Reenactor Chronicles
Great Lakes Region 1700-1840

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Lake Erie Heritage Foundation planning Declaration 250 event at Put-in-Bay

By Vicki Johnson

Plans are taking shape for a special signing ceremony called Declaration 250 to take place Aug. 1-2 at Put-in-Bay, and the organizers are looking for reenactors of Revolutionary War through the War of 1812 to take part.

The national event, in honor of America's 250th anniversary, is hosted by Lake Erie Heritage Foundation and Perry Group, which organized the anniversary celebration of the Battle of Lake Erie in 2013.

While most celebrations note adoption of the resolution on July 4, 1776, this event honors the signing of the Declaration of Independence on Aug. 2, 1776 – formally declaring separate from Great Britain.

For more information on the event, visit https://lakeerieheritage.org.

Groups or individual reenactors interested in participating in living history demonstrations as part of Freedom Village should contact Zavagno at freedomvillage.declaration250@gmail.com for additional details, to reserve space and to make arrangements for travel to the island.

"They transformed a resolution into a binding act of commitment," said David Zavagno, executive director of Lake Erie Heritage Foundation. "That moment – where individuals stepped forward and put everything on the line – is at the heart of what we are creating.

"Although American tradition has romanticized the signing of the Declaration, by affixing their names to the covenant, the delegates were committing an act of mutiny against Britain," he said. "Signers picked up a pen and risked their life, knowing they would be forced to pick up a sword to defend it."

Weekend events will center around Perry's Victory and International Peace Memorial, and a reenactor village is planned nearby.

"The monument represents America's second war for independence, fought and won on Lake Erie," Zavagno said. "Connecting 1776 to 1813 creates a complete narrative –

and Ohio sits at the center of that story."
Plans include performances by the Ohio State University and Bowling Green State University marching bands, Lee Greenwood, the Army Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps, the Bristol Fife and Drum Corps, and the United States Navy Band.
In addition, there will be a tall ship on display and "one of the largest fireworks displays in the country" over Lake Erie.
"The weekend culminates in a National Signing Ceremony – bringing thousands together in a shared moment tied directly to 1776, expressed in a modern and meaningful way," Zavagno said.
"The defining element is participation. We are asking everyone to 'sign on.' " he said. "On August 2, participants will add their names recognizing the true day America made its commitment real – transforming the event from something people watch into something they become part of."

Events List:
Next two weeks

May 9-10, 2026 - Appalachian Festival, New Richmond, **Ohio**. Contact 513-251-3378, www.appalachianfestival.org, Facebook page. 1700-1840 event. Natives, food vendors, demonstrations, merchants, entertainers, blanket traders. Public hours 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday. Admission $15 adults and $5 ages 5-17.

May 9-10, 2026 - Muster on the St. Mary's timeline event, Old Fort Wayne, Fort Wayne, **Indiana**. Contact 260-437-2836, Facebook page. Reenactor, sutler, demonstrator applications at oldfortwayne.org/get-involved/reenactor-registration. Public hours 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday.

May 12-17, 2026 - Riverside Rendezvous & History Festival, Faribault, **Minnesota**. Contact Dave Nichols, Rice County Historical Society, rchs@rchistory.org, 507-332-2121, https://rchistory.org, Facebook page. 1650-1865 event. Set up 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday. Set up after 3 p.m. Thursday and Friday. Camp fee $40 per "space" or vendors $60 per "space." (See website for details.)

Spring Thaw

Buzzard (seated), Tom Moss and Steve Ebner take a moment to smile for the camera during the Ball & Arrow Primitive Weapons Club Spring Thaw Rendezvous the last weekend in April near New Philadelphia, Ohio. (Nobody seems to be sure if Buzzard has another name (wink).)

Photo from Ball & Arrow's Facebook page

May 13-17, 2026 - NRLHF Corps of Discovery, McDonald, **Pennsylvania** 15057. Contact Don Ricetti, 724-622-0599, segundo98@earthlink.net, www.nrlhf.org, Facebook page. A learning rendezvous, seminars, workshops, educational sessions. Pre-registration fees are $25 per adult for NMLRA members; $30 for non-members. Children ages 17 and younger are free. Free public admission 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Thursday-Saturday. Setup Monday-Tuesday.

May 15-16, 2026 - Willard Revolutionary War Reenactment and Encampment, Willard Middle School, Willard, **Ohio** 44890. Contact Kyle von Camp or Facebook page. Every May, eighth-grade students at Willard Middle School recreate the time of the Revolutionary War, learn about life in the 1700s and reenact battle scenes. Reenactors, sutlers and volunteers are welcome. Friday evening dinner, awards and military ball. On Saturday, the main stage will have speakers, demonstrations and entertainment.

