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# Reenactor Chronicles

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## Great Lakes Region 1700-1840

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December 17, 2025 | Issue 21

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## Merry Christmas!

Caleb Roberts (standing) poses with Santa and Mrs. Claus, portrayed by his grandparents, Ronald and Betty Chambers, at **Crab Orchard Museum**, Tazewell, Virginia.

The museum, home of Fort Witten, celebrated its annual Frontier Christmas earlier this month.

The original Fort Witten was constructed in 1774 by Thomas Witten as a defensive structure during hostilities with Native Americans, according to the museum website. A small militia was stationed at the fort during Lord Dunmore's War.

The blockhouse style building contained an upper and lower room, each with loopholes, or narrow window slits, to allow defenders to fire at attackers.

In 1926, the website information said Fort Maiden Spring chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution reconstructed a replica of Fort Witten on a hillside near the building's original site. The dedication on July 4, 1927, "garnered incredible interest and it is estimated that 25,000 people attended the event."

During the next 90 years, the fort served a variety of uses, and it was donated by the DAR to Crab Orchard Museum along with a private donation of the land where it was located.

In 2015, the building was determined to need significant repairs, and the Fort Maiden Spring chapter of DAR again stepped forward to help preserve this piece of local



history. Through member efforts and donations the fort was dismantled and reconstructed on its 1927 site. Many of the original logs were reused, with new logs added where needed. The newly-reconstructed Fort Witten was dedicated on July 4, 2017, exactly 90 years after the original dedication.

*Top photo Mariam Kelly*

*Bottom photo by Caleb Roberts*



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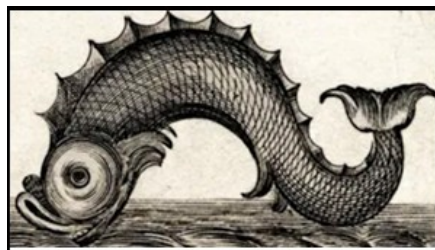
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## Reminder

Hello all ... Just a reminder to get your event information to me so I can add it to the 2026 list. Thank you to everyone who has sent information. The list is growing.

Winter event information should be emailed by Friday, Jan. 2. After that date, it's likely to be February before I can make updates. Email them to

[Vicki@ReenactorChronicles.com](mailto:Vicki@ReenactorChronicles.com).

Currently, the list contains mainly events from Ohio and neighboring states, because I've been collecting those for nearly 17 years. But the list is open to weekend reenactments, rendezvous, trade fairs and similar events of interest to reenactors in any state or the Great Lakes region of Canada.

**[Click here for the latest list.](#)**

Thanks!  
Vicki

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