

History of  
*Fort Recovery*  
*Historical Society*

75 Years  
1946-2021



# **Fort Recovery Historical Society, Inc.**

## **Seventy Five Years of Preserving History - 1946/2021**

On the Banks of the Wabash River in west central Ohio lies the village of Fort Recovery. Fort Recovery is a small community located in a rural area. Unlike other small communities in the area, our history does not begin quietly with the settlement of several families, but more violently when, on November 4, 1791, General Arthur St. Clair and his poorly organized army suffered a major defeat at the hands of the native Americans. Much of the history that led up to and followed that disastrous event is also the history of the creation of the Northwest territory and the state of Ohio.

Later the area was settled by early pioneers and a thriving village grew up around this bloody site. Over the years there is also much history related to the lives and events of the people that settled here, started businesses, raised and educated their families, and lived and worked together to form the community that remains small in number, but large in history and hometown pride. For the past 75 years the Fort Recovery Historical Society has worked to promote and preserve this rich history. According to Pulitzer Prize winner, Pearl Buck, *If you want to understand today, you have to search yesterday.*

### **Formation and Organization of the Fort Recovery Historical Society, Inc.**

Over 150 years after the 1791 Battle of the Wabash, in response to a notice in the September 27, 1946 issue of the Fort Recovery Journal, 30 citizens of Fort Recovery met at the Library (now the Museum) on September 30<sup>th</sup>. Miss Martha Rohr called the meeting to order and Mrs. Iris Longley was appointed chairman. She spoke of the need for an organization to preserve and promote interest in Fort Recovery's historical background.

It was decided that it would be best to organize as a nonprofit corporation. A committee was created to write up a constitution and by-laws for the organization. The first official charter of the Fort Recovery Historical Society, Inc. recorded with the State of Ohio was dated October 26, 1946. Almost 50 years later in 1991 the Articles of Incorporation were amended to meet requirements for a 501c3 non-profit status, which was received from the IRS June 17, 1992. In 2008 the Bylaws and Constitution were once again updated.

The first Historical Society joined with the Chamber of Commerce, Fort Recovery Library Board and Business & Professional Women's Club to share in the civic developments of the village. Many of the early members were active in one or more of these organizations and had taken active parts in the reconstruction of the fort in 1935, in financing and erecting the library and museum building in 1938, and in the village's Sesquecentennial (150) celebration in 1941.

#### **Organize Historical Society**

#### **Here on Monday**

Recent articles appearing in the Journal have created much interest in the pioneering days of Fort Recovery.

Many times in the past the need for an Historical Society to preserve and promote the interests of historical significance here has been discussed. In addition a society to accept and care for relics and souvenirs that have been offered is needed.

Now the stimulus through these articles has resulted in a public meeting to be held in the club rooms of the Library on Monday, September 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 P.M.

It is urgently requested that everyone interested in such a project turn out to this first public meeting.

*Fort Recovery Journal*  
*September 27, 1946*

Initially the Society was governed by 15 trustees. Officers were chosen from the 15 trustees and the first officers elected were: President - Iris Longley; 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President - Floyd Freemyer; 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President - Fay (Morvilius) Hart; Secretary - Elizabeth Hedrick; Treasurer - Leo Hildbold. Various committees were formed including: Membership, Publicity, Education, Auditing, Gifts and Collections, and Research. Of the first officers three of them served in their respective office for over 20 years. These included Iris Longley, Elizabeth Hedrick and Leo Hildbold.

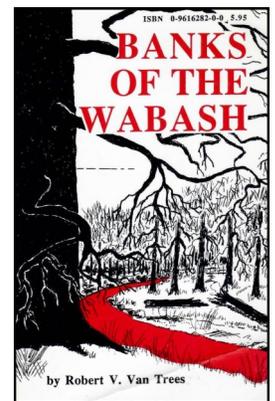
Over the past 75 years the Fort Recovery Historical Society has worked collaboratively with other community organizations to preserve and promote the history connected to our village. The Ohio Historical Society, the Anthony Wayne Parkway Society, and the Mercer County Commissions have partnered with us to fund and carry out some of the many projects undertaken over the years by our Society. The Ohio Historical Society (OHS) - once known as Ohio State Archaeological and Historical Society (OSAHS) and now as Ohio History Connection (OHC) - currently owns the museum, the forts, the monument and the land on which they are located. While they contribute toward their maintenance, these sites are managed by the Fort Recovery Historical Society with a local director and volunteers to oversee the care and management of these important historical sites.



The first board of trustees for the Historical Society identified two areas to work on: 1) stop the destruction of small cemetery plots in the Fort Recovery area and arrange for their permanent care and 2) find a place to display the historic collections and gifts that have become their property over the years.

For many years the trustees held an annual meeting in the fall of the year for all members and any interested citizens. At that meeting committee reports were given and an inventory was taken of the past year's accomplishments, followed by interesting programs, refreshments and socializing. Talks were given by various speakers with topics ranging from historical to reports of overseas trips made by local people. In 1956 to celebrate its 10<sup>th</sup> year, attendees were entertained with a magic show by Fort Recovery magician, Richard Hull. These annual meetings ended around 2000 when the One-of-a-Kind Auction fund raiser was held in October.

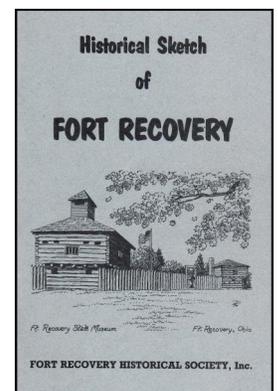
In 1996 the Fort Recovery Historical Society celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at the State Museum. Jim Zehringer served as Master of Ceremonies; Bob Freemyer, former president, gave the history of the first 25 years; Tom Kaup, current president, gave the history of the last 25 years. State Representative Jim Buchy presented Mr. Kaup with a commendation certificate. Mayor John Wolf made a proclamation setting October 20, 1996 as Fort Recovery Historical Society Day. Bob Van Trees had a book signing of his newly revised *Banks of the Wabash* and Tony DeRegnacourt autographed his publication, *The Archaeology of Fort Recovery, Ohio, St. Clair's Defeat and Wayne's Victory*. Cake and punch completed the celebration.



## Creating and Fostering Appreciation for our Historical Background

One of the best ways to create and foster appreciation of our historical background is through education. Over the past 75 years the Historical Society has used different formats - from articles and books, to lectures and video commentaries, to celebrations recalling significant events - all to educate both visitors and residents of the area.

Prior to the formation of the Historical Society, in 1932 Martha Rohr, one of the early trustees, wrote an *Historical Sketch of Fort Recovery* recording a brief history of



the events that took place at Fort Recovery. This was revised in 1966 under the leadership of Elizabeth Hedrick, and again revised in 1991 by Barbara Meiring. Each revision added more recent events as well as corrections to the history of Fort Recovery. Many other books, articles and publications have been written. Some of these books are available for purchase in the Museum Gift Shop.

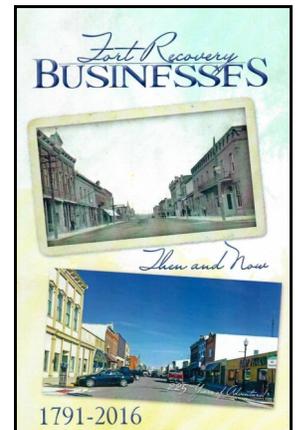
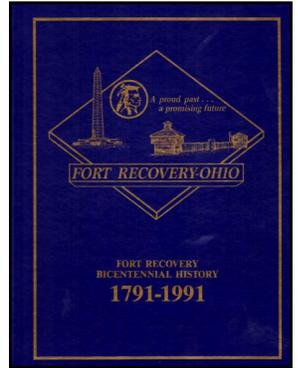
In the early years of the Society, the members assembled a folder entitled Historic Fort Recovery to give to visitors who came to the museum. The folder contained historical data, pictures and other information about Fort Recovery. Another activity that, not only promoted the visibility of Fort Recovery, but provided some much-needed income was the creation of post cards. These were then sold in some of the local stores and the proceeds would go back to the Society.

In 1990 in preparation for the celebration of Fort Recovery's Bicentennial, a book with the history of Fort Recovery was created and published with Nancy Abels as chairperson. The book combined historical accounts of the village, as well as that of the surrounding rural area. Civic organizations, schools, churches, businesses and families submitted their individual histories to be included in the book. This combination created a wealth of information about our area and its people. Also at that time an historic calendar was created and sold. These calendars included many pictures from the archives of the Historical Society taken in the early years of the village.

In 2013 in conjunction with the Centennial Celebration of the dedication of the Monument, a booklet was assembled showing the names of descendants of U.S. military/militia and civilians who fought and/or died in the Battle of the Wabash and the Battle of Fort Recovery. Then in 2016 for the 225<sup>th</sup> celebration of Fort Recovery, Helen LeFevre wrote a book with the history of the businesses of Fort Recovery - both past and present. The book is entitled *Fort Recovery Businesses - Then and Now* and includes many pictures from the Society's archives.

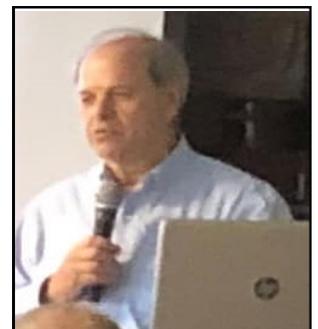
In collaboration with the Fort Recovery Library in 1989 a shelf was created in the library for genealogy research. The library also has had all of the old Fort Recovery Journals put on microfilm so someone doing research has access to them. Today these can be accessed by going to the website: [fortrecovery.advantage-preservation.com](http://fortrecovery.advantage-preservation.com).

