

NEWSLETTER



FEBRUARY 2025

GREETINGS FROM FORT LOUDOUN!

Spring is just around the corner, and we have an exciting lineup of events and activities to bring history to life. Whether you're a hands-on history enthusiast or simply enjoy spending time outdoors, there is something for everyone at Fort Loudoun this month. Read on to see what's happening!



Across the Centuries

Ever wanted to try on Greek or Roman armor, crawl into a WWII foxhole, or shoot a medieval longbow? Now's your chance! Join us for Across the Centuries, an immersive living history timeline that spans 2,000 years of world history. From Ancient Greece and Rome to World War II and Vietnam, this event offers a hands-on experience like no other.

Enjoy engaging demonstrations, meet passionate reenactors, and explore the past like never before. Plus, food vendors will be on site to keep you fueled throughout your journey through time. Don't miss this unique opportunity to experience history firsthand!



**JOURNEY
THROUGH TIME:
EXPERIENCE
HISTORY
ACROSS THE
CENTURIES!**

JOIN US!

WEDNESDAYS



Wednesday Warriors

Are you passionate about preserving history? Our Wednesday Warriors meet every Wednesday to tackle maintenance and improvement projects around the fort. It's a great way to give back, learn new skills, and be part of a community that cares about keeping history alive. All are welcome to lend a hand!



Spring Workday - March 29th

Help us get the fort ready for the busy season! On March 29th, we will be holding a Spring Workday to tackle cleaning and maintenance tasks around the site. Whether you have an hour to spare or can stay the whole day, we appreciate all the help we can get. Bring your work gloves and be prepared to get a little dirty while making a big difference.



Workshops!

We have a variety of workshops planned for 2025! Whether you're interested in soapmaking, 18th-century crafts, or other hands-on skills, there's something for everyone.

For more information and to register, visit our website:

<https://www.fortloudounpa.com/workshops.html>



IN MEMORIAM: MARK HAGENBUCH (MALCOLM MACWILLIAMS)



It is with heavy hearts that we share the news of the passing of our dear friend, Mark Hagenbuch, known to many as Malcolm MacWilliams. Mark was a beloved member of our community who brought warmth, humor, and a deep love of history to Fort Loudoun.

His memorable renditions of Robert Burns' "Address to the Haggis" will always hold a special place in our hearts.

We raise a dram to your life and memory, dear friend. Until we meet again.

What is next?

Exciting projects are underway as we continue to expand and enhance our site! **Officers' Quarters**, a cabin that will serve as living and working spaces for the fort's officers. This addition will provide valuable insight into the daily lives of those who commanded and managed the fort, deepening our ability to interpret the history of the 18th-century military experience.

Following the Officers' Quarters, we will begin construction on a 1700s-style **storehouse**. This traditional tool storage facility will reflect the craftsmanship and design of the colonial era, offering an authentic glimpse into how tools and supplies were stored and maintained during the 18th century. Stay tuned for updates as we bring these historical structures to life!

In addition to these building projects, we are excited to share that **15 new waysides** and a **trail map** are currently in production with Pannier in Pittsburgh. These new interpretive panels will enhance the visitor experience by providing detailed information about the fort's history, key figures, and daily life. We'll share a preview of one of the waysides soon, so keep an eye out!

"The women are appointed for this service, everyone must be called upon for work in this life..." - Captain Simon Esuyer writes to Colonel Bouquet while under attack at Fort Pitt. 2 June 1763

Women "camp followers" were a part of European military life for centuries, at least into the 19th century. British and provincial armies in North America during the French & Indian War and Pontiac's Rebellion were no different, and the women who followed them would play an important, yet rarely recognized role in these conflicts. They suffered the same hardships as the soldiers - hard marches, weather extremes, illness, shortages of food, and the ever-present danger of being attacked, yet they persevered and were called on to perform any number of tasks in support of the army: cooking, laundering, nursing, and as evidenced in Capt. Esuyer's letter, even laboring, and being a part of the army, were also subject to discipline and punishment for disorderly or criminal conduct. In some cases, nursing in particular, the women could earn a small wage for their services, but this was not guaranteed. They were also permitted, if they had the means and source for the products, to operate small suteleries, selling produce or other small notions to the soldiers.

