

Frontier Family Reunion Returns To Fort Laurens

Date: July 25, 2005

Ken Girty: Girty Family Reunion
724-789-7505 (H) Pittsburgh, PA
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, July 30, 2005.

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

In addition, the Ohio Society Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) will hold its annual tribute to the Unknown Patriot of the American Revolution and the other twenty soldiers who died defending the western most U.S. military post of the American Revolution. The 8th Pennsylvania Regiment of the Brigade of the American Revolution will lead an 18th century military funeral ceremony. Several SAR state chapters and representatives from neighboring states will place memorial wreaths at the Tomb of the Unknown.

This will be the second time the family descendants of these 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. "We had a great event at this site in 2003," said Ken Girty. "Many of our families have a direct link to the Fort Laurens site and we were eager to return."

Many of the participants will visit a special showing of *The White Savage*, the outdoor drama about Simon Girty at New Philadelphia's Schoenbrunn Amphitheatre.

"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 Girty was a notorious renegade on the frontier and ally of the British. Fort Laurens was the first official American military installation attacked by Girty after joining sides with the British during the American Revolution.

The Brigade of the American Revolution's Annual Encampment and re-enactment at Fort Laurens will be held on both Saturday and Sunday, August 13-14.

The SAR ceremony will begin at 11:00 a.m. at Fort Laurens State Memorial located at 11067 Fort Laurens Rd., in Bolivar. The Frontier Family Reunion starts at 10:00 a.m. and runs until 5:00 p.m. Both the SAR event and the Frontier Family Reunion are open to the public and there is no charge to attend. There will be a \$4 admission fee for adults and \$3 should the public want to tour the Fort Laurens Museum. Fort Laurens State Memorial is administered by the Ohio Historical Society.

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.