



Fort Recovery Museum & Historical Society Summer Newsletter 2026

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It's been a busy season so far!

We have conducted **over 20 tours for over 500 participants** at the Museum this season. From school field trips and specialized children's tours to senior citizen groups, travel groups, and our regularly scheduled battlefield tours, we enjoyed them all. Tour groups have included visitors from Ohio, Indiana, Kansas, Oklahoma, California, Pennsylvania, Hawaii, and more. We are especially proud to host tours for descendants of both the U.S. military (Major McMahon, Captain Cribbs, and Captain Gibson this year) and the Native nations who fought in St. Clair's Defeat and the Battle of Fort Recovery (including 60 Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma citizens touring their homelands). We are also happy to provide descendants with any research materials we might have about their ancestors.

Thank you, Fort Recovery High School Student Council, who spent their annual May community service day, tidying the Museum and Historical Society buildings and grounds. It is amazing how much work is accomplished with the help of our Historical Society volunteers.

Zac Distel's **presentation on the Charleville musket** was well received and thought-provoking. We have integrated some of Zac's information more extensively into our narrative, adding another layer of knowledge that we can share with visitors.

What an **amazing Pie Auction!** More kiddos submitted pies this year than last. This made it so fun! Thanks to everyone who supported this event with pies or by bidding on pies! And the **Mercer Health / St. Clair 5K Run** hosted 263 runners! The Museum purchased and donated cooling towels with sponsor logos, given out free to the runners. Thanks to organizer Kathy Gonzalez, the sponsors and all the Historical Society members who donated time, food, water, and door prizes.

Fort Recovery's America 250 birthday party was a huge success and THANK YOU to the America 250 committee! We loved hosting this event on the Museum and Historical Society grounds, with so many fun activities and events, partially funded by the America 250 Ohio Commission. We were proud to work with Debbie Zumstein, Lisa Timmerman, and Caroline Pettijean of the Fort Greenville DAR on the new DAR monument at Pioneer Cemetery, honoring Revolutionary War veterans and civilian camp followers who died at St. Clair's Defeat and the Battle of Fort Recovery. We are honored to be a part of Cora Pearson's "History in the Making" project, adding QR codes and a map to the 39 historic building plaques throughout town. The Museum and Historical Society purchased all the ingredients for the very successful cake walk. Member Carmen Shoemaker organized the photo and art contest with many beautiful entries. Winner will be announced soon with artwork displayed in the Krenning Park walk-by museum.

We loved having the Museum open during the America 250 celebration, with over 400 kids and adults of all ages participating in a "History Hunt" to receive a treat from the Tin Cupboard or Fort Recovery Dairy. It was a huge success as the activity (and treats!) got many visitors into the museum who hadn't seen it for years. The most common comment was "it's really changed! ". We loved hearing that and plan more updates for next year.

But the summer isn't all about fun and games! We use this time and funding from the pie auction, 5K run, and One of a Kind Auction to make **many improvements and repairs** to all the properties owned and/or managed by the Historical Society. This includes arranging to cut down a huge dead Cottonwood tree in the park, capping on an old well near the amphitheater, repairing shingles on the North blockhouse, new trash cans, flagpole repair, roof repair on the log cabin, sealing and striping the amphitheater parking lot - the list never ends! We keep as much of this work as local as we can, so thanks Ace of Trades, Richie Vogel, and others for your assistance with these repairs.

Some repairs require collaboration with the **Ohio History Connection**. We are currently working with OHC to replace lighting, mitigate water issues near the Veteran's Plaza, and replace a plaque, all in Monument Park. We are happy that we received high marks as part of our annual site meeting, and OHC staff are very complimentary about the state of the site, and the amount of community support we receive.

Sometimes our work is digital! We have worked hard on **upgrading our website** with lots of new features and information. Check it out at <https://fortrecoverymuseum.com>

We thank all our Fort Recovery Museum patrons. Your generous donations help fund our Museum programming, presentations, and exhibit upgrades!



America 250 photos by Rose Cain.

Left: Cake Walk with 250 cakes!

Bottom Left: History Hunt at the Museum with Fort Recovery Historical Society member John and Carol Ranly, and Kim Rammel.

Bottom Right: Showing of "Kevin Costner's The West: Episode 1" at the Opera House



Saturday, Sept 12 - Ohio Open Doors, 11:00-4:00, Free Museum Admission



Discover how the Museum and reproduction Blockhouse came to be!

Explore the story behind the Fort Recovery Museum, the reproduction blockhouse, and the monument through new interpretive panels and additional materials on display. Visitors will see correspondence, newspaper articles, and other items that could not be included in the panels, offering a closer look at the planning and community effort behind these projects.

Beyond the Battlefield: Native Days - Oct 22-24

We are happy to bring back the Beyond the Battlefield event which was held in 2023 and 2024. This year we are collaborating with the Fort Recovery, Coldwater, St. Henry, and Marion Local elementary schools and Tribal partners: Wyandotte Nation, Miami Tribe of Oklahoma, and Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma.

The first two days will feature Native cultural programming for ~400 4th grade students in alignment with Ohio curriculum standards. **Native cultural programming will be free to the public on Saturday October 24 at the Fort Recovery Elementary/Middle School. There will also be free admission and battlefield tours at the Fort Recovery Museum on Saturday October 24.** Mark your calendars for this fun family event!

Preparation is starting to ramp up! Volunteers from the Historical Society, Ohio History Connection, Ball State University, and others will assist with all activities. Volunteer Jim Crammond, from River Raisin National Battlefield Park, recently spent the day with Dave Rammel to make corn cobbles for the event. His help was invaluable and we were happy to give him a Museum and battlefield tour.

This Beyond the Battlefield event is funded in part by the Ohio History Fund, a grant program of the Ohio History Connection. Your donations to the Ohio History Fund make this program possible. www.ohiohistory.org/historyfund



Wyandotte social dance at 2024 Beyond the Battlefield event.



** Remaining 2026 Schedule of Events **

Museum is open Sat/Sun in May, Sept, Oct; and Wed-Sun in June, July, Aug; 11:00-4:00

August

9 – Battlefield Tours, 12:00 & 3:00

September

12 – Ohio Open Doors, free admission

13 – Battlefield Tours, 12:00 & 3:00

October

10 – Fort Recovery Car Show, museum open free of charge, 4:30-6:30

11 – Battlefield Tours, 12:00 & 3:00

18 -- One of a Kind Auction

24 – Beyond the Battlefield: Native Days and Battlefield Tours, free admission

31 – Last day of 2026 season

November

15 – Christmas Open House carriage rides & free admission, 11:00-4:00

*Battlefield Tours listed above are guided, ~1 hour, and included with Museum admission

*For additional event details, see

<https://fortrecoverymuseum.com> and facebook.com/FortRecoveryMuseum