



Old Tyme Chronicle

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From the President's Desk . . .

Central Ohio in August 1776: Rumors of a Gathering Storm by Mike Wise

By August 1776, news of American independence was filtering westward, but in central Ohio the more immediate concern was not the political philosophy proclaimed in Philadelphia. It was survival. The Ohio Country remained a Native homeland dominated by Shawnee, Delaware (Lenape), Wyandot, and other peoples, caught increasingly between British power centered at Detroit and the new United States operating from Fort Pitt and the settlements of western Virginia and Pennsylvania. As summer reached its height, fears grew that the uneasy neutrality maintained by many Native communities might soon collapse.

The most alarming development came from Fort Pitt. In August, American Indian commissioners warned frontier officials that a General Confederacy of Western Tribes might be forming to attack American settlements, possibly in the following year. Whether the danger was as coordinated as Americans feared is uncertain, but the warning reveals how dramatically perceptions had changed. Only a year earlier, American leaders had concentrated largely on keeping the Ohio nations neutral. Now they increasingly contemplated the possibility of a broad frontier war.

British officials at Detroit encouraged these anxieties. They recognized that Native resistance could divert American manpower from the eastern war while protecting Detroit's approaches. British agents cultivated relationships among the western nations with diplomacy, trade goods, and the persuasive argument that American independence threatened Native lands. The argument required little imagination: Shawnee and other Ohio peoples had already experienced decades of colonial expansion and had fought Virginia only two years earlier in Lord Dunmore's War. The Revolution increasingly forced Native nations to decide which belligerent represented the greater danger.

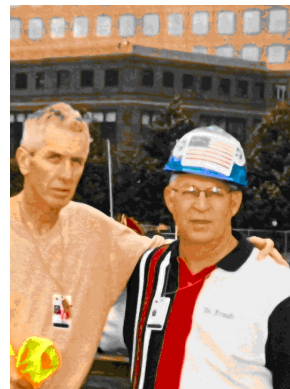
Yet Native opinion was far from united. The Delaware continued to favor peace and neutrality, hoping to avoid becoming trapped between Detroit and Fort Pitt. Shawnee and Wyandot communities likewise held differing views on how closely to cooperate with Britain. Native leaders were pursuing their own interests rather than simply choosing between British and American masters. Preserving their (Goto Page 2)

Coming September 8 . . .

Remembering 9-11 by Men Who Were There

**By Mike Wise, Dr. Tom Erndt and
New York Firemen Rick Saracelli**

If you lived through September 11, 2001 terrorist planes crashing into the Towers in New York, the memories are still vivid. Mike Wise will interview 2 members of our community who were actually there. Dr. Tom Erndt, who is now retired from Sunbury Chiropractic Center and former New York Fireman Rick Saracelli who is now a local resident.



Dr. Erndt on left

received his doctorate at Palmer College of Chiropractic graduating with Summa cum laude honors. He established a chiropractic office in Sunbury where he served the health care needs of Big Walnut and the surrounding communities. Dr Tom has 2 children and 4 grandchildren. His son, Aaron, attended Palmer College and continues to serve the chiropractic community along with his wife Cindy. His daughter Kate is married to David Evener and is a teacher at Big Walnut. Dr. Tom retired in 2018 and resides with his wife Becky in Apple Valley.

Rick Saracelli grew up in Somers NY, a suburb of New York City, and after attending Pace University for two years, was appointed to the New York City Fire Department (Goto Page 2)



NYFD Rick Saracelli

Heritage Day at the Myers Inn
Saturday, September 12 1:00-3:00 p.m.
45 S. Columbus St. (facing the Sunbury Square)
Enjoy tours of the 1816 house of Sunbury founder,
Lawrence Myers, and the 1820 Stagecoach Inn.
Explore our barn and replica wagon. View
antique farm equipment courtesy of Delaware
County Antique Farm Machinery Association.
Participate in pioneer crafts and games. Author,
Karen Meyer will bring her pioneer books to sell.
Bring the family for these fun events!




*Helpers are needed for this event, In addition to the activities listed above, we need cookie makers, docents to tell our story to guests, guides to assist visitors to find what they want.
 Call or text Chairman Karen at 614-425-1923 if you can help.*

From the President's Desk

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lands between British and American masters. Preserving their lands, communities, trade, and political independence remained paramount.

For central Ohio, August also meant crops approaching maturity, summer hunting, and heavy use of the rivers and trails connecting Native towns. But ordinary movement now carried political significance. Traders brought rumors as well as goods; messengers carried wampum and diplomatic appeals; scouts watched trails for signs of warriors. A traveler arriving from Detroit or Fort Pitt could bring information that could change an entire council's deliberations.

Thus, August 1776 marked another step toward militarizing the Ohio frontier. Central Ohio had not yet become a major battlefield, and widespread warfare would intensify later. But the warning from Fort Pitt captured the changing mood: Americans increasingly feared a western coalition, Britain saw Native resistance as strategically valuable, and Native nations confronted mounting pressure to choose sides. The quiet contest for allegiance was becoming a struggle over who would ultimately control the Ohio Country.

Museum Open Labor Day

BLACKSMITH WILL BE IN THE FORGE

REMEMBERING 9-11

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in 1969. During his thirty three years with the FDNY, he served in Harlem for twenty years, was promoted to Lieutenant in 1986, and served in Ladder 49 in the Bronx for another thirteen years. His last year with the department, 2001-2002, was defined by the horrendous events of September 11, 2001.

After retirement in 2002, Richard continued his employment as a civil servant, working for Putnam County and the Town of Patterson, where he resided. He designed, built, and maintained parks in these communities. During his leisure time, he loved, biking, skiing, and hiking. In 2020 he relocated with his wife Gail to Galena, Ohio, to be near his family in Columbus.

Admission to the program is free to members and visitors.

Docents Training to Begin

Our organization is a non-profit organization. We rely on donations and volunteers to keep our mission alive. Docents are the people who tell you about the displays and history when you visit. To become a docent you will attend training and learn the ins and outs of the museum. Visit the museum and pick up a registration card or call 740-965-3582 and about the training.