May 15-17, 2026 - Settlers Encampment Historic Timeline, Auglaize Village, Defiance, **Ohio**. Juried timeline event. To apply, register at auglaizevillage.org. Contact Cheryl Daniel, 419-636-2560, or email villageauglaize@gmail.com. Public days 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday. School day Friday. Demonstrators can trade for free. Settlers, pioneers, French, English and American civilians, military, Natives, merchants, artisans of all trades and any persona relevant to Ohio, the Old Northwest Territory, the Middle Ground or Great Lakes Region pre-1815.

May 15-17, 2026 - New Frontiersman's Spring Rendezvous, Ashland Conservation Farm, Ashland, **Ohio**. Contact Dave

Wedding at Bloody Lake Rendezvous

Mr. and Mrs. Conner Lyons tied the knot last week at Bloody Lake Rendezvous at Black Hawk Memorial Park, Woodford, Wisconsin. Congrats to them!

Photo by Kathleen Depies

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and Teri Moore, 419-589-4843, or Roy Howman, 419-961-1620, www.acwcl.org, Facebook page. Set up Friday. Camp fee $10. Trail walks Saturday and Sunday with $15 entry fee each day.

May 15-17, 2026 - Jennings Creek Council Spring Rendezvous, Camp Clay, Van Wert, **Ohio** 45891. Contact Sharon Curl, lscurl4645@yahoo.com. Pre-registration appreciated, but not required. Camp fee $25, which covers two adults and children. Additional adults $10 each. Setup after 2 p.m. Thursday. Open to public 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

May 15-17, 2026 - Wild Haggis Rendezvous, Winnebago, **Illinois** 61088. Contact Jeremy, 815-221-7281, RockRunLongInc@gmail.com, or Stuart, 815-703-5224, Facebook page.
Casual reenactment open to beginners. Learn shooting, archery, hawk & knife, Scottish games. Blanket shoot; $20 prize. Public hours 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, 9 a.m. 2 p.m. Sunday.

May 16-17, 2026 - Fort Ligonier French Garrison, Fort Ligonier, 200 S Market St, Ligonier, **Pennsylvania** 15658. Contact 724-238-9701, office@fortligonier.org, www.fortligonier.org, Facebook page. French soldiers and civilians of Nouvelle France during the mid-18th century.

(40th and final year) May 16-17, 2026 - Voyageur Rendezvous, Grand Kankakee Marsh County Park, 21690 Clay St., Hebron, **Indiana** 46341. Contact park office, 219-552-0033, Facebook page. Portrays New France, circa 1730-1750, voyageurs, fur traders, Native Americans.

May 18-24, 2026 - Lancaster Mountain Man University, Fort Lupton, **Colorado**. Sponsored by

Garst Museum Grounds
937-548-5250
info@gatheringatgarst.com
www.darkecountyparks.org/gathering

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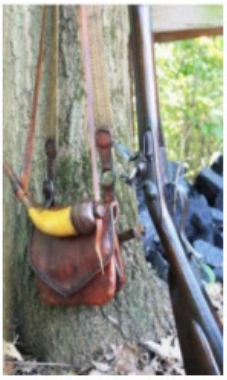

Friday, Oct. 9 - Noon-6pm
Saturday, Oct. 10 - 9am-5pm
*Admission is FREE
and open to the public.
*Free parking. Food available on site.
8010 Lafayette Road
Lodi, Ohio 44254

For vendor information: 330-948-1082
www.logcabinshop.com
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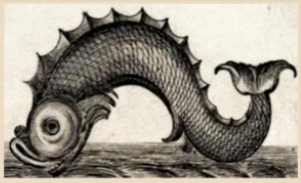

Jeff Gier - Horner
937-441-2426
Shelly Gier - Leather
937-441-5454

Tallow River Trappers. Contact Tony Thom, 720-940-7646, www.spvhs.org. Educational classes. Pre-1840 attire required after 6 p.m. in primitive camp.

Click here for more details and the entire event list

Send your news and events!

• Does your club or organization have news to share?
• Is your museum planning a timely exhibit fitting the 1700-1840 time period?
• Does your event have information to distribute quickly such as a location change or date change?

Please let me know and I'll get the word out. **Vicki@ReenactorChronicles.com**.

For information about advertising in this space, please email Vicki@ReenactorChronicles.com

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