

Old Tyme Chronicle

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From the President's Desk . . .

Seeds of Revolution: Central Ohio on the Edge, September 1775 *by Mike Wise*

In September 1775, as tensions between Great Britain and the American colonies erupted into open war, the lands that would become central Ohio teetered on a knife's edge—caught between distant battles and the realities of frontier life. While the sound of musket fire echoed along the Atlantic coast, the Ohio Country was filled with rumors, alliances, and an uneasy peace, its fate closely linked to the larger conflict between Great Britain and its rebellious colonies. Although no major battles took place in our region that autumn, the wilderness frontier became a disputed space of diplomacy, migration, and potential violence.

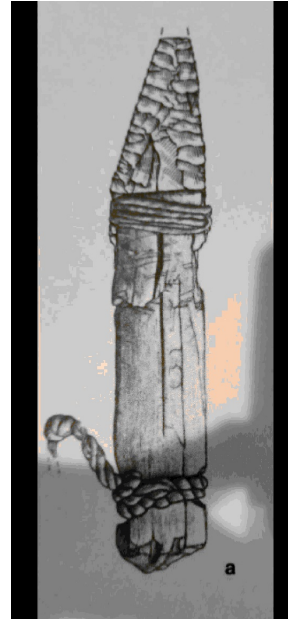
As mentioned in earlier columns, our region served as a crossroads for Native American nations—particularly the Shawnee, Delaware (also called Lenape), Wyandot, and Mingo—whose alliances and rivalries played a major role in shaping the land's history. This was their homeland, which they had fiercely defended for generations. The hostilities in Massachusetts that spring, culminating in the Battle of Bunker Hill, made these tribes reevaluate their relationship with the British Crown and the advancing colonists.

In September, these pressures became palpable. The British command in Detroit and the colonial authorities in Virginia and Pennsylvania both tried to build alliances with local tribes. The British promised to protect hunting grounds and limit settler expansion in exchange for the tribes' opposition to American advances. Meanwhile, colonial representatives from Virginia and Pennsylvania traveled west to encourage neutrality, warning that supporting Britain could cause Native villages to become targets for frontier militias.

Some Native leaders, wary of encroaching settlers, found common ground with the British; others hesitated, hoping to avoid the devastation they had seen in earlier wars. The Shawnee, in particular, recalled Lord Dunmore's War from 1774, which ended with an uneasy truce near present-day Chillicothe. That memory caused many Shawnee leaders to see the Revolutionary struggle not just as a distant quarrel but as a renewed found common ground with the British; (Goto Page 2)

Coming October 14 . . .

Orndorf Shares Native Tools



Brad Orndorf will present local Native American Tools and Stone Implements at the October 14th meeting of the Big Walnut Area Historical Society in the Myers Inn Museum beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Brad was born in Columbus to Heidi and Dave Orndorf, graduated in Big Walnut Class of '96. He is the father of 4 and has a grandson. As owner of Orndorf Construction he has been leading the repairs on the damage to the Myers Inn Museum where the car hit it last summer.

He was introduced to collecting local Native American Stone Tools by his father when he was very young and continues to collect and study them.

During his program, you will learn about the process of manufacturing these artifacts, along with the materials used. Brad will be sharing items from his collection for discussion. Artifact types he will cover are Flint Tools and projectiles, Stone Tools, Slate Artifacts, and Exotics.

From the Editor's Desk . . .

My apology to those who receive only printed copies of the newsletter. The past 3 months have been very hectic so I was unable to get the newsletter mailed in time for you to attend Brad's Program. I hope most of you also saw it on the signs on our front porch.

We had 45 third graders at the museum on October 2nd and 3rd under the leadership of a new volunteer, Karen Snyder.

Construction continued to repair damage resulting from the car hitting the Myers Inn.

On the homefront, I had 2 granddaughters marry, caught an unknown bug and was sick three weeks so I had to watch from home as volunteers cleared items from the Carriage House.

