

MUSEUMS MESSENGER

NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUMS

Campus Martius & Ohio River Museums

Marietta, Ohio

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Our sincerest gratitude is extended to Betsy Cook, Jan Adams, the Riverside Artisans and all the artists, young and old, who participated in the Marietta Legacy Project. Many of the works will be on display in the halls of Campus Martius through June ...and they look great!

GUNBOAT SILVER RETURNED TO OHIO RIVER MUSEUM

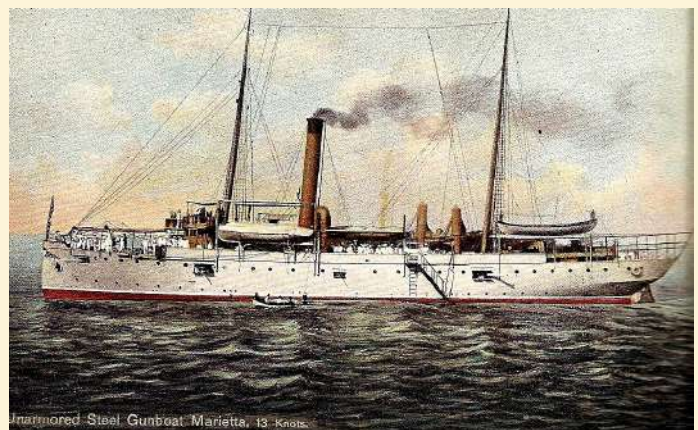
The *USS Marietta*, a Nineteenth Century gunship, never sailed here, but that hasn't diminished the interest and pride this community has displayed for its beloved namesake. Now, a very physical reminder of those links to national maritime heritage has been strengthened by the return of some of the vessel's prized possessions to exhibit in the Ohio River Museum.

The ornate silver service, decorated with the coat of arms of the State of Ohio and the City of Marietta and the inscription: "To the U. S. Gunboat Marietta from the Citizens of Marietta, Ohio," was presented to the officers and crew of the Spanish American War gunship, *Marietta* at the Boston Naval Yards in 1899. Elaborate observances, attended by Ohio's governor, dignitaries from *Marietta*, naval officers and the Navy band, were held while the ship was in dry-dock undergoing repairs as part of her illustrious, 22-years in service of the United States.

The tableware was presented to the Navy during

"Marietta Day" by Governor Asa Bushnell and a delegation from Marietta. It demonstrated local pride at having a warship named after the city. The silver service consisting of punch bowl, cups, cake, fruit and

with copper sheathing. She was armed with six, four-inch, rapid-fire rifles, four of them as broadside guns on the lower deck and the other two as stern and bow chasers on the upper deck. There were also four



flower dishes, was purchased through area Contributions. It was recently returned to Marietta from the warehouses of the Ohio Historical Society.

The *Marietta* was constructed in California and commissioned in September, 1897. From the keel to the waterline her hulls were built with pine and iron-wood from the tropics. According to a newspaper of the day, the remainder of the ship was "of five-eighth-inch steel." Pine planking on the hull was covered

six-pounders and two, one-pound, breach-loading, Hotchkiss guns.

The warship was manned by eleven officers, ten marines and a crew of 125...a complement of 146 persons. She had two masts for sails to assist her 600 horse-power Babcock and Wilcox water-tube boilers. Double-screw propellers pushed her up to twelve knots an hour.

USS Marietta served in the waters off Peru and Chile.

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As part of the "Great White Fleet," she participated in the blockade of Havana Harbor, sailed to the Philippines via the Suez Canal and acted as a patrol and convoy escort. Her tour of duty included Panama, Columbia, Haiti, Jamaica, Venezuela, Trinidad, Curacao, and Honduras. In February, 1916, the veteran warship joined American forces off Vera Cruz to assist in operations against Mexican

insurgents.

She returned to the U.S. shortly before the start of World War I, and joined the Atlantic Fleet patrol force for convoy duty.

The *Marietta* was decommissioned in July, 1919.