The women who followed the army were generally of the same social class as the soldiers. With a few exceptions, most often they were the wives of soldiers, likely tagging along, often with children in tow, because when the husband left for war, they had nowhere else to go. The numbers of women camp followers were not great, typically a few four to six perhaps, per hundred soldiers or so. General Forbes' army of 8000 was estimated to have about 200 women amongst its ranks. Army commanders usually restricted the number of women allowed to follow, if for no other reason than logistics. On most occasions, women, and sometimes their children, were issued provisions alongside the men, but only in half-ration. In times of shortage, orders were often given that women were to receive no rations, under the premise that keeping soldiers nourished for duty took precedence over the women followers.

Though their presence in the British and provincial armies of North America during the 18th War was not typically celebrated, their presence is certainly confirmed quite often in written records, as well as in archaeological findings. Archaeological work at Fort Lipponer in the 1960s uncovered as many as 100 leather shoe fragments, the examination of which revealed as much as 10% of the findings to be pieces of women's and children's shoes. The support and services rendered by them played an important role in military culture and history.

Col Bouquet
There are upwards of One Hundred & Twenty Nations of Savages become worthy for Women belonging to the 1st British Royal American at Carlisle, Lancaster, and Philadelphia
Self: Am Lov'd.

Attention to Orders!
The commanding officer is informed that several Women belonging to this Garrison keep dram Shops. That practice being contrary to order & good discipline, and evidence production of very bad consequences. If afterward they are found guilty of having disobeyed this order... they shall be haled down into this Place, or otherwise punished at the discretion of a Court Martial.

Honour'd Sir
Carlisle 4th June 1758
Please to bear the Petition of your Poor unfortunate Servant Martha May, now Confined to Carlisle Jail. Please your Honor, as my Husband is an Old Soldier, and having been taken out of the Rank to be Confined just out in such a Prison that I was almost broken myself but being informed, after that I shoud yr Honor, be a High degree, for what I ask yr Honor a Thousand Pardon, and an Healy Servant for what I have said & shoud knowing yr Honor to be a Compassionate and Merciful Man, I beg and hope you'll take it into Consideration that it was the Love I had for my Poor Husband, and no ill will to yr Honor, which was the cause of shewing so good a Colonel as you are. Please to Set me at Liberty this time & I never will disobeie yr Honor nor any other Officer belonging to the Army for the future, as I have been a Wife 22 years and have Travelled with my Husband every Place or Country the Company Marched too and have weired very hard ever since I was in the Army I hope yr Honor will be so Good as to Pardone me this one time that I may go with my Poor Husband, one time more to carry him and my good Officers water in y^e nextest Battle as I have done before, I am,
Y^r unfortunate Distresser and Humble Servant
Martha May

Sneak Peek at one of the Waysides!



THEY ESCAPED THE FORT!

Reports confirm that three of our very own Fort Loudoun "runaways" were recently seen causing a stir at Moores Creek National Battlefield during the 249th anniversary event! Disguised as Highlanders under Lieutenant Colonel Donald McCleod (clever, right?), they traded the Pennsylvania frontier for the North Carolina sunshine. Witnesses claim they marched, laughed, and may have even tried to recruit for King George. If you spot these wandering Highlanders, approach with caution—they're known to carry bagpipes and bad jokes!

At Fort Loudoun, we're excited to join fellow historic sites in commemorating the upcoming 250th anniversaries of key events from the American Revolution! These milestones offer a unique opportunity to honor the struggles and triumphs that shaped our nation. We're proud to stand alongside our friends at other historic sites as we bring history to life and celebrate this remarkable chapter in America's story. Stay tuned for events, reenactments, and plenty of 18th-century fun!