Cell: _____

I do hereby, for myself, my heirs, my executor or administrator, release and forever discharge any and all rights and claims, for, or to be, for which I or members of my family may have or which may hereafter accrue to me or my family against the George Rogers Clark Heritage Association and/or any other person connected with the scheduled Association activities, individually or collectively, for all responsibility for injury to persons during these activities.

Signed _____ Date: _____

Membership Options (Check one)

Student - \$15 Single Adult - \$20 Family - \$25 Supporting - \$50 Patron - \$100 Life - \$500

Free Admission to the Fair at New Boston is provided for either one adult for a single membership or two adults for a family, supporting, patron, or life membership.

Please send completed form with check made out to the George Rogers Clark Heritage Association.

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 Editor

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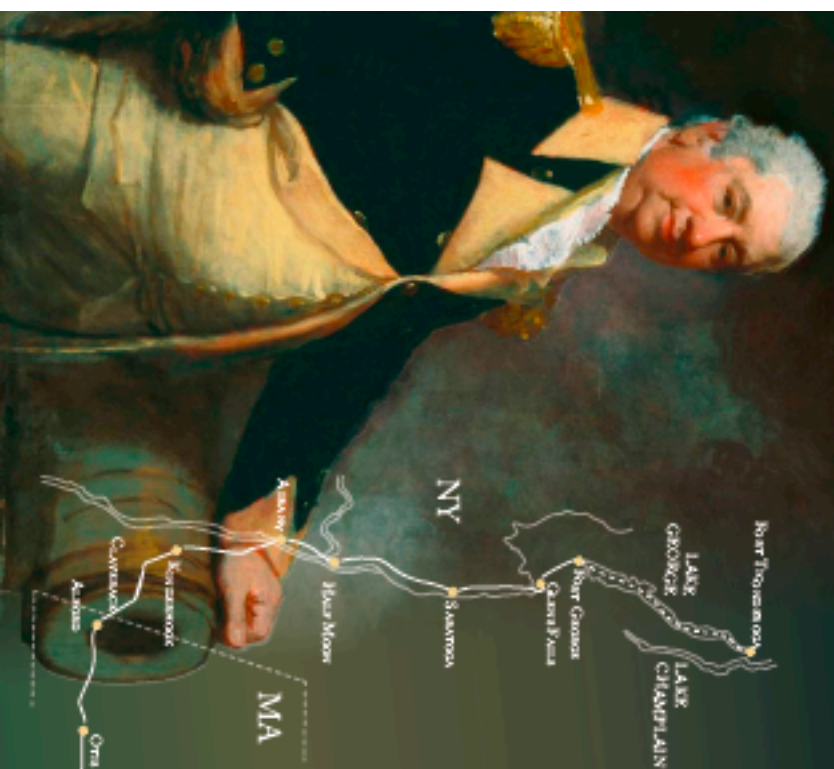
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FOLLOWING THEIR FOOTSTEPS

The Knox Trail

Honor Walk



During the winter of 1775-1776, Colonel Henry Knox left Boston, marched to New York's Fort Ticonderoga, and—with a team of men and oxen—hauled more than 50 tons of cannons and other arms back to Boston's Dorchester Heights, which led to the British evacuation of Boston.

In April of 2012, Benjamin Smith and Alec Colquhoun from *BerkshireLife*, *American Revolution* magazine will walk the "Knox Trail" from Ticonderoga to Boston.

THE MISSION

To honor Henry Knox and his "noble train of artillery," to raise awareness of and promote the Knox Trail as a unique American historical route, and to help raise needed money for history-based museums and parks with connections to Henry Knox and the Knox Trail.

Donations received by corporations and private individuals will be collected by the American Revolution Association and distributed directly and equally to the following four museums and parks:

- ★ Fort Ticonderoga
- ★ New York State Military Museum
- ★ Boston National Historical Park
- ★ Montpelier, The General Henry Knox Museum

Please help *BerkshireLife*, *American Revolution* Magazine and the American Revolution Association to honor Henry Knox, make the public aware of the Knox Trail, and raise funds for our partners.

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