Financial matters continue to plague museums like ours over the entire Nation. While we're still open and serving you, we are constantly searching for cost cutting measures to guarantee we'll be around for you and your children. An easy way to save is for us to email this newsletter to you rather than send it through regular mail. Please, help us out! Send us your current email address.. Ours is info@campusmartiumuseum.org. What's yours?

Work on W.P. Snyder Jr. Progressing

We continue to receive reports on the steady work to replace the hull of the *W.P. Snyder* in dry-dock along the river in South Point, Ohio.

The Hull's replacement is being funded by local contributions coupled with an extensive grant from the Save America's Treasures Program.

Expect to see her back in late summer.

A second project on the *Snyder's* behalf is now in the works. A major request for a Transportation Enhancement Grant through the Ohio Department of Transportation was recently submitted. These grants are awarded to statewide projects focusing on transportation and money is generated through highway taxes.

The grant would fund extensive renovations of the sternwheel and the boat's upper decks. Total cost would be over \$800,000 with OHS providing almost \$170,000 through contributions and state capital funds, and an 80% match from ODOT's grant award.

Trustees Elected At Annual Meeting

Minnie Smith, President of The Friends of the Museum, presided over the organization's 2010 annual meeting, April 25 on the Valley Gem barge.

Around forty members and guests of the Friends were in attendance.

Election of Trustees dominated the business section of the meeting. New and reelected board members include: Minnie Smith, President; Nancy Murdock, Vice President; Richard Abele, Recording Secretary; Jane Anne Rauch, Corresponding Secretary Sheila Lankford, Treasurer; plus four additional trustees Roger Hall,

Ann Anderson, Nancy Hoy, and Art Jones.

Jean Yost, Chair of the Friends Management Committee submitted a report on current projects at both museums and introduced the new museums manager, Floyd Barman.

Speaker Jeff Spears, President of the Sons and Daughters of Pioneer Rivermen, gave a presentation recalling steamboats that sailed the waters near Marietta from the 19th through the early 20th centuries.

It is hoped that we'll hear positive news about the grant in August and begin the work over the coming winter while the *Snyder* sits here in Marietta.

For continuous updates on the *Snyder's* progress, you can blog: <http://snyderrestore.blogspot.com/> a site maintained by project architect, Fred Smith.



Bustle plating



Fitting the stern

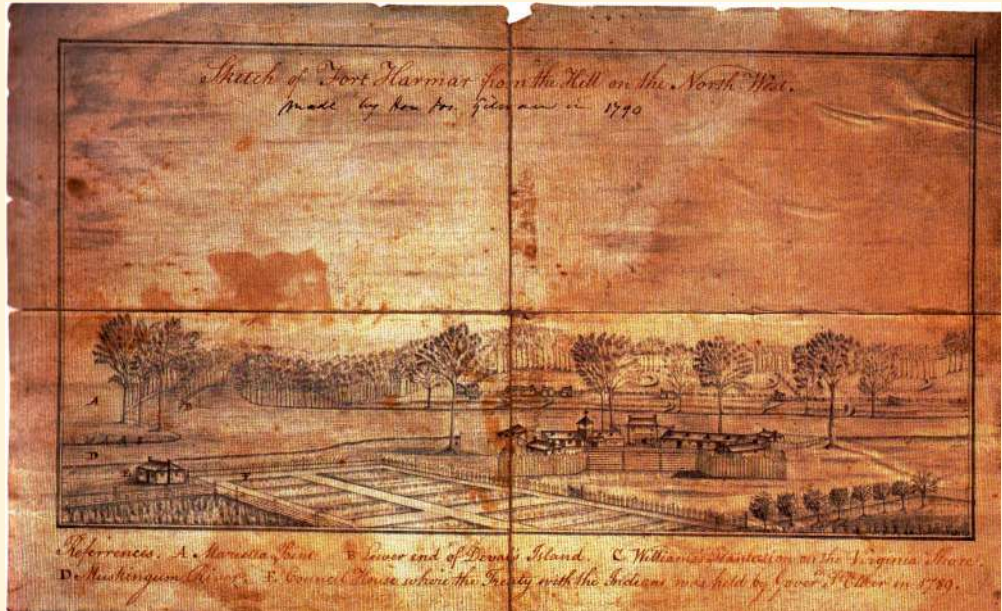
Gallery To Explore Life In A Frontier Fort

Marietta, the State's oldest community, will become a hub for special programs in the next few years commemorating the 225th anniversary of the founding and development of the Northwest Territory. Campus Martius Museum, in the heart of Marietta, plans to be in the center of it all by offering an extensive series of events and exhibits related to these important anniversaries.

