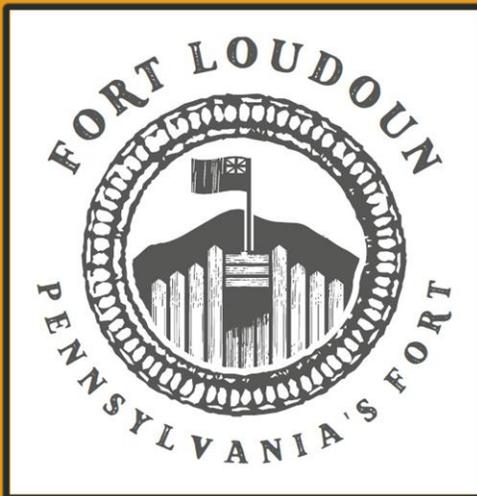


Summer 2019

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Our new “official” logo...and we have it on T-Shirts!!!

The Stockade

The Quarterly Newsletter
of
The Fort Loudoun Historical Society



Catching Up

This newsletter is supposed to be a ‘*quarterly*’ publication, but regrettably, a couple of seasons have passed since the previous issue went out last fall... For this, I apologize. I will say things have been rather busy these past few months. I promise you all I will try to keep things on track from here on out. Moving on... In these past few months, a *lot* of work has been accomplished at the site, as well as some other goings-on. Many of you receiving this have been a part of them; if not, the next few pages will get you caught up to our current situation.

Mike Strausner, Manager of Interpretation



Progress

Well, so much has happened between the Fall of 2018 and now...in spite of the uncommonly wet weather we endured in much of this time frame. What follows is a short synopsis of our accomplishments and works in progress to date...

By the end of October last year, the old stockade had been torn down, and the new stockade curtain walls were completed, leaving just the four corner bastions to be built to complete the stockade perimeter. These are currently under construction and nearly completed. Projections are that by the end of this summer all four bastions will be completely finished, and with a little luck, one of them will have the mount installed for at least one of the two swivel cannons we know complemented Fort Loudoun in 1756. And yes, thanks to an incredibly generous donor, we have a swivel cannon to use in it!



Throughout the winter of 2018-2019, a number of dedicated volunteers began some major renovations and clean-up of the circa 1780 James Patton House. Our plans are to utilize the first floor as the site's Visitors Center and to install a tenant/caretaker in an apartment on the second floor. The old first-floor kitchen in the rear of the first floor was gutted, then entirely remodeled to become our gift shop. One outstanding feature of the gift shop is the oak flooring – constructed with planks sawn and re-purposed from the logs of the old stockade. The other rear room of the first floor, serving at the moment as a storage and supply room, will one day serve as an office for the historical society. The front two rooms of the house were given fresh coats of paint, and with the addition of some interesting displays of 18th-century civilian, military and Native American life, has become something



of a museum, and the informational panels adorning the walls tell the story of the site from beginning to end. Moving upstairs to the second floor, every room has been freshly painted, new kitchen cabinets are installed, and new flooring

The Interpretive Viewpoint

Those who aren't intimately involved in what's going on at the Fort Loudoun Historic site may find themselves asking "what exactly is it you plan to do with the site?", or something along those lines... These next few paragraphs will hopefully answer these questions, and tell a little about what we hope to achieve.

The Fort Loudoun Historical Society holds that our site has local, state and national historical significance. We want to tell its story in an educational, yet interesting and engaging manner. We feel that the key to this, and the cornerstone of bringing Fort Loudoun to life, will be through interpretive "living history" programs. To achieve this, we feel there needs to be a tangible, visible, physical element to create the appearance of a mid-18th-century frontier fort and its surroundings. This physical element of stockade and buildings and accessories, coupled with the presence and activities of accurately equipped and authentically dressed living history "interpreters", will bring life to the site that signs and building outlines cannot adequately express. Make no mistake, interpretive signs and waysides hold an important place in the interpretation of any historical site, and in the absence of living history interpreters are an alternative to convey information, but they lack the depth and qualities of human interaction.

For these reasons the Fort Loudoun Historical Society hopes to establish

has been laid. A little bit of electrical and plumbing work to do yet, and we'll soon be ready to start looking for a resident caretaker.

Other completed Patton House improvements include a new roof, new exterior paint, and the installation of a new, more efficient heating and cooling HVAC system. A state-of-the-art CCTV security system is in place, and new windows throughout are forthcoming... Outside the Patton House, we've begun the layout and placement of an English-style garden, with brick walkways, a couple of heirloom seed crop plots, and added a long span of split-rail worm fence to define and delineate the living history area.

Moving down to the fort itself, a lot of work has been happening there as well. With the help of a very generous donation, we constructed a timber frame guardhouse during the first week of April, the first reconstructed fort-related structure to stand inside the fort perimeter since its abandonment in 1765. We still need to add some finishing touches ~ like strap hinges for the upper loft shutter and the jail cell door, putting on the roof shingles, adding a door latch, and bunks and furnishings for the guards on duty, but so far we're pretty proud of what we've accomplished. As mentioned previously, the four corner bastions are nearing completion.