When Nancy Knapke became director of the museum in 2007 she started a speaker series. Each year once a month, during the months the museum was open - May through September - she would arrange for various historians to speak at the museum on topics relating to the battles fought at Fort Recovery and the settlement of the Northwest Territory. These speakers attracted many people from all over. Many of the speakers were also authors of books which then became available for sale in the museum gift shop.



John Winkler, an Historian gave Battlefield Tours.

Some of the better known speakers were Joe Krom, Ken Soward, Linda Stephens, William Heath, Alan Gaff, John Christian Rummel, David Simmons, David Heckaman, Keith Layman, George Ironstrack, Adam Jortner, Ashley Philpot, Frank Kuran, Harold Youman, Karim Tiro, John Winkler, Robyn Hague, Larry Nelson, Richard Zane Smith, Ben Barnes, Jeremy Turner, Steve Littleton, Mark Stonecipher, Jack Blosser, Bill Kennedy, William Iseminger, Andy Hite, Tim Willig, Mary Stockwell, William Hogeland, Diane Hunter, Joe Beatty and the Wyandotte Native Americans from Oklahoma.



Joe Beatty speaks at Museum

In November, 2011 John Winkler gave the first Battlefield Walk - a narrated walk showing where the actual Battle of the Wabash in 1791 was fought. This was so well received he came back to do this for several more years, including 2016 when it was done in conjunction with the Wabash 1791 Symposium. held at the Nazarene Family Center to commemorate 225 years since the battle. This event included various speakers - George Ironstrack, Cam Shriver, Stephen Paper and Fort Recovery Archaeologist, Chris Thompson.

Several documentaries have been created with the help of people in the Historical Society. In 2000 the History channel did a documentary called the Battle of Fort Recovery and on October 19, 2003 PBS produced a documentary that included historical events at Fort Recovery. Then in 2011 Chris Thompson in collaboration with Ball State University received a grant to do a documentary about the history of Fort Recovery. This DVD, entitled *Forgotten Histories: The Battles of the Wabash and Fort Recovery*, is still available.



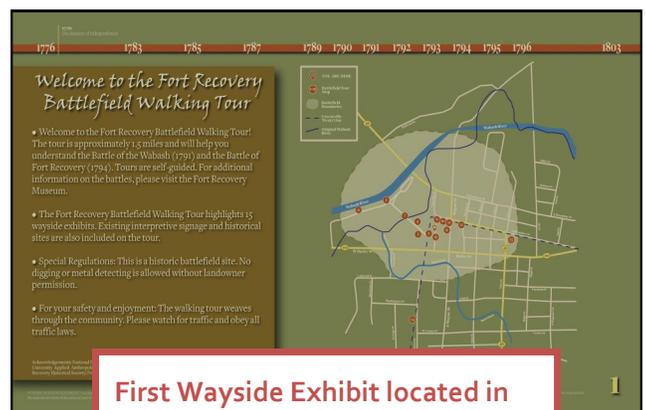
Various individuals have made enormous contributions to the preservation of Fort Recovery history. Bob Hart and Harold Ranly have shared their huge photo collections. Ann McDaniel has done extensive genealogy research for people in the Fort Recovery area. In 2006, due to Bob VanTrees's relentless research, DNA tests proved that Blue Jacket was an Indian, not a white man as he was sometimes depicted. In 2007 Mr. VanTrees presented the museum with a large detailed poster depicting Blue Jacket's Family Tree.

Probably no one individual in the Historical Society has done more research to create a better and more accurate understanding of the two battles that took place here - Battle of the Wabash in 1791 and Battle of Fort Recovery in 1794 - than Chris (Thobe) Thompson. Chris, a Fort Recovery graduate, who later became the technology director at Fort Recovery schools, decided to embark on a new career. In 2007 she attended Ball State University to become an Archaeologist. In 2008 she did her internship at the State Museum and redid the locally-owned display of ancient artifacts in the upstairs of the Museum. With the help of Tony DeRegnacourt they photographed and identified each item displayed giving more clarity to these displays. They also added a flint making video from Fort Ancient to the upstairs display.

After graduating with her MBA in Archaeology, much of Chris's research while working for Ball State University has focused on the battles fought at Fort Recovery. She has received numerous grants that have enabled archaeological digs to determine where the actual battlefield was located as well as the location of the very first fort. These were all done along with Ball State University students and staff in collaboration with the Fort Recovery Historical Society. In 2016 after the map showing the original fort was found at the Clements Library, a BSU field school excavation and ground penetrating radar was done on the lot just north of Nature's Corner. This dig attracted over 900 visitors during the five week period, many were young people.

Grants also funded the 15 Wayside Exhibits located throughout Fort Recovery each giving a different piece of the history of the battles. These were dedicated on May 5, 2019 and enable visitors and local residents to stroll through the area and read about the history at their own pace. Currently Chris is working on digitizing the artifact exhibit located in the upstairs of the museum. In total she has received almost \$400,000 in grants to do research focused on better understanding what happened here at Fort Recovery over 2000 years ago. Below is a list of some of the many grants that she has been awarded while working with Ball State University:

- 2011 - Documentary Grant - *Forgotten Histories*
- 2012 - National Battlefield Protection Grant



First Wayside Exhibit located in front of the Museum

- 2012 - Ball State University Aspire Grant
- 2013 - Two National Park Service American Battlefield Protection Program grants
- 2015 - BSU/FR received a National Park Service American Battlefield Protection Program grant
- 2015 - BSU Anthropology received an Ohio History Fund State Historic Preservation Office award
- 2018 - BSU in collaboration with OHC received a National Endowment for the Public Humanities Project award to be used to complete planning for traveling exhibit about the Battle of the Wabash

## **Displaying and Cataloguing Local Historical Collections**

### **Place to Display Local Artifacts**

One of the goals of the first Historical Society was to find a place to display collections and gifts that had come into their possession. Plans were made to start a local museum in the balcony gallery of what was then the Library and would later become the State Museum. In 1948 a collection of valuable relics and cases, which had been assembled over many years by the Fort Recovery Banking Company, was purchased by the Society for \$600. The collection included many priceless sandal-sole shell gorgets of Glacial Kame culture. These ancient relics, as well as other local artifacts were put on display at this first local museum that was opened on May 1, 1949 with 350 registered visitors the first weekend.



One Artifact on display

The trustees of the Historical Society volunteered to be the caretakers of the Museum, but they soon realized it was too much to manage with only volunteer help, so it became necessary to hire someone to be the caretaker. Over the years Glenna Sanner, Clara Scheid, and Hazel Hoke were among those who helped the Society with this work. In 1968 when the Library moved to their current location at 113 North Wayne Street, the Ohio Historical Society decided to use this building as a State Museum. Once again it became necessary to find a place to display local historical collections. This is when the building project for the Krenning Lot was first discussed.

The collection of gorgets and other relics purchased from the Fort Recovery Bank continued to be displayed in the balcony gallery of the museum adding to the attractions and displays provided downstairs by the Ohio Historical Society. Donations from the Brad & Brian Bulp families in memory of their parents, Jim and Charlene, funded renovations of the artifact display in the balcony of the museum. The room was named the Bulp Prehistoric Experience Room and dedicated June 2, 2013. Currently with the aid of a grant from Ohio History Connection, Chris Thompson, in collaboration with BSU, is creating a digital exhibit of Fort Recovery Historical Society's prehistoric collection.

### **Krenning Park/Walk-by Museum**

In 1947, shortly after the Fort Recovery Historical Society was organized, former resident, Mrs. George Krenning of New Haven, Connecticut deeded to the Historical Society the lot on Wayne Street where their home at one time was located - between the Fort Recovery Banking Company and the Monument Shop. Mrs. Krenning donated this in memory of her husband, George Campbell Krenning. The local Society formed a committee to do the necessary landscaping to turn this lot into a beautiful park that lies in the center of Fort Recovery and serves as an entrance to the Library/Museum building. At a meeting on July 29, 1948 the Society set a policy that the Krenning Lot could not be used for commercial purposes or public gatherings.



Walkby Museum and log house located in Krenning Park - 2020

In the early 1970's when the Society was once again looking for a place to display and store local collections gifted to them, plans were made to build a Walk-by Museum in Krenning Park. After many years of planning and fund raising, the money received from the estate of Hazel Hoke enabled this project to finally come to fruition. On May 28, 1980 the Walk-by Museum and meeting room were dedicated.

The Walk-by Museum was built on the north side of Krenning Park so people could move freely through the area. Behind the open displays was a large much needed storage area. The meeting room was placed on the east end of the lot and served the Society as a place to meet until 2016. At this time plans were made to paint a large mural on the north wall of the bank depicting the battle fought here in 1791. To create greater visibility for the mural, it was decided to move the meeting room. This also opened up the lot to resemble the park that was initially created. The meeting room building was purchased for \$1 by Jason Grieshop and moved from Krenning Park.

In 2016 through a grant from the Ohio Facilities Commission and many volunteer hours by Louis Diller and Don Lennartz, Krenning Park was re-landscaped with a paver brick walkway laid by Nature's Green to become the beautiful park we have today. The Walk-by Museum continues to provide space to display artifacts from various local collections given to the Society over the years. Displays are changed periodically and the storage space behind the exhibits provides a place for storing items not currently being displayed.