According to the Friends of the Museum, the museum's governing group, it all begins this summer with the premier of an exhibition titled, *Fort Harmar, Sentinel of the Frontier*. Slated for opening during the July 4th weekend, the exhibit will explore the life and times of those who constructed and lived in Fort Harmar from 1785 through 1786. The exhibition predates the anniversary of the Fort's construction which actually began along the Ohio River in the fall of 1785.

Fort Harmar was an important link in a chain of Federal posts along the Ohio River. The unusual, "pentagon shaped" fort was constructed of wood with upright pickets and the backsides of interior buildings forming its exterior walls.

The fort stood on a point



In October, 1785, Major John Doughty selected the west bank of the Muskingum where it enters the Ohio and named the new fortification he constructed there after his commander. In 1790, Joseph Gilman, judge of the General Court of the Northwest Territory drew the image above.

Courtesy: Marietta College, Dawes Memorial Library, Special Collections

where the Ohio and Muskingum rivers converged and the site is now under water.

The fort was built by troops of the First American Regiment. This seven-hundred man unit was the only official army in the service of the United States following the American Revolution. Soldiers were sent to the



frontier to construct and garrison over a dozen forts. They protected surveyors as they surveyed the Northwest Territory and safeguarded thousands of pioneers moving down the Ohio River to new homes. In addition, the regiment removed "squatters," illegal settlers with no claim to land north of the Ohio River. These few soldiers treated with (and in many instances fought) the Indians, spied, mapped, explored, and acted as agents of the government by providing reconnaissance and reports.

Commander of the Regiment, Josiah Harmar believed that the confluence of the Muskingum and

Ohio rivers offered a strategic point of operations for the new Army and he ordered the First American to build a fort there.

Museum visitors will examine the roles of Native Americans, soldiers and settlers through displays of images, tools, weapons, and clothing. Uniforms, surveyor's tools, pioneer and Indian clothing, and two authentic cannon from a local private collection are all part of the gallery. A soldier's tent and "hands-on" children's material are also in the exhibit

Segments of the exhibition will be changed over the course of its year-long run. One special display

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Exhibit, Cont. from page 3.
will focus on the story of Gen. J. M. Varnum, a resident of early Marietta and distinguished leader in the American Revolution.

Campus Martius also plans a full schedule of related programming in the course of the exhibition.

Next year, collectors of 18th century Indian and Northwest Territory memorabilia will converge on the museum for a “first-ever” weekend artifact show. Several two-day 18th century experiential camps for youth who wish to become “soldiers” are being planned.

A special weekend camp for teachers is additionally slated. Also in development are programs by Federal scholars and a symposium focusing on the wars of the Old Northwest.

Observances will continue through the 225th anniversary of the Marietta’s founding in 2013.

The Fort Harmar exhibit will be followed by one overlooking Campus Martius, a 1788 civilian fortification on the Muskingum less than a mile upstream from the Ohio (on the spot where the museum stands). The impressive structure housed settlers and offices of the Ohio Company of Associates.

Fort Harmar Flag to Fly Again

Two very special ladies, Jean Bergen and Janice McGregor, from the Marietta Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution, have prepared a replica of the 1785 U.S. Flag that proudly waved over Fort Harmar.

These large flags commonly flew above almost all of the frontier forts.

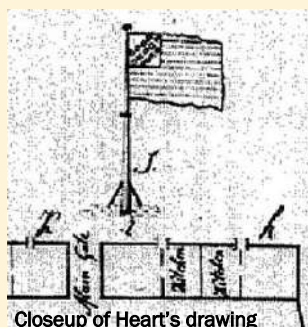
The hand-sewn reproduction was presented to the Marietta Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution, and will be exhibited at the museum



The flag’s design was taken from an original drawing of the fort by Capt. Jonathan Hart, an officer of the First American Regiment., the unit that built and garrisoned Fort Harmar.

