

Reenactor Chronicles

Great Lakes Region 1700-1840

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October 22, 2025 | Issue 17



Log Cabin Shop's Early American Trades Fair

Log Cabin Shop hosted its 17th annual Early American Trades Fair Oct. 10-11 at the store in Lodi, Ohio. A wide variety of craftspeople and vendors spread out on the grounds selling their wares and visiting with a large crowd.

A few of them were (top left) Greg Park, who was inletting an entry thimble for a muzzleloader; (bottom left) a blacksmith from Penfield Forge; and Jon Stepleton of Weeping Heart Quill and Bead.

Photos by Vicki Johnson

To have your photos considered for this space, contact Vicki@ReenactorChronicles.com.



Halloween in 1800s in America, Great Britain



Halloween party of the 1800s. Author's collection.

Editor's note: This history of Halloween was found on a 2013 blog called geriwalton.com - Unique histories from the 18th and 19th centuries.

By **Geri Walton** | October 31, 2013 |

The name "Halloween" evolved over time. It was shortened from All Hallows' Even and All Hallows Day — the evening of All Hallows' Day and another name for All Saints' Day, respectively. Eventually, it was contracted to "Halloween" and just as the name Halloween evolved, the holiday evolved too throughout Great Britain and the United States.

Halloween was initially influenced by Celtic-speaking countries with traditions such as Samhain, the ancient Celtic New Year celebrated near the end of October. Another influence was All Hallows' Eve. It was a day commemorated in May by Catholics for saints. Despite uneasiness by the church, the day became associated with supernatural ideas, particularly after repeated outbreaks of the bubonic plague occurred. All Souls' Day also influenced Halloween. It was celebrated to honor the dead, and, similar to All Hallows' Eve, there was increased interest in death and the supernatural.

With supernatural leanings, customs related to Halloween also evolved. For instance, All Souls' Day was celebrated by sharing small round cakes, known as "soul cakes." These cakes were distributed door-to-door and given to soulers — primarily children and the poor. Each cake was considered to be a soul and each cake bought a soul respite from purgatory's flames. This practice of giving and receiving is supposedly the origin for trick-or-treating. Costumes associated with Halloween may have started in France during the fourteenth and fifteenth century ... [\(Click here to continue reading\)](#)

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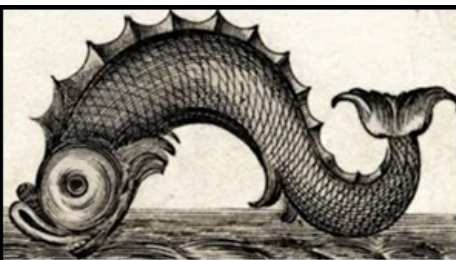
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These are the last 2025 events on the list. For a list of events that continue into 2026, please [click here](#).

Oct. 23-26, 2025 - Fall

Rendezvous, Greene County Fish & Game, 1538 Union Road, Xenia, Ohio 45385. Contact Brian Lavery, 937-241-8327. [Facebook page](#). Camp fee \$20 per family; \$15 per single; \$10 for walk-in shooter. No extra fee for traders. Competitions include shoots, archery, hawk & knife, pastry toss, potluck Saturday evening. Trick-or-treat for kids.

Oct. 24-26, 2025 - Colonial Market

Days, Abner Longley Park, 1601 Longley Dr., Lebanon, Indiana 46052. Contact 317-762-0117, [Facebook page](#), <https://colonialmarketdays.com> for application form. Colonial merchants, demonstrators and craftsmen. Military units and tacticals. Entertainment such as jugglers, street performers, magic and music. Friday school day.

Oct. 25-26, 2025 - Fall

Rendezvous, Patoka Valley Long Rifles, 1579 E. Logtown Road, Winslow, Indiana 47598. Contact pvlr.info@gmail.com, [Facebook page](#).

Nov. 1-2, 2025 - Fort de Chartres Winter

Rendezvous, Prairie du Rocher, Illinois 62277. Contact 618-284-7230, lesamisdufortdechartres@gmail.com, www.fortdechartres.us. Features 18th and early 19th-century camp life 1700-1820. Muzzleloader woods walk shooting competition, hand-made crafts, period music and food. Soldiers, trappers, traders and Native Americans.

Nov. 6-9, 2025 - Pathways Women's

Gathering, Fort La Buse, Bellville, Ohio. Women only. Beginners welcome. Contact [Facebook group](#). Inside accommodations available by reservation. Plenty of space for tents. Registration by Oct. 1 strongly encouraged. Camp fee is \$30, or \$35 at the gate. Setup Thursday; no early arrivals. Seminars and workshops. Shoot,

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archery, hawk & knife, history quiz and other competitions. Food. Raffle donations requested.

Nov. 8, 2025 - Antique Arms

Show, Franklin County Fairgrounds, 4100 Columbia St., Hilliard, Ohio. Contact Mark Barnhill for table information, mb-1955@hotmail.com. Sponsored by the Association of Ohio Longrifle Collectors, www.AOLRC.com. Kentucky rifles and accoutrements; weapons built before 1898, Indian artifacts, Civil War weapons, special display of Pennsylvania rifles by Greg Williams. Free parking. Food available. Open 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission \$5 per person ages 13 and older. Ages 12 and younger free.

Nov. 29-30, 2025 - Michigan Antique

Arms Collectors Inc., Madison Place Events Center, 876 Horace Brown Drive, Madison Heights, **Michigan** 48071. Contact Greg Zemsta, 248-556-6590, mauserman98@hotmail.com, www.michiganantiquearms.com. Guns and accoutrements, Native artifacts, knives, relics and similar items. Open 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday and 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Sunday. Members admitted at 8 a.m. Admission fee \$8.

Please send your dates and event information for 2026 (right now while you're thinking of it ... ;)), especially for January through April, but for all year. Email them to Vicki@ReenactorChronicles.com.

Elsewhere online ...

Vampire Circus Takes Over an 1830s-Era New England Village For the Last Time ... [link](#)

Rare 19th-century coins found after fire at historic tavern ... [link](#)

Battle of Red Horse Tavern: Historic

Colonial Times event returns to North Augusta's Living History Park after Helene damage ... [link](#)

Gründungstag attracts history buffs and families ... [link](#)

Boone's Cave Park Living History ... [link](#)

Living history: Fort Belknap Days this week

Reenactment ... [link](#)

58th Feast of the Hunters' Moon immerses visitors in 18th century life ... [link](#)

Colonial reenactment revisits Middleboro's Oliver Estate to offer a portal to the past ... [link](#)

The Preserving Black Haddonfield History Project kicks off semiquincentennial celebrations ... [link](#)

Local Groups Launch 250th Anniversary with Talk Retracing Washington's March Through the Hopewell Valley ... [link](#)

... [link](#)

Blackbeard's Pirate Jamboree returns to Ocracoke Oct. 31 and Nov. 1 ... [link](#)

Points North: How 'Bout Them Apples? ... [link](#)



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