In 2018 a sign was added on the east end of the Walk-by Museum: **FORT RECOVERY HISTORICAL MUSEUM - KRENNING PARK.** The Historical Society is responsible for mowing and landscaping this park, and maintaining the south wall of the Monument Shop, the east retaining wall and the sidewalk on the east side of the park. Before her death Sheila Fett volunteered many hours of her time to keep the grass mowed in the park.





### **Fort Recovery Visitor Center/Display Area**

The Fort Recovery Visitor Center was dedicated on May 22, 1998. It once housed the former Zimmerman Snyder Shell gas station. Centrally located between the forts and the monument in downtown Fort Recovery, it was renovated to provide handicap accessible restrooms and displays of information about Fort Recovery and other things to see and do in the surrounding area. It also allows some space for displays of Fort Recovery history.

The Visitor Center was part of the downtown revitalization project begun in 1990 and overseen by Project Recovery in conjunction with the village and the Historical Society. It was funded partially by grants from the Ohio Department of Development and partly from local donations. It continues to be maintained by these same organizations and is open 24/7 for visitors to Fort Recovery as well as residents living here.

### **Cataloguing Local Collections**

Over the years the Historical Society has been gifted by individuals with many historical items and collections. It is difficult to properly catalogue and display these items, but great efforts have been made to do so. As early as 1948 it is recorded in the minutes that the Ohio Historical Society made three suggestions regarding relics given to them:

- 1) never take a relic on loan
- 2) make no promise to display everything accepted
- 3) display only the best of the collections

Some of the efforts of the past to record and display items as noted in minutes from meetings are as follows:

- In 1987 Joyce Alig helped identify and catalogue the tools and items on display at the museum.
- In 1992 Helen LeFevre organized the files and cupboards and Nancy Abels computerized the books that belonged to the Historical society.
- In 1995 the Museum had all of the artifacts in the museum photographed and catalogued. Tony DeRegnecourt was paid to do the relics upstairs to complete the work.
- In 1999 Helen LeFevre scanned glass negatives.

- In 2000 Helen LeFevre and Nancy Abels catalogued items in the society's possession.
- In 2004 Pat Diller set up a program in Access and recorded items that belonged to the Historical Society.
- In 2008 an Artifact Catalog, Prehistoric Log, List of Items in the Walkby Museum were placed in the safe deposit box. It was determined that most museums do not insure artifacts since they are not replaceable.
- In 2009 Museum inventory 75% complete - when finished a copy will be placed in the safe deposit box.
- In 2020 Trisha Thien and Helen LeFevre scanned many pictures from our collection.

## Sites and Buildings Cared for by the Historical Society

### Pioneer Cemetery

One of the first goals of the newly formed Fort Recovery Historical Society in 1946 was to "stop the destruction of small cemetery plots in the Fort Recovery area and arrange for their permanent care." It was soon learned that the small cemeteries in the county should be cared for by the township trustees in the township where the cemetery is located. In several cases the Society contacted the trustees to make sure they were aware of their responsibility.

There was some confusion who was responsible for taking care of Pioneer Cemetery which is located on Gwendolyn Street in the village of Fort Recovery. Since it is within the corporation limits of the village, it becomes the property of the village, who is then responsible for its care. Because Pioneer Cemetery, the oldest cemetery in Mercer County, has historical significance for the Fort Recovery area, the Society has worked with the village to take down dead trees, repair broken monuments and make necessary improvements. Today the Historical Society assumes responsibility for the mowing and general care of Pioneer Cemetery.

In 1951, on the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first Bone Burying Day, the Society erected two markers with appropriate legends at Pioneer Cemetery. One was placed near the original gravestone of Samuel McDowell, a soldier who fought in General St. Clair's army; the other marker relates the history of the events connected with the cemetery and the attempt of the local people to honor the fallen in the battles of General Arthur St. Clair and General Anthony Wayne. In 2006 through a grant from the Cooper Foundation a new plaque was placed listing the names of the people buried in the cemetery, since grave markers were becoming difficult to read. Also the historical marker was replaced with a new one.

In 1971 the Society helped with the restoration of Pisqah Cemetery, south of Fort Recovery. While working on this, some old church records of the Pisqah Church, the United Church of Christ, were found. These dated the church back to the 1850's. These records proved that it the first Christian Church in our area. Much credit can be given to Otto Vonderhaar and Maurice Denney for their efforts in the early restoration and care of theses cemeteries.



Marker in Pioneer Cemetery listing names of people buried here.

## Bone Burying Days

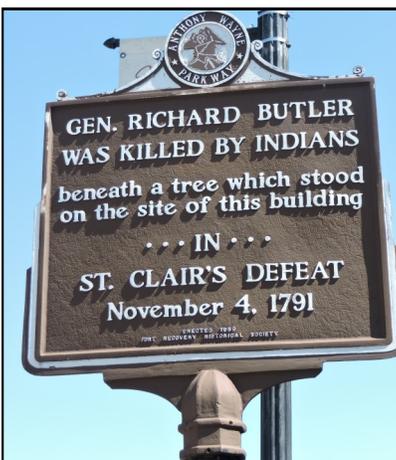
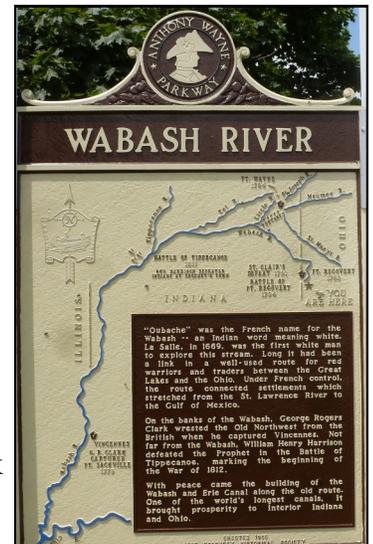
A unique bit of trivia; the small village of Fort Recovery has observed three bone burying days. The first was in 1851, after boys playing along the Wabash River found some human bones and reported their findings. The people of Fort Recovery started a search and found many of the skeletons of the people who died in the battles fought here in 1791 and 1794. A memorial celebration was planned for September 10, 1851 when these remains were buried in Pioneer Cemetery.

The remains of these dead soldiers stayed in Pioneer Cemetery until October 16, 1891 when they were removed to Memorial (Monument) Park to commemorate the centennial of the battle. This became the second bone burying day and today the bones of the slain soldiers now lay in a crypt in the foundation of the Fort Recovery Monument.

But a third bone burying day took place on September 10, 1983, exactly 132 years after the first one. Prior to this time, on display inside the museum was an Indian skull. Don Rapp of Fort Wayne and chairman of the Shawnee Indians, happened to visit the museum and noticed this display. He explained to the museum's staff that rightfully the skull should be buried according to Shawnee custom. He indicated that the spirit of the Indian could not rest until it was properly buried. The Museum trustees organized a burial ceremony to be held on the anniversary of the first bone burying day. With Indian representatives, dignitaries and local citizens present, the ceremonial burial took place behind the museum on the grounds of the Ohio Historical Society. A white oak tree was planted over the burial site in keeping with Shawnee Indian custom, and a plaque commemorating the Indian casualties was placed near the oak tree.

## Wabash Marker & Other Markers Placed by the Historical Society

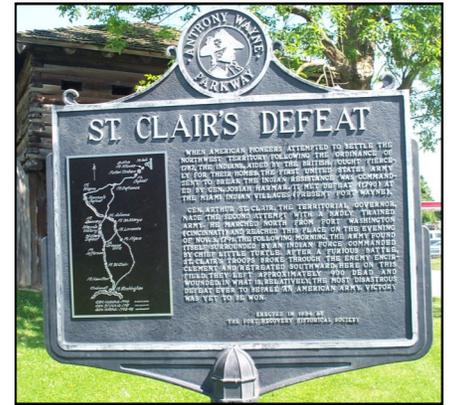
On September 16, 1956 members of the Historical Society took a car trip following the Wabash from its source in southern Mercer County to the Fort Site Park in Fort Recovery. This trip was followed by a picnic lunch at the park and their regular meeting. It was decided the location of the source of the Wabash should be properly marked. Efforts were made to purchase from Andrew Timmerman a triangle of land just east of State Route 49 on Mercer Darke County Line Road. Working with the Anthony Wayne Parkway Board, the Wabash plot was landscaped and a marker was created. On June 18, 1958 a dedication was held for the newly installed Wabash marker. Over the years caretakers for the Wabash Park have included Andy Timmerman, Anna Marie Hart and currently, Dave Will, who with the help of the society keep this site looking attractive.



Many more markers were placed in the Fort Recovery area through the efforts of the Historical Society. Some of these include:

- The General Butler marker located in downtown Fort Recovery and dedicated in 1958 at the same time as the Wabash marker. This marks the place where General Butler is believed to have been killed.
- Dedicated November 14, 1953 a marker was placed near the site of Fort Adams with a legend of the fort built there in 1794.
- On Sept 17, 1963 the Ohio Historical Society placed four new markers at the Monument Park and one at the Old Fort Park.

- Fort Recovery marker was placed in 1954 - dedicated July 4, 1955.
- Fort Recovery was awarded an Ohio Bicentennial Marker that was placed in front of the meeting room and dedicated on February 22, 2003. When the meeting room was relocated, the marker was moved to the west end of Krenning Park.



### Greenville Treaty Line Marker

The Treaty of Greenville fixed a boundary line between the Indians and the Americans. A walnut stake marking the northwest corner of the Greenville Treaty Line was discovered when the reconstructed fort was built in 1936. This stake is displayed in the museum. The Historical Society worked to create a marker to place at this site near the fort and in 1961 the Greenville Treaty Marker was dedicated. The Treaty Line established is easy to follow from Boundary Street to Boundary Pike and can be followed to the Ohio River. On August 14, 1999 a celebration was held to celebrate the bicentennial of the surveying of the Greenville Treaty Line.