The original flag stood on top a pole extending from the roof of a watch tower. The Heart sketch reveals that the flag was “garrison” style, from 16 to 20 feet long and 12 to 14 feet wide.

for its Fort Harmar exhibit. The standard will also be carried in various ceremonies planned for July 4th weekend.



Closeup of Heart’s drawing indicating the enormity of the garrison’s colors.

FRIENDS ON THE SEARCH

Wish List To Help With Daily Activities

We’re going to introduce this new segment of our newsletter with a request for a refrigerator! Yes...a refrigerator! We have found over the past several years that the small apartment sized ice boxes we have in our basement are totally inadequate to store food for our staff and volunteers and perishable material used in education programs. It is also impossible to provide refrigeration for foods used in receptions at the museum. So we’re asking for the donation of a fridge! If you have one let us know at 740-373-3750. We’re not going to ask for anything else at the moment. We’d just be happy with the icebox.

General Varnum Remembered

Marietta’s earliest settlers were composed, in large measure, of Revolutionary War veterans who petitioned Congress to obtain land in payment for their military service during the war. Various Colonial Officers, including Generals Putnam, Tupper, Arthur St. Clair, and Commodore Abraham Whipple, were among these early pioneers.

Brigadier General James Mitchell Varnum. Varnum was a member of the Continental Congress, leader of America’s first Black Regiment and Judge in the Northwest Territory. His headquarters still stands at Valley Forge where he was one of George Washington’s Brigadier Generals.

All that remains to mark Varnum’s mortal remains is a weathered monument

Among their ranks was the Revolutionary War officer,

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Varnum: Cont. from page 4

monument dedicated to "The Unknown Pioneer Settlers" of Marietta in Oak Grove Cemetery. No tombstone exists. Only two bronze markers from the Sons of the American Revolution and Varnum's Continentals indicate his place in history. Ceremonies during Marietta's 2010 Independence Commemoration will finally remedy this "monumental" oversight.

The Unknown Pioneer Plot containing General Varnum's remains is being re-searched by a local Eagle Scout.

This July 2nd the Marietta Chapter Sons of the American Revolution will recreate the processional and dedicate a gravestone for General Varnum. At his 1789 funeral there were thirty Indian Chiefs in attendance. The recreated funeral will start at Campus Martius Museum and arrive at Oak Grove Cemetery for the dedication.

A Massachusetts native, Varnum attended Harvard and graduated from Rhode Island College (Brown University) with its first class, in 1769. He demonstrated an early interest in military affairs, becoming the first commander of the Kentish Guards in 1774.

When the Revolution began, Varnum was appointed Colonel of the First Rhode Island Regiment. He and his men were at the siege of Boston, fortified the heights of at Brooklyn, saw action at Harlem Heights and White Plains. In 1777, he was promoted to Brigadier General in command of the Rhode Island Brigade by General Washington, and joined the Continental Army at Valley Forge.

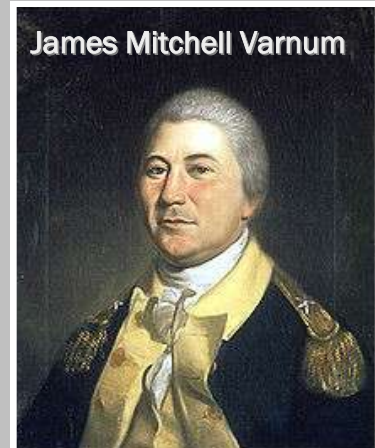
Having difficulty raising more troops, Varnum succeeded in convincing Washington and the Rhode Island Assembly to allow the recruitment of black, mulatto and Indian slaves who would be freed at the end of their enlistment. Approximately 90 of those new recruits were raised within a few months and assigned to Varnum's 1st Rhode Island Regiment.

Varnum was honorably discharged in 1779 and continued in law. Twice, he served as a Rhode Island member of the Continental Congress.

