

Frontier Family Reunion Heads To Fort Laurens

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Boone, Crawford, Girty, Kenton

Bolivar, OH—Some of the most famous and infamous names of the American colonial frontier will assemble at Fort Laurens State Memorial, located in Bolivar, Ohio on Saturday, August 16, 2003.

Family descendants of Daniel Boone, Simon Kenton, Simon Girty, Lewis Wetzel, William Crawford, Alexander McKee, and representatives of the Delaware and the Piqua Sept of Shawnee Indian nations will converge at the site of the only American Revolutionary War fort built in what now is the state of Ohio.

For the first time in over time in 225 years, the family descendants of these great tribes and frontiersmen are returning to the site of Fort Laurens to share history, retell tall tales of great feats and adventure, and keep alive the history and memory of America's Revolutionary years.

"Some of these frontiersmen helped defend Ft. Laurens while others tried to destroy the fortification," said Friends of Fort Laurens Foundation trustee, Scott Fisher. "We are excited to have them all return to this site, not to celebrate victory or defeat, but to celebrate history and the role their family ancestors played in the state and nation."

At some point in time during their existence, their lives and survival intertwined. Lewis Wetzel and William Crawford served at Fort Laurens that was built in Delaware Indian territory.

Simon Kenton saved Daniel Boone's life during an attack on Boonesboro.

Simon Girty, a notorious renegade on the frontier and ally of the British, saved Simon Kenton from burning at the stake by Ohio Indians. In addition, Fort Laurens was the first official American military installation attacked by Girty after joining sides with the British during the American Revolution.

The Frontier Family Reunion of the Northwest Territory will be sponsored by the Friends of Fort Laurens Foundation and will be held in conjunction with the Brigade of the American Revolution's (BAR) Annual Encampment and re-enactment. The reunion has been recognized as an official Ohio Bicentennial event.

The Brigade of the American Revolution's Annual Encampment and re-enactment at Fort Laurens will be held on both Saturday and Sunday, August 16-17.

Erected in 1778 along the Tuscarawas River near present day Bolivar, Ohio, Fort Laurens' construction was fully authorized by the Continental Congress. At least 21 American

soldiers were killed defending the fort.

Among the soldiers at Ft. Laurens were Capt. Abraham Lincoln, the nation's 16th president's grandfather and Major Richard Taylor, father of the nation's 12th president, Zachary Taylor.

Fort Laurens State Memorial is located at 11067 Ft. Laurens Rd., in Bolivar, Ohio, approximately 10 miles south of Canton, Ohio, just west off I-77. The hours are from 9:00 A.M. until 5:00 P.M. Admission is \$3 per adult and students are \$2.