### Pioneer Log Cabin/Tool Shed

In 1936 an original pioneer log cabin was moved to a site near the fort and was used for displays depicting pioneer life in Ohio. Over the years the cabin deteriorated beyond restoration. Through the efforts of several trustees of the Historical Society and a generous donation by Mrs. Eva Gordon, a replacement for this pioneer cabin became a reality. The Louis Lennartz family and the Robert Kirgan family each donated an old log structure, and they were used by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) to construct this new log cabin to once again become a great place to display early pioneer life. Located at the same place as the first structure, it was dedicated on May 22, 1987. Currently this building is being used as a place to display old tools and farm related items so is now referred to as a Tool Shed. The Historical Society regularly provides demonstrations of the vintage tools for school groups that for many years were done by Jack Hemmelgarn. The building is maintained by the Society.



### Log House

In 1998 the Eischen family asked to donate their family home - a two story log cabin with original deed dated 1840. Accepting this donation, the Society had Rick Hughes move the log house at a cost of \$35,000, recorded on March 31, 1999, to the west end of Krenning Park where it is located today. The Eischen log house was dedicated on July 8, 2001. The cabin was built on the four cornerstones that it still sits on today. The original cabin consisted of four rooms - two upstairs and two downstairs with a stairway leading to the second floor. The glass windows were believed to have been installed on October 11, 1898. A photo album is available showing the house as it was being torn down, log by log, and how it looks now in Fort Recovery. Most of the logs are oak, but a few are birch. The cabin is open for visitors to enjoy the same hours as the museum and is staffed by volunteers for school groups. It is cared for by the Historical Society.

## Van Trees Park

In 1984 The Boiler Plant building on the property next to the State Museum was purchased from David Zollar for \$10,000. In 1990 the Fort Recovery Equity Creamery located next to this property, was purchased through a generous donation from Robert Van Trees and demolition was done by Dan Jutte for \$10,000. A beautiful Amphitheater was funded by the Charles and Mildred Hein family and was built at this location. It has become a place for summer concerts provided by the Friends of the Arts. The site, located just next to the museum, is owned and maintained by the Fort Recovery Historical Society.

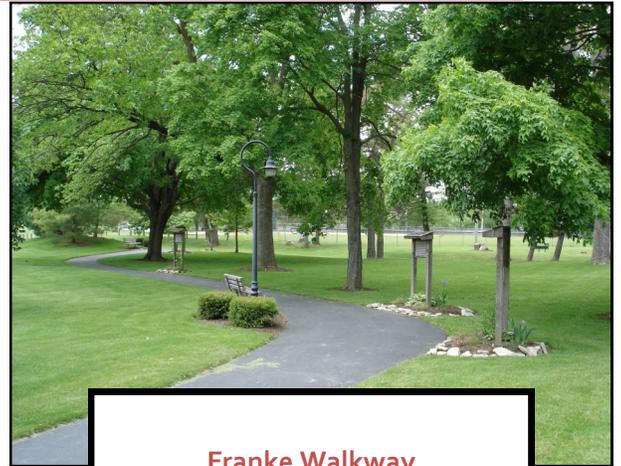


Van Trees Park & Hein Amphitheater

Re-

## Franke Walkway

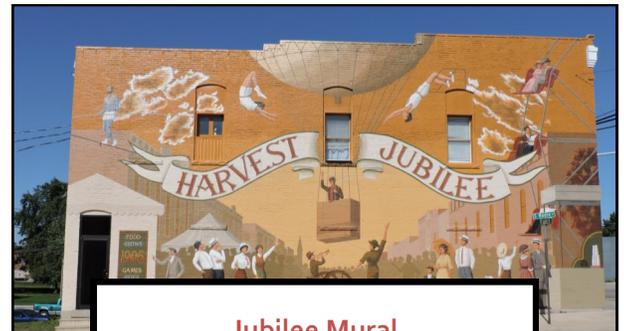
Between the museum and Van Trees Park the Herb Franke family funded a paved walking path from the street to the Fort Site Park with signs along the way giving some history of Fort Recovery. This was dedicated in 1993. In 2010 signs along Franke Walkway were re-done and wording changed per suggestions by the Ohio Historical Society. In 2016/2017 lights along Franke Walkway were replaced and re-landscaping was done in 2019 with the walk being re-surfaced. The Historical Society is the caretaker of the Franke Walkway with some of the funding coming from a Franke Family fund managed by Ted Romer.



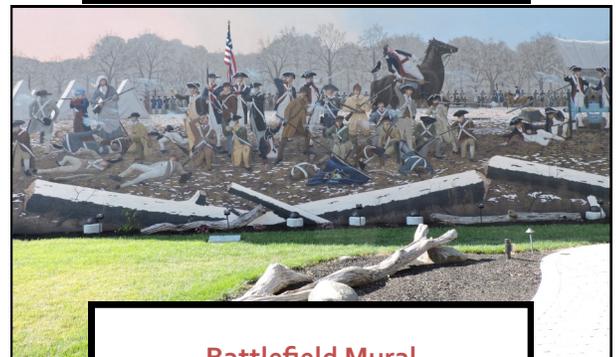
Franke Walkway

## Five Large Murals Painted on Fort Recovery Buildings

In 2015 a committee with members from the Historical Society and Project Recovery was formed to create murals on some of our buildings in Fort Recovery. Committee members included Nancy Knapke, Don Lennartz, Louie Diller, Bob Freemyer, Helen & Cy LeFevre, Jill Andrews and Lorri Kaup. Dan Keyes of New Bremen was hired to do the murals. Over a period of four years five murals were created - four by Dan Keyes and a welcome mural by Angie Clark. The murals by Dan Keyes include: a jubilee mural, a postage stamp mural and 2 battle murals. These paintings were made possible through generous private donors, including Tom Sanderell and the Ed & Dorothea Kaiser family, as well as numerous smaller donors. The auction proceeds from 2016 were also given to help fund the mural project.



Jubilee Mural



Battlefield Mural

## Collaboration with Ohio History Connection

Because of the far reaching history of the Fort Recovery area, the state of Ohio has been involved with promoting and preserving this history by supporting local efforts. They also contribute financially to the care of the sites directly related to the historic battles. These sites include the fort, the museum and the monument. Over the years the Fort Recovery Historical Society has collaborated with the state organization working together to achieve the best results. The state historical organization has undergone several name changes over the past 75 years. At first it was the Ohio State Archaeological and Historical Society (OSAHS) and then became the Ohio Historical Society (OHS) and in 2014 became the Ohio History Connection (OHC).

### State Museum

Built in 1938 by the Works Progress Administration, this building first housed the Fort Recovery Library. On May 1, 1949 the Fort Recovery Historical Society opened a museum in the upstairs balcony of the library for the purpose of displaying local artifacts. In 1968 when the library moved to its downtown location, the Ohio Historical Society made plans to renovate the former library into a museum for interpretive exhibits depicting the early Indian history and the battles fought at this site. The local Society would continue to use the balcony for displays. On April 5, 1970 Governor Rhodes came for a formal dedication of the Fort Recovery State Museum.

By 1980 due to a cutback of state funding the Ohio Historical Society decided to close the Museum. After sitting empty for a season, the Fort Recovery State Museum was reopened in 1982 under the management of the local Historical Society. A group of trustees was appointed to direct the management of the museum and a local director was hired to manage day to day activities. Limited funding received from the Ohio Historical Society, entrance fees charged and patron donations has enabled the museum to be financially viable and to remain open. Some of the site managers for the State Museum since it has come under local management are as follows: Kevin Rhoades, Judy Stachler, Barbara Meiring, Heather Staugler, Helen LeFevre, Kim Niekamp, and currently Nancy Knapke.

In 1996 state funding of \$7000 was received to upgrade displays at the museum to make them more “kid” friendly. In 2008 the museum received \$100,000 from the state to once again to make updates that were to be completed by the summer of 2010. A complete renovation of the main floor exhibits was done in collaboration with the Ohio Historical Society. A grand reopening was held in July, 2010. In 2011 new cabinets were built to display battle artifacts in the Community Room in the basement of the museum through a grant from the Cooper Foundation.



State Museum located on Fort Site Street



Indian, Dragoon and Soldiers getting ready to fire canon depicted in Museum.



## Fort and State Park

In 1932 the Revolutionary Memorial Trails commission visited Fort Recovery and suggested they buy the probable original fort land and then turn it over to the state for proper marking and administration (a dream of the local people since 1851). Soon thereafter, Fort Recovery Welfare Association formulated plans for the purchase of the Sunderman property and adjacent real estate totaling more than 10 acres. This property was deeded to the Ohio State Archaeological and Historical Society (OSAHS) for the development of a state park. Today the park is maintained by the village of Fort Recovery and enjoyed by local residents.