At age 40, Varnum decided to move West and became one of the original founders of the Ohio Company where he was appointed Federal Judge. In the Spring of 1788, he journeyed on horseback 800 miles to the new Ohio town of Marietta.

Marietta's first July 4th celebration in 1788 was highlighted by "an excellent oration given by Judge Varnum in the bower set up for the day just above the mouth of the Muskingum River on the east bank."

But Varnum had been sick with consumption for many years. Sadly, his time in Marietta was cut short. A survivor of that very cold winter of suffering at Valley Forge, he would not endure the equally cold winter in Marietta of 1788-1789. He died the day following the signing of the Treaty of Fort Harmar and was buried with great pomp and circumstance in the Old Burying Grounds. Later, his remains were removed to Oak Grove Cemetery.



James Mitchell Varnum

For information concerning all July 4th activities: www.mariettasar.org

The Past Is Still Ahead For Historian Floyd Barmann

What Johnny Appleseed was to trees, Floyd Barmann is to the historical legacy of town after town in Ohio.

Wally Richardson, Brigade of the American Revolution

We felt it appropriate to introduce your new director, Floyd Barmann. He's been with us for just over a month and is heavily involved with developing new directions for our museums.

Floyd has spent his entire career, some 30 years, as a museum professional.

He and his wife of 27 years, Melinda, are Ohio natives. They met while reenacting during the 1970s. Floyd, however, became interested in history when he was still in Junior High School. He traveled across the U.S. in the 1960s as a reenactor during the Civil War Centennial.

Later, he co-founded a the 9th Virginia Regiment, a Revolutionary War reenactment group that participated heavily in the 1974-1983 American Revolution Bicentennial.

Floyd served on state and national boards to organize meaningful observances for the Bicenten-

nial. He also helped organize the 200th anniversaries of the Signing of the Treaty of Versailles, Paris, 1983, and establishment of diplomatic relations between the United States and Great Britain, London, 1985.

It was natural for Floyd to focus on history at college.

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MUSEUMS MESSENGER
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Barmann: cont. from page 5

He graduated from Miami U. and received his Masters in Museum Management from Wright State U., Dayton. Soon afterwards he became director of the Clark County Historical Society, Springfield, Ohio, where he remained for 20 years. Floyd assisted dozens of Midwest communities with living-history programs, especially those related to the "Indian Wars" of the 1790s. He was recognized for his contributions with the Ohio Museum Association's "Outstanding Achievement Award for Service to Museum and Community".

Barmann has conceived and organized seven historic symposia plus interpretive history programs at 25 historic sites since 1980. These have ranged from the "Fair At New Boston," a recreated, 18th century trades fair to the "Educator's Local History Institute," a benchmark program to educate teachers on local history.

In 2001, Barmann opened Springfield's 64,000 sf. *Heritage Center of Clark County*,

inside a 115-year-old National Register building. The museum traces the history of the National Road and development of industry and agriculture. Floyd spearheaded efforts to raise \$20 million for the project including a \$5 million endowment. It serves as a model for other historical groups.

"As for Floyd," remarks one historian, "it will be said that he didn't settle for mere participation in historical projects, but went on to become the foremost author and advocate of programs to celebrate our history and honor those who secured our legacy two hundred years ago. And the legacies he himself has deposited here and there will, unlike most of Hollywood's "historical movies", withstand the test of time. "

After retiring Floyd and his wife moved to New Hampshire where he managed Fort at Number Four, a reconstructed French and Indian War post on the Connecticut River. Now he's back in Ohio and at the helm here in Marietta. We're anxious to help him help us grow. We welcome Floyd and Melinda to our museums and the community.

Throughout his remarkable tenure, he has combined civic concern with the utmost professionalism to become a leading figure in historical programming. Whether occupying center stage or playing a valuable role in the wings, he has made his presence felt by showing decisive leadership, sound judgment, and a visionary perspective. Undaunted by challenge, he has made it a practice to embrace even the most imposing responsibilities...

Senator Richard H. Finan,
124th General Assembly of Ohio