From the President's Desk



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others hesitated, hoping to avoid the devastation they had seen in earlier wars. The Shawnee, in particular, recalled Lord Dunmore's War from 1774, which ended with an uneasy truce near present-day Chillicothe. That memory caused many Shawnee leaders to see the Revolutionary struggle not just as a distant quarrel but as a renewed Native leaders faced a tough choice: go to war against the pioneers or stay neutral.

Rumors of Native-British alliances spread through frontier outposts, fueling fears of attacks. For American settlers along the Ohio River pushing northward, uncertainty was a constant companion. Occasional skirmishes did occur on the western borders of the colonial settlements. Nearby settlers—at Gnadenhütten, Schoenbrunn, and scattered cabins—kept their muskets ready. For the tribes, the threat of settler reprisals cast a shadow over every Native council fire. These tensions delayed settlement in the area and strengthened the region's reputation as a dangerous borderland. At the same time, British influence from Detroit and the Great Lakes ensured that our region stayed strategically valued; whoever controlled Native allegiance controlled the frontier.

Thus, while muskets thundered in New England, the struggle for central Ohio in September 1775 was quieter but just as impactful. Here, it was a clash of persuasion, diplomacy, and intimidation. Choices made in our forests and villages laid the groundwork for years of shifting alliances and bloody battles. The war would soon reach even the most distant reaches of the Ohio frontier, breaking old bonds and redrawing the continental map. In that September's stillness, the seeds of upheaval were already sown.



Check out the Sign added to the Blacksmith's Forge in time for Labor Day Open House. Trustee Chris Killeya designed and crafted the sign.

BWAHS Welcomes a New Member... **Big Walnut Family Physical Therapy**

They provide a valuable service for what you can do now to stay safe, steady, and independent.

Balance is essential for everyday activities and depends on a finely tuned system involving the eyes, inner ears, muscles, joints, and brain. When any part of this system is disrupted, the ability to stay steady can decline—often gradually and unnoticed, other times suddenly. This is especially concerning because poor balance is a leading cause of falls, particularly in older adults. This can result in serious injuries, hospital stays, and reduced independence.

The good news? Balance can be improved at any age even with home exercises but best done with professional guidance. At Big Walnut Family Physical Therapy, we have years of experience in restoring stability and confidence through individualized treatment backed by real data.

If you're ready to take that first step, we're ready to walk with you. Call (740) 834-9911 to schedule your evaluation. Offices at 5229 Cheshire Road, Galena 43021 and 9240 Dublin Rd, Powell OH 43065. Follow us on Instagram @bigwalnutfamilypt for practical tips, patient success stories, and a look into how we help Central Ohio stay strong and steady.

Served at the September BWAHS Program from The Woman's Day Great American Cookie Book,

edited by Julie Houston. Published by Fawcett Columbine Books, c. 1980.

From Cookbook donated by Warren Owen.

Baked and Served by Cathy Neja to BWAHS

Lemon-Zucchini Cookies (A delicate, soft drop cookie)

2 cups flour	1 egg, beaten
1 tsp. baking powder	1 tsp. (or more) grated lemon
½ t. salt	peel
¾ cup butter or margarine	1 cup shredded, unpeeled zucchini
¾ cup sugar	1 cup chopped walnuts

Lemon Frost (recipe follows; optional)

Stir together flour, baking powder and salt; set aside. In large bowl of mixer, cream butter and sugar until light. Beat in egg and lemon peel until fluffy. At low speed or with rubber scraper, stir in flour mixture until dough is smooth. Stir in zucchini and walnuts. Drop by rounded teaspoonfuls on greased cookie sheets.

Bake in preheated 375 degree F. oven for 15-20 minutes or until very lightly browned. While warm, drizzle lightly with Lemon Frost. Cool on cooling racks. Makes 6-7 dozen.

LEMON FROST: Mix well 1 cup confectioners' sugar and 1½ tablespoons lemon juice.