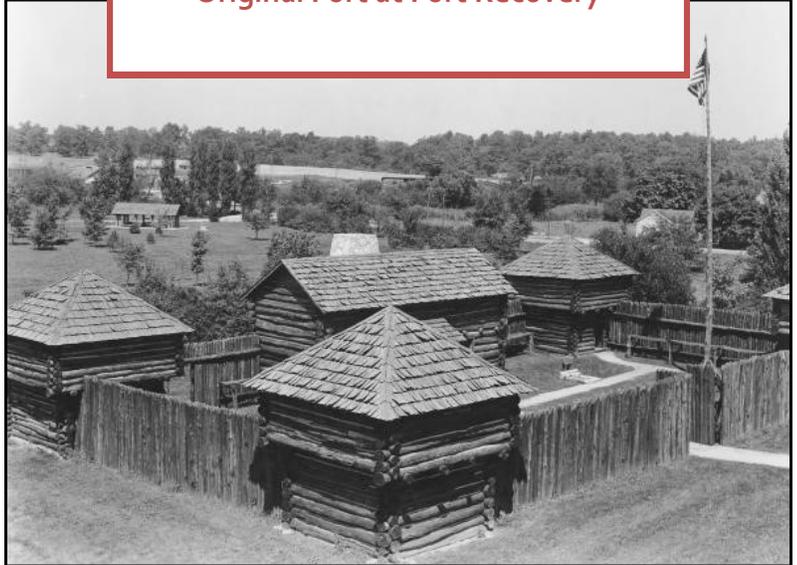
A reconstruction of the fort at Fort Recovery was done in 1936 by OSAHS and the Works Progress Administration. It was about one third the size of the original with a block-house which was a visual reconstruction of the original. An original oak walled well was found at this time and was reconstructed. Eighty feet of levee was built along the new channel of the Wabash River and a retaining wall constructed to prevent flooding of the State Memorial. In the late 1950's through the work of the Wabash Conservancy Project, the Wabash River was cleaned of brush and re-routed in places to help prevent flooding during heavy rains.

In 1956 the Ohio Historical Society replaced the four sided 1936 fort with the present reconstruction - two accurately scaled blockhouses, stockade fence, firing platform and gate. In 2014 the original plans for building of the first fort structure at Fort Recovery were found in the papers of Henry Burbeck. This original sketch is located with the Burbeck papers at William L. Clements Library at the University of Michigan.

## Monument

Honorable W.E. Touvelle of Celina, representative of the Fourth Congressional District in the U.S. Congress was successful in 1908 in securing the passage of a bill, authorizing the erection of a monument on the battlefield of Fort Recovery. The bill was signed by President William H. Taft in 1908. Work began early in 1912 and completed and accepted by the government in November of that year. A crypt was prepared in the concrete foundation beneath the base of the structure in which to deposit one final time the remains of the fallen heroes of 1791 and 1794. Plans were made for the dedication and unveiling of the monument set for July 1, 1913. At last the efforts of the people of Fort Recovery over the past 50 years were rewarded with this impressive structure that sits in the center of their village.

Original Fort at Fort Recovery



The back side of the fort reconstructed in 1956 by the Ohio Historical Society with the original oak walled well that was discovered in 1936.

On January 21, 1951 a bill was introduced in the Ohio Legislature to have the care of the Monument and the park area where it is located transferred to the Ohio Historical Society who today work collaboratively with the local Historical Society and the village to maintain the monument and the park. In 2017 the monument underwent cleaning, repairing and tuck pointing.

In 1995 volunteers completed over 700 crosses to display in Monument Park over Memorial Day. Thirty seven of the crosses bear names of officers who died at Fort Recovery. These crosses have been placed in the park on Memorial Day weekend every year when a special memorial service is held except in 2020 when due to the coronavirus pandemic this ritual was cancelled with the hopes of being reinstated in the future. Prior to holding the memorial service at Monument Park the Memorial Day service was held at Krenning Park and led by the Fort Recovery American Legion.

To celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the monument, a re-dedication was held at Monument Park on May 5, 2013. Over 500 people were present to hear the main speaker - Historian, John Winkler, who later that day led a Battlefield Tour.

Currently a group is working with Ohio History Connection and the Fort Recovery Village since 2017 to replace the current lights and add lighting of the monument at night.



Fort Recovery Monument with crosses placed over Memorial Day to commemorate the lives lost at the two battles fought here.

### **Veteran's Memorial Plaza**

In 2014 planning was begun by a committee, including some members of the Historical Society, to construct a memorial to honor all of our local veterans who have served in any branch of the military. A group met with OHC to see if it would be possible to locate this on the state property of Monument Park. Nancy Knapke, Chris Thompson and OHC officials, Fred Smith and Erin Bartlett, were part of the group and Fred was asked to be the project architect. Plans were approved to locate the Veteran's Memorial on the east end of Monument Park. The project was completed and dedicated in 2017, a collaborative effort of the village of Fort Recovery, Ohio History Connection and interested local people.



Veteran's Memorial Plaza

## Celebrations and Commemorations

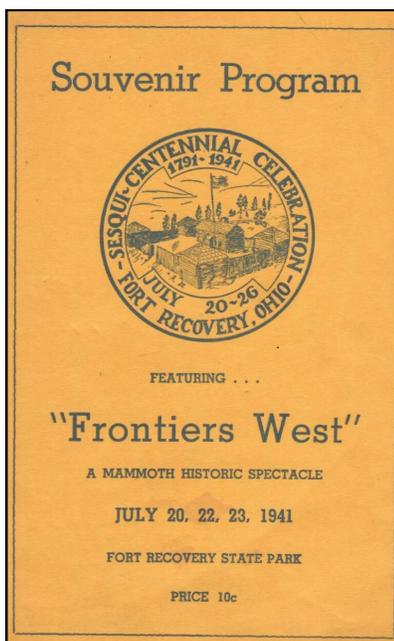
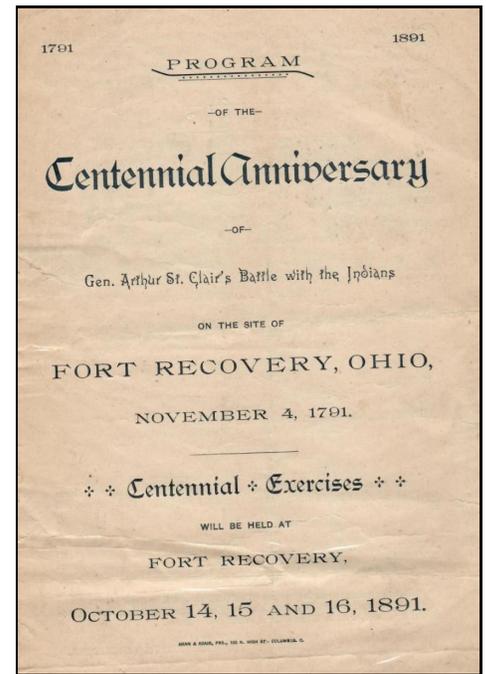
Fort Recovery has traditionally planned a celebration every 25 years since 1891 which marked the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of the Wabash. Typically a pageant was a big part of these celebrations. On July 20, 1941 the people of Fort Recovery celebrated the sesquicentennial of St. Clair's Defeat with a pageant entitled *Frontiers West*, re-enacting the early history of Fort Recovery in three episodes of twelve scenes. Over five hundred people participated in this production held at Fort Site Park. The celebration continued through July 26. Chairman of the 1941 celebration was Charles Barrenbrugge.

In 1966 for the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the pageant was directed by John B. Rogers Producing Company entitled *The Saga of Fort Recovery* and included 14 episodes featuring many local people. Richard Zehringer served as chairman and Norb Metzger was President of the executive board for the celebration.

In 1991 for the Bicentennial Anniversary, Nancy Knapke served as Chairman and the pageant *A Proud Past and a Promising Future* was produced and directed by Janice Lamm and Ginny Fortkamp. In 2016 a drama entitled *225 Years of Adventure* was directed by Judy Wood and Juli Kahlig. The 2016 celebration was chaired by Michelle Dues and Jackie Leverette.

In addition the Historical Society has been involved in many different celebrations of historic significance state and country-wide. When the county celebrated the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the State of Ohio in Celina - July 20-26, 1953, there were 55 people from Fort Recovery who took part in the cast of the historical pageant, *Mercer County Cavalcade*. They also provided a float for the state's sesquicentennial celebration in Celina. John Warren Hull filmed and took photos to do a book similar to the 1941 Sesqui book. A short account of the history of Fort Recovery was also written and included in the program booklet. In 1976 the village with the support of the Historical Society helped to celebrate the bicentennial of the United States. Norb Metzger and Jack Good were co-chairmen for this occasion and a pageant was planned and produced.

In 2003 the Society was part of the Wallpaper Project to celebrate the bicentennial of the state of Ohio. This project included interviews with local senior citizens who shared memories of growing up in our rural Ohio community. The Historical Society hosted their part of this project on March 15-16, 2003. The High School CoLab taped the drama and the Society purchased the tapes from them. Later that year on August 5 the project was re-enacted at the Ohio State Fair in Columbus.



## Sources of Funding for the Historical Society

When the Historical Society was formed, members paid a small annual dues, which along with some private donations provided the funding necessary to proceed with early projects. They soon realized that even with a lot of volunteer hours to accomplish their goals more funding would be required. In 1948 they applied for funds with the County Commissioners and were granted their request. These funds were received until 2003 when, due to budget cuts, the County Commissioners could no longer provide financial help to the Historical Society.

Private donations and patron fees have provided much of the income needed to keep the museum open and care for the many historic sites in our village.

Grants have been applied for and received to help cover costs of specific projects and special needs. Local grants have been received from the Fort Recovery Community Foundation and the Cooper Foundation. In addition to these grants Chris Thompson has worked with Ball State University to write government grants to do research and education projects related to the history of Fort Recovery. These are mentioned in more detail under education.