Another notable mention, we were fortunate to find a good deal and purchased a reproduction 18th-century style Blacksmith's Two-Wheeled Forge Wagon, complete with firebox and bellows. Following a long drive to Missouri and back, we now have the ability to do some blacksmithing living history!

As for events, in spite of the busy construction projects, we were able to hold our annual June living history event. Formerly known as Colonial Day, we decided to tout this year's event as "The Spirit of 1756", and it was a resounding success! Apparently, the word is getting out about "some fort they're building over by Fort Loudon", because this year's attendance numbered over 560 people, more than double last year's attendance! We were also able to host a number of tours; including a visit from the Franklin County Visitors Bureau "Spring into History" Tour, and one from the Freedom Foundation of Valley Forge, with a group of 55 teachers from all across the nation making a planned stop at the site.

All in all, the past year at the site has been pretty incredible. We've had some bumps and roadblocks here and there, but smooth sailing has far outweighed the rough. Thanks to the Herculean efforts of all of the Historical Society board, our "Wednesday Warriors", the Abraxas Youth Center's community

our site as a living history “park”. It is why we are working so hard to reconstruct the features and buildings that define a frontier post. Our intent, eventually, is to provide living history programs and special events throughout the year. We hope to one day reach the ability to be open for visitation on a daily basis, for our local community, passing travelers, school students, history enthusiasts, anyone with a desire to learn of the past and pass it on to future generations.



service participants, an army of dedicated volunteers, and the support of the public, things are truly looking up for the historic site of 1756 Fort Loudoun!

A final note ~ We would like to mention that we are very happy and pleased to announce that our application was approved, and the Fort Loudoun Historical Society's 501(c)(3) Non-profit Organization status has been reinstated!



A Very Heartfelt Thank You!

It's beyond exciting to tell about, let alone see, and be involved in all the progress being made at the Fort Loudoun Historical Site. It must be said though, that without the generous, gracious and enthusiastic support of our many donors and volunteers, we would be nowhere close to where we are today. A complete listing of the people, organizations, and businesses that have contributed time, funding, or material, and in many cases all three, would be far too long to include here. In lieu of this, we hope it will suffice to say to *each and every one* of our donors and volunteers, that every member of the board of the Fort Loudoun Historical Society thanks *you* from the bottom of our hearts! We simply could not have accomplished so much without your incredible support and generosity!

The Wednesday Warriors and Abraxas Youth

Early in the spring of this year, then-Vice President Dave Moore approached the Abraxas Youth Center in South Mountain and was able to establish a relationship with them in which the Fort Loudoun site could provide a venue for Abraxas youth to fulfill their community service requirements. Through this initiative, Fort Loudoun is proud to be involved in the lives of these troubled teens, showing the importance and value of community, and hopefully imparting an interest in history, as well as to give them an opportunity to learn skills and gain valuable experience they may otherwise not be exposed to.

Concurrently with this, the Fort Loudoun Historical Society also launched a weekly volunteer effort that has come to be known as the "Wednesday Warriors". Nearly every Wednesday since that time, this group of volunteers, along with a team of Abraxas youth and their counselors, have gathered at the site to perform any number of various chores and tasks, immensely aiding in improvements to the site and the advancement of our mission. Nearly every facet of the work that has occurred, and is occurring on the site has seen the hands of the Wednesday Warriors ~ from demolition work to remodel the Patton House, to construction work, building fences, laying out and preparing the garden, painting, laying flooring... the list goes on. Their contributions and hard work have been monumental!

Are you a retiree, or have free time available during the day on Wednesdays? Would you be interested in leaving your mark, and helping to bring this incredible site to life? If so, we'd love to have you join our Wednesday Warriors! Look for the contact information on the last page of the newsletter, get in touch, and we'll tell you how you can get involved!



The Fort Loudoun Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, dedicated to interpreting, managing and maintaining the site of 1756 Fort Loudoun

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We Still Need Your Help!

We have accomplished so much since site restoration commenced a year ago, but we've only begun to scratch the surface ~ and we still need your help. We have many more ideas and plans to make this site one of Pennsylvania's premier historical attractions, and show that we truly are "Pennsylvania's Fort"...

If you would like to volunteer or help monetarily, please call or send an email to our president Andrew Newman at president@fortloudounpa.com.

We will graciously welcome your time and/or contributions. Be a part of the fort's future, help us to enhance and preserve this piece of local history for generations to come.

If you're seeing this newsletter for the first time, and you're not on our mailing list and would like to stay informed of our progress by receiving future editions of "The Stockade" electronically, please submit your request and preferred email address to Mike Strausner at:

interp@fortloudounpa.com

For all other inquiries, call or email us at any of the numbers or email addresses in the column to the left.

We look forward to hearing from you !