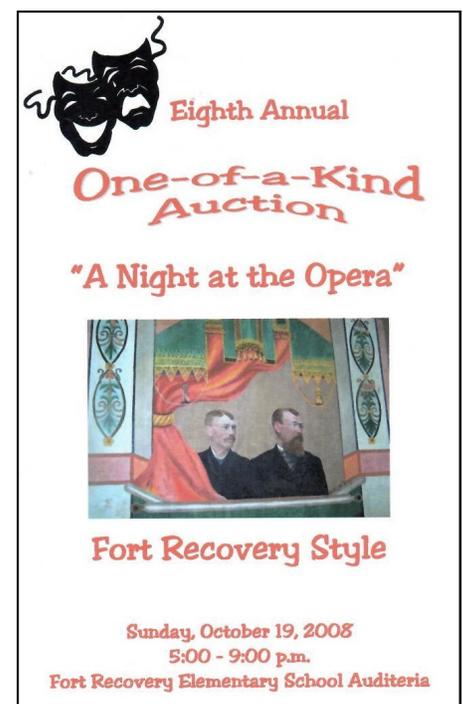
The Historical Society has been the recipient of bequests from estates of people who during their life had ties to the Fort Recovery area and an interest in the history. When Hazel Hoke died in the 1970's the Society was informed they were named in her will and in May of 1979 received a check for over \$30,000 from the Hoke estate. In 2002 Eva Gordon bequested \$50,000 to the Historical Society. The Gordon funds enabled the Society in 2004 to open an account with the Fort Recovery Community Foundation. This local foundation had been started in 1993 with the profits from the 1991 Bicentennial Celebration. Through a financial advisor the foundation manages the funds to enable earnings each year that can be used to help cover regular expenses.

In September of 2014 the Historical Society was bequeathed a house in Spokane, Washington from the estate of Kevin Rabe, a Fort Recovery graduate. The estate had to undergo auditing to clear up some tax issues before it could be settled. December 1, 2019 we became the owner of a house at 5008 Howard Street in Spokane. The house was being rented at the time and the renter had a lease to live there through September, 2020 at which time the house was prepared for sale. It sold quickly with proceeds of over \$200,000 going to the Historical Society.

### **One of a Kind Auction**

Early in 2001, representatives from Project Recovery and the Fort Recovery Historical Society met to discuss having a silent auction as a fund raiser. Plans were made and the first auction was scheduled for October 14, 2001 in the Auditoria of the elementary school. The first year was a huge success making a profit of almost \$15,000 which was divided between the two organizations.

This One-of-a-Kind Auction has been held every year from 2001 - 2019. In 2020 it was cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic. The auction has been chaired by various people including Helen LeFevre, Cathy Koesters, and Nancy Knapke with many more from both Project Recovery and the Historical Society working together to plan and orchestrate this event which, has netted almost \$450,000 over the years. Each year a theme is chosen for the event



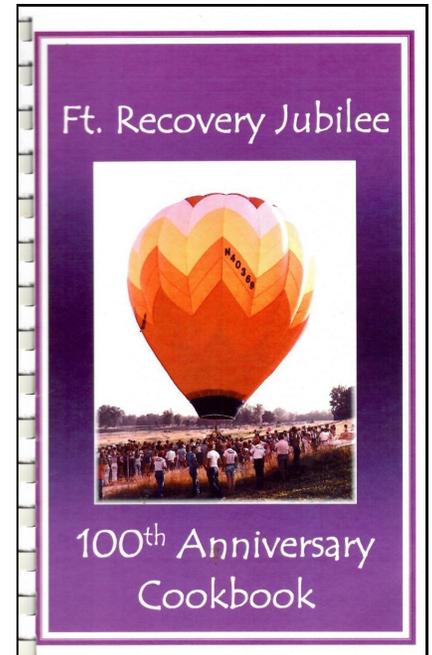
which includes a silent auction, a live auction, a raffle and either a 50/50 drawing or other games. In the early years a meal was part of the evening, but later it was decided to provide a smorgasbord of heavy appetizers. The Psi Iota Xi Sorority is paid to take care of the food. In addition to providing a source of income for local organizations, this fun evening has become a social event enjoyed by many people throughout the years.

### **Other Fund Raisers**

To celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Jubilee a committee was formed to put together a cookbook. Helen LeFevre headed this committee and people were asked to submit their favorite recipes as well as memories they had of the Fort Recovery Jubilee. The cookbook was a huge success and after a number of reprints, a profit of over \$12,000 has been realized.

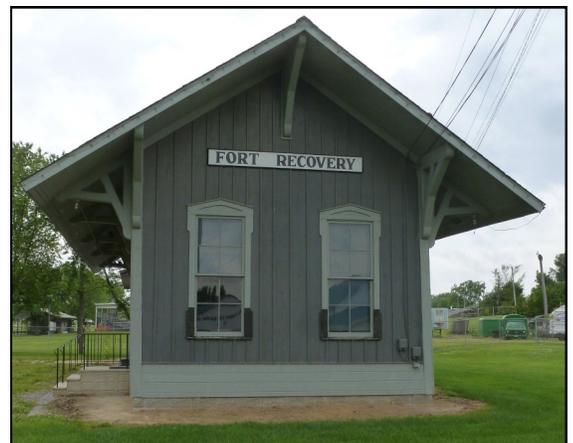
On July 9, 2005 the first annual St. Clair Run was held with Jim & Sharon Zehringer as co-chairman. This event is part of the Mercer Health Challenge and has been held in Fort Recovery each year since 2005. Kathy Gonzalez has been chairman for a number of recent years. In 2017 the Friends of the Arts shared in the work of sponsoring this race and divided the profits which have totaled over \$25,000.

In 2008 the Tin Cupboard sponsored a Pie Auction at the Fort Recovery Jubilee giving the proceeds to the Historical Society. In 2010 the Pie Auction was taken over by the Historical Society with Helen LeFevre as chairman. This annual pie auction has added over \$30,000 in profits for the Society.



### **Miscellaneous Items of Interest taken from Minutes**

- 1952 canon balls placed around Historic sites in Fort Recovery
- 1954 placing and landscaping of the old school bell
- 1959 Mercer County Historical Society was dedicated
- 1973 helped the newly formed Ambassadors cover the cost of moving and restoring the old Depot
- 1990 Carriage Rides sponsored by the Historical Society as part of the Christmas Open House were begun
- 1991 the 12' x 18' concession shed was moved and renovated to make a shed to store the lawn mowers and serve as a concession stand during concerts at Van Trees Park
- 1992 Sharon Rindler organized a two day bus tour to the Festival of Lights in Wheeling, West Virginia
- 1999 Encampment by the Brigade of the American Revolution and Northwest Territorial Alliance.
- 2003 first website established by Jason Wenning - [www.fortrecoverymuseum.com](http://www.fortrecoverymuseum.com)
- 2005 took part in the Library's Festival of Trees and have decorated a tree every year since



Fort Recovery Depot sits at Ambassador Park

- 2006/2007 Phil Wood did 2 tree sculptures at the Stockade - one of a soldier, which has been removed due to decay, and one of Red Haired Nance which was dedicated on May 3, 2009 - restored in 2014 and in 2015 with a small house built to protect it from the weather.

- 2008/2014 Boy Scout Camporee held September 26 - 28

- 2008 Historical Society sponsored pet parade at Jubilee

- 2009/2010 Civil War re-enactment in September

- 2009 Archaeology Day for the Boy Scouts - October 4

- 2009 Shawnee Indians from Oklahoma toured the museum and presented a flag, poster and plaque to museum

- 2010 Grand piano that had belonged to Marguerite Sauer and had been stored in the basement of the museum was sold to make room for new displays

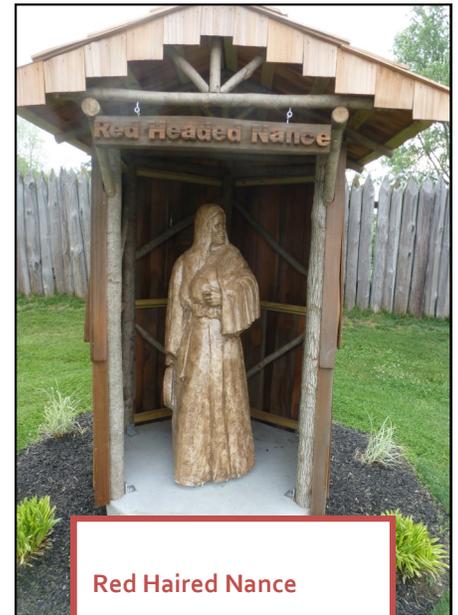
- 2016 Riley Pearson buried a time capsule next to Hein Amphitheater - contains 225 silver coin - to be opened in 2041

- 2018 Dan Bracy did his Eagle Scout Project to benefit the museum. He created a learning center in the area north of Nature's Corner noting the location and demarcation of the original 1793 fort wall.

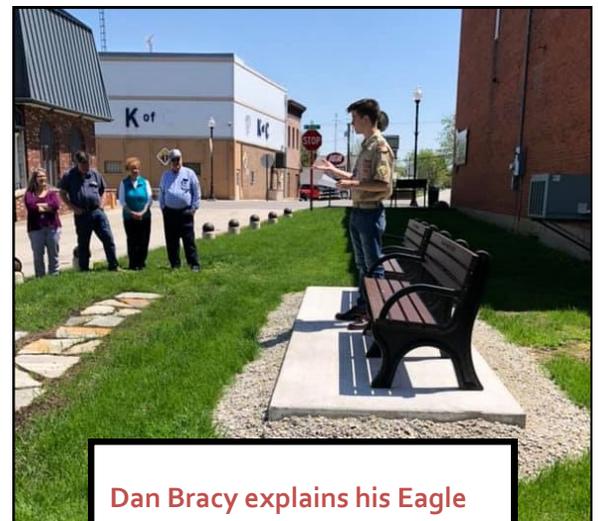
- 2018/2019 Open Doors Ohio day observed at Fort Recovery featuring free tours of the museum, the opera house, murals and village businesses

- 2019 original map of the Northwest Territory purchased by museum using local patron funds. It will be the property of the Historical Society and displayed in the museum along with a December 19, 1791 original newspaper donated by Dr. Allen Bernard. These exhibits were unveiled on June 9, 2019

- many activities too numerous to mention



Red Haired Nance  
Sculpted by Phil Wood



Dan Bracy explains his Eagle Scout Project to audience.

## **Human Resources**

It is impossible to name all of the people who have donated their time and talent to preserve and promote the history of Fort Recovery over the past 75 years. I have mentioned a few throughout this document, but would like to recognize some current people who have gone above and beyond just being a trustee.

Nancy Knapke has served as Director of the Museum since 2007 and has recruited many interesting and informative speakers to come to the Fort Recovery Museum each month on Sunday afternoons during the open season. These have been attended and enjoyed by people near and far. Nancy has a passion for the history that took place here in the early 1790's and has made the story come alive for, not only groups of school children, but many adult groups.

Helen LeFevre, has worked tirelessly to promote and record the history of the development of the village of Fort Recovery. In 2016 she wrote the book *Fort Recovery Businesses - Now and Then*. She was instrumental in starting and chairing various fund raisers including the One-of-a-Kind Auction, the Pie Auction and the Jubilee Cookbook. She also served as Director for the museum for several years and President of the Historical Society. She has spent many hours changing displays in the Walk-by museum and Visitor Center, creating promotional materials and logging our gifts and collections.

Chris (Thobe) Thompson, Ball State University Archaeologist and former resident of Fort Recovery has focused her research on the battles that were fought here, to determine a greater accuracy of the events that shaped the development of our state of Ohio. She has spent many hours applying for grants to focus on various aspects of this history and make it available in different formats to the public. The Wayside exhibits tell the story with 15 interpretive signs which can also be accessed on our website [www.fortrecoverymuseum.com](http://www.fortrecoverymuseum.com). Chris has maintained the website, keeping it up to date with lots of information. In 2010 Chris created a database in Access to record and track patron donations and she continues to manage this database. She currently serves as Vice President of the Historical Society

With all of the sites to maintain our expenses would be so much more if we did not have volunteers like Don Lennartz and Louie Diller, who have spent endless hours not just overseeing, but in many cases doing the maintenance of these sites. Both are very capable with woodworking and every fix-it job that comes along and there are a lot of them. Louie also has served as president for the last several years and they have both been actively involved with the auction and the mural project.

Nancy Abels has been treasurer of the museum for many years, was chairman of the 1991 Bicentennial book and has helped with many projects too numerous to mention. Kathy Thobe has shared her talents by serving as secretary for the last 10 years, meticulously recording the minutes of our meetings. She also helps to organize the One-of-a-Kind auctions. Pat Hull has been the longest serving member with over 45 years as a trustee. During that time she has helped with almost every job imaginable. Her artistic talent has been invaluable deciding on themes for the auctions and creating decorations to enhance these themes and decorate the space for the event. Truly the strength of the Historical Society is working together to get the job done.

Today just as when the Fort Recovery Historical Society was first formed, the organization is a part of the community of Fort Recovery and works with the village and other organizations within the community. Without this community support throughout the years we would not have been able to accomplish what we have. Many people in the community come forward to help with projects even if they are not an official member of the Society. We also work with the Ohio History Connection to promote the history that took place here and we appreciate the help they have given us and continue to give us.



## **Presidents of the Fort Recovery Historical Society**

Iris H. Longley..... 1946 - 1968

Bob Freemyer ..... 1969 - 1987

Anne McDaniel..... 1988 - 1990

Pat Hull ..... 1991 - 1993

Tom Kaup ..... 1994 - 1999

Helen LeFevre ..... 2000 - 2002

Cathy Koesters..... 2003 - 2004

Neal Spencer..... 2005 - 2007

Pat Wenning..... 2008 - 2009

Helen LeFevre ..... 2010 - 2011

Irene Stone ..... 2012 - 2013

Bob Hull..... 2014 - 2016

Louis Diller..... 2017 - 2020

## Local Museum Directors

In 1946, what is now the museum, was the public library and the first Historical Society used the upstairs to set up a local museum where artifacts relating to the history of Fort Recovery could be displayed. The grand opening for the local museum was on May 1, 1949. It was open every Sunday and holiday when the fort park was open. At first volunteers staffed the museum, but soon found this was too much for volunteers and would require hiring someone to manage this. The following people served as museum caretakers:

1951 ..... Glenna Sanner  
1952 - 1962..... Clara Scheid  
1963 - 1969.....Hazel Hoke

When the library moved to its current location in 1968, the Ohio Historical Society decided to renovate the museum building and use it for displays relating to the battles fought at Fort Recovery.

A grand opening was held on April 1, 1970. The state maintained and staffed the museum until 1982 when, due to lack of funds, decided to close it.

The Fort Recovery Historical Society decided that, with the help of volunteers, they would reopen the museum during the summer months. A board was formed to oversee the museum.

### First Museum Board Officers - 1984

President ..... Jim Zehringer  
Vice-President .....Charles Hein  
Secretary .....Nancy Knapke  
Treasurer..... Pat Hull

### Local Directors over the years have been:

1985 ..... Judy Stachler  
1986..... Carla Muhlenkamp, Kevin Rhoades  
1987 - 1989..... Kevin Rhoades  
1990 - 1999..... Barb Meiring  
2000.....Mary Rhoades, Nancy Abels, Pat Hull  
2001 .....Heather Staugler  
2002..... Heather Staugler, Helen LeFevre  
2003 .....Helen LeFevre  
2004..... Helen LeFevre, Michelle VanSkyock  
2005.....Becky McWhinney  
2006..... Kim (Stammen) Niekamp  
2007 - 2020.....Nancy Knapke

## Officers of the Fort Recovery Historical Society

### 1946

President - Iris H. Longley  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President - Floyd A. Freemyer  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President - Faye M. Hart  
Secretary - Elizabeth Hedrick  
Treasurer - Leo E. Hildbold

### 1947

President - Iris H. Longley  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President - Floyd A. Freemyer  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President - Faye M. Hart  
Secretary - Elizabeth Hedrick  
Treasurer - Leo E. Hildbold

### 1948

President - Iris H. Longley  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President - Floyd A. Freemyer  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President - Faye M. Hart  
Secretary - Elizabeth Hedrick  
Treasurer - Leo E. Hildbold

### 1949

President - Iris H. Longley  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President - Floyd A. Freemyer  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President - Clark Kolp  
Secretary - Elizabeth Hedrick  
Treasurer - Leo E. Hildbold

### 1950

President - Iris H. Longley  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President - Floyd A. Freemyer  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President - Ruth Beach  
Secretary - Elizabeth Hedrick  
Treasurer - Leo E. Hildbold

### 1951

President - Iris H. Longley  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President - Floyd A. Freemyer  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President - Ruth Beach  
Secretary - Elizabeth Hedrick  
Treasurer - Leo E. Hildbold

### 1952

President - Iris H. Longley  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President - Floyd A. Freemyer  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President - Ruth Beach  
Secretary - Elizabeth Hedrick  
Treasurer - Leo E. Hildbold

### 1953

President - Iris H. Longley  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President - Floyd A. Freemyer  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President - Ruth Beach  
Secretary - Elizabeth Hedrick  
Treasurer - Leo E. Hildbold

### 1954

President - Iris H. Longley  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President - James Boggs  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President - Floyd Freemyer  
Secretary - Elizabeth Hedrick  
Treasurer - Leo E. Hildbold

### 1955

President - Iris H. Longley  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President - James Boggs  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President - Mabel Ickes  
Secretary - Elizabeth Hedrick  
Treasurer - Leo E. Hildbold

### 1956

President - Iris H. Longley  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President - Ott VonderHaar  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President - Leona McAlexander  
Secretary - Elizabeth Hedrick  
Treasurer - Leo E. Hildbold

### 1957

President - Iris H. Longley  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President - Mabel Ickes  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President - Leona McAlexander  
Secretary - Elizabeth Hedrick  
Treasurer - Leo E. Hildbold

### 1958

President - Iris H. Longley  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President - Leona McAlexander  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President - James Boggs  
Secretary - Elizabeth Hedrick  
Treasurer - Leo E. Hildbold

### 1959

President - Iris H. Longley  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President - Leona McAlexander  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President - James Boggs  
Secretary - Elizabeth Hedrick  
Treasurer - Leo E. Hildbold

## Officers of the Fort Recovery Historical Society

### 1960

President - Iris H. Longley  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President - Leona McAlexander  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President - James Boggs  
Secretary - Elizabeth Hedrick  
Treasurer - Leo E. Hildbold

### 1961

President - Iris H. Longley  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President - Leona McAlexander  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President - Floyd Freemyer  
3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President - Hope Hastings  
Secretary - Elizabeth Hedrick  
Treasurer - Leo E. Hildbold

### 1962

President - Iris H. Longley  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President - Hope Hastings  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President - Herb Franke  
3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President - Guy Reuter  
Secretary - Elizabeth Hedrick  
Treasurer - Leo E. Hildbold

### 1963

President - Iris H. Longley  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President - James Boggs  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President - Fay Hart  
Secretary - Elizabeth Hedrick  
Treasurer - Leo E. Hildbold

### 1964

President - Iris H. Longley  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President - Fay Hart  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President - Ott VonderHaar  
Secretary - Elizabeth Hedrick  
Treasurer - Leo E. Hildbold

### 1965

President - Iris H. Longley  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President - Marguerite Schroer  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President - James Boggs  
Secretary - Elizabeth Hedrick  
Treasurer - Leo E. Hildbold

### 1966

President - Iris H. Longley

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President - Bob Freemyer  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President - Marguerite Schroer  
Secretary - Elizabeth Hedrick  
Treasurer - Leo E. Hildbold

### 1967

President - Iris H. Longley  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President - Bob Freemyer  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President - Marguerite Schroer  
Secretary - Elizabeth Hedrick  
Treasurer - Leo E. Hildbold

### 1968

President - Iris H. Longley  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President - Bob Freemyer  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President - Marguerite Schroer  
Secretary - Elizabeth Hedrick  
Treasurer - Leo E. Hildbold

### 1969

President - Bob Freemyer  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President - Marguerite Schroer  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President - Mabel Ickes  
Secretary - Bob Snyder  
Treasurer - Leo E. Hildbold

### 1970

President - Bob Freemyer  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President - Marguerite Schroer  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President - Mabel Ickes  
Secretary - Bob Snyder  
Treasurer - Leo E. Hildbold

### 1971

President - Bob Freemyer  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President - Marguerite Schroer  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President - Dr. Jim Vaughn  
Secretary - Bob Snyder  
Treasurer - Leo E. Hildbold

### 1972

President - Bob Freemyer  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President - Marguerite Schroer  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President - Dr. Jim Vaughn  
Secretary - Bob Snyder  
Treasurer - Leo E. Hildbold

## Officers of the Fort Recovery Historical Society

### 1973

President - Bob Freemyer  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President - Marguerite Schroer  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President - Dr. Jim Vaughn  
Secretary - Bob Snyder  
Treasurer - Bob Snyder

### 1974

President - Bob Freemyer  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President - Marguerite Schroer  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President - Dr. Jim Vaughn  
Secretary - Elizabeth Hedrick  
Treasurer - Bob Snyder

### 1975

President - Bob Freemyer  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President - Marguerite Schroer  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President - Dr. Jim Vaughn  
Secretary - Bob Snyder  
Treasurer - Bob Snyder

### 1976

President - Bob Freemyer  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President - Pat Hull  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President - Elizabeth Sutton  
Secretary - Marguerite Schroer  
Treasurer - Marguerite Schroer

### 1977

President - Bob Freemyer  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President - Pat Hull  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President - Richard Moeller  
Secretary - Marguerite Schroer  
Treasurer - Marguerite Schroer

### 1978

President - Bob Freemyer  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President - Pat Hull  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President - Richard Moeller  
Secretary - Marguerite Schroer  
Treasurer - Marguerite Schroer

### 1979

President - Bob Freemyer  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President - Pat Hull  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President - Richard Moeller  
Secretary - Marguerite Schroer  
Treasurer - Marguerite Schroer

### 1980

President - Bob Freemyer  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President - Pat Hull  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President - Richard Moeller  
Secretary - Nell Franklin  
Treasurer - Nell Franklin

### 1981

President - Bob Freemyer  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President - Pat Hull  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President - Richard Moeller  
Secretary - Nell Franklin  
Treasurer - Nell Franklin

### 1982

President - Bob Freemyer  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President - Pat Hull  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President - Richard Moeller  
Secretary - Nell Franklin  
Treasurer - Nell Franklin

### 1983

President - Bob Freemyer  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President - Pat Hull  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President - Richard Moeller  
Secretary - Nell Franklin  
Treasurer - Nell Franklin

### 1984

President - Bob Freemyer  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President - Pat Hull  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President - Richard Moeller  
Secretary - Nell Franklin  
Treasurer - Nell Franklin

### 1985

President - Bob Freemyer  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President - Pat Hull  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President - Richard Moeller  
Secretary - Nell Franklin  
Treasurer - Nell Franklin

### 1986

President - Bob Freemyer  
Vice-President - Pat Hull  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President - Richard Miller  
Secretary/Treasurer - Nell Franklin

## Officers of the Fort Recovery Historical Society

### 1987

President - Bob Freemyer  
Vice-President - Anne McDaniel  
Recording Secretary - Pat Hull  
Corresponding Secretary - Rita Wangler  
Treasurer - Irene Stone

### 1988

President - Anne McDaniel  
Vice-President - Sharon Rindler  
Recording Secretary - Pat Hull  
Corresponding Secretary - Rita Wangler  
Treasurer - Irene Stone

### 1989

President - Anne McDaniel  
Vice-President - Sharon Rindler  
Recording Secretary - Pat Hull  
Corresponding Secretary - Rita Wangler  
Treasurer - Irene Stone

### 1990

President - Anne McDaniel  
Vice-President - Sharon Rindler  
Recording Secretary - Pat Hull  
Corresponding Secretary - Rita Wangler  
Treasurer - Irene Stone

### 1991

President - Pat Hull  
Vice-President - Tom Kaup  
Recording Secretary - Mary Rose Bergman  
Corresponding Secretary - Rita Wangler  
Treasurer - Irene Stone

### 1992

President - Pat Hull  
Vice-President - Tom Kaup  
Recording Secretary - Mary Rhoades  
Corresponding Secretary - Rita Wangler  
Treasurer - Irene Stone

### 1993

President - Pat Hull  
Vice-President - Tom Kaup  
Recording Secretary - Nancy Abels  
Corresponding Secretary - Rita Wangler  
Treasurer - Irene Stone

### 1994

President - Tom Kaup  
Vice President - Pat Hull  
Corresponding Secretary - Rita Wangler  
Recording Secretary - Nancy Abels  
Treasurer - Irene Stone

### 1995

President - Tom Kaup  
Vice President - Pat Hull  
Corresponding Secretary - Rita Wangler  
Recording Secretary - Nancy Abels  
Treasurer - Irene Stone

### 1996

President - Tom Kaup  
Vice President - Pat Hull  
Corresponding Secretary - Rita Wangler  
Recording Secretary - Nancy Abels  
Treasurer - Irene Stone

### 1997

President - Tom Kaup  
Vice President - Pat Hull  
Corresponding Secretary - Rita Wangler  
Recording Secretary - Nancy Abels  
Treasurer - Irene Stone

### 1998

President - Tom Kaup  
Vice President - Pat Hull  
Corresponding Secretary - Rita Wangler  
Recording Secretary - Nancy Abels  
Treasurer - Irene Stone

### 1999

President - Tom Kaup  
Vice President - Pat Hull  
Secretary - Nancy Abels  
Treasurer - Irene Stone

### 2000

President - Helen LeFevre  
Vice President - Pat Hull  
Secretary - Nancy Abels  
Treasurer - Irene Stone

## Officers of the Fort Recovery Historical Society

### 2001

President - Helen LeFevre  
Vice President - Pat Hull  
Secretary - Nancy Abels  
Treasurer - Irene Stone

### 2002

President - Helen LeFevre  
Vice President - Pat Hull  
Secretary - Nancy Abels  
Treasurer - Irene Stone

### 2003

President- Cathy Koesters  
Vice President - Pat Hull  
Secretary - Nancy Abels  
Treasurer - Irene Stone

### 2004

President - Cathy Koesters  
Vice President - Pat Hull  
Secretary - Nancy Abels  
Treasurer - Irene Stone

### 2005

President -Neal Spencer  
Vice President - Pat Hull  
Secretary - Nancy Abels  
Treasurer - Pat Diller

### 2006

President - Neal Spencer  
Vice President - Pat Wenning  
Secretary - Pat Hull  
Treasurer - Pat Diller

### 2007

President - Neal Spencer  
Vice President - Pat Wenning  
Secretary - Pat Hull  
Treasurer - Pat Diller

### 2008

President - Pat Wenning  
Vice President - Neal Spencer  
Secretary - Pat Hull  
Treasurer - Pat Diller

### 2009

President - Pat Wenning  
Vice President - Nancy Abels  
Secretary - Pat Hull  
Treasurer - Pat Diller

### 2010

President - Helen LeFevre  
Vice President - Neal Spencer  
Secretary - Pat Hull  
Treasurer - Pat Diller

### 2011

President - Helen LeFevre  
Vice President - Irene Stone  
Secretary - Pat Hull  
Treasurer - Pat Diller

### 2012

President - Irene Stone  
Vice President - Bob Hull  
Secretary - Kathy Thobe  
Treasurer - Pat Diller

### 2013

President - Irene Stone  
Vice President - Bob Hull  
Secretary - Kathy Thobe  
Treasurer - Pat Diller

### 2014

President - Bob Hull  
Vice President - Irene Stone  
Secretary - Kathy Thobe  
Treasurer - Pat Diller

### 2015

President - Bob Hull  
Vice President - Irene Stone  
Secretary - Kathy Thobe  
Treasurer - Pat Diller

### 2016

President - Bob Hull  
Vice President - Irene Stone  
Secretary - Kathy Thobe  
Treasurer - Pat Diller

## **Officers of the Fort Recovery Historical Society**

### **2017**

President - Louie Diller  
Vice President - Bob Hull  
Secretary - Kathy Thobe  
Treasurer - Pat Diller

### **2018**

President - Louie Diller  
Vice President - Bob Hull  
Secretary - Kathy Thobe  
Treasurer - Pat Diller

### **2019**

President - Louie Diller  
Vice President - Chris Thompson  
Secretary - Kathy Thobe  
Treasurer - Pat Diller

### **2020**

President - Louie Diller  
Vice President - Chris Thompson  
Secretary - Kathy Thobe  
Treasurer - Pat Diller