

NWTA Courier

P U B L I C A T I O N O F
T H E N O R T H W E S T T E R R I T O R Y A L L I A N C E

WHY DO WE DOCUMENT?

Rowenna Hamper, on behalf of the IG Department

Documentation is not, for most of us, the most enjoyable part of our hobby. Even though many of us derive a great deal of satisfaction from uncovering a new piece of our historical puzzle, the tedium of noting it and formatting it as documentation is most likely the necessary, rather than enjoyable, part of the process. Yet documentation is something that all of us are asked to do, per the inspection process.

First, the hint of the day: Don't wait for inspection to begin documenting. For one, your reasons for documenting your clothing and accoutrements should not be to pass inspection but to present as accurate a historical picture as possible to the public. Think of the IG not as the reason you document but as your proofreader, a failsafe measure to make sure you (and the rest of the Alliance) are still on track. For another, it's much easier to document before you buy. Most of us have had the experience of spending time making or money buying an item that turns out to be not quite right (or even completely off). If you have your documentation put together as you sew or go shopping, you'll avoid those kinds of costly mistakes. Finally, it makes the inspection process stress-free and easy for you—you just have to fill out a form rather than do a bunch of homework. Cramming wasn't fun in school, and it's not fun in reenacting, either.

But why, we sometimes indignantly ask, must we provide references to a third party anyway? I've seen the item or the runaway ad that I based this jacket or shoes or cap off of—I know that it's right, and the inspector should, too.

The trouble is, we can't expect our inspectors to be experts in every field of the eighteenth century. You have spent countless hours researching your unit history, your ethnicity's standard clothing, the multitude of exceptions for your geographical location's footwear—the details that

make us good living historians. An inspector cannot be an expert in all fields. So in order to show that you know what you're talking about, we use the common language of documentation. You may be speaking French habitan, and your inspector speaks Braunsweiger, but you can both look at the documentation and agree that you've found an appropriate source.

Second, the documentation gets everyone back to the source you're talking about. Say you've found a source for wearing bright red straw hats with skunk-skin decoration. You dye your hat bright red, add skunk décor, wear it proudly, and present it at your inspection. The trouble? No one else has seen this source, and your inspector can't rule on whether or not it's right based on "I've seen it." He or she needs to see it, too. By providing your documentation, you make it easy to show that your item is correct to the period. You also avoid the dreaded "dueling historian" syndrome that emerges without documentation present. The inspection process is designed to avoid dueling historians by relying on the documentation rather than hearsay.

This is why we ask you to provide not only the citation but also the resource itself during your inspection. As much as I would love to have the breadth of knowledge and the recall to clearly see each cartoon, extant garment, and runaway ad you've cited, I don't. When I have a question, it's easily answered by a quick look at your source.

Finally, make finding your source easy for others. When you cite, simply "Pennsylvania Gazette" and the date, others don't know where to find that particular issue, barring an extensive archive. When you provide "Pennsylvania Gazette," the date, and the book you found the source in, others can use your source, as well.

A maxim of historical study states that "Argument without evidence is just opinion." The presence of documentation elevates our discussions from opinion to scholarship.

Need a head start? See page 6 for a collection of sources documenting cotton stockings.

The Spirit of Vincennes Rendezvous

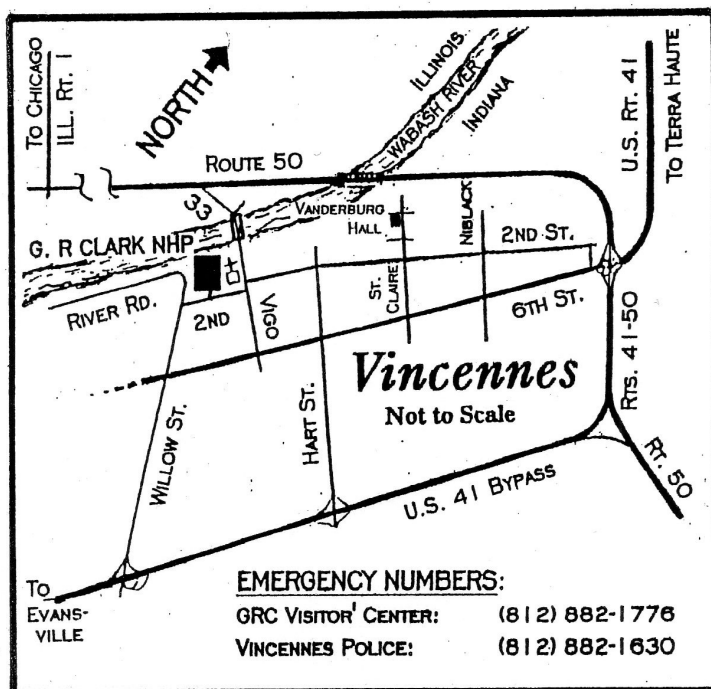
Vincennes, Indiana

Memorial Day Weekend May 29-30, 2010

George Rogers Clark National Historic Park, 401 South Second Street

SATURDAY NIGHT TURKEY DINNER *with fixings.* CATERED!

- 👑 Nearby Showers.
- 👑 Honours to Veterans and N W T A Dead.
- 👑 Saturday Evening candlelight tour of historic buildings.
- 👑 N W T A candlelight walk on Sunday night.
- 👑 OK to camp over Sunday night.



For Additional Info & Updates
Please monitor www.nwta.com
and www.spiritofvincennes.org

ROOMS

Vincennes University Dorm Rooms Info
and the Room Registration Form--go to:

spiritofvincennes.org, then click on
"Experience the Rev War" box, then
"participant registration" in sidebar, then
on the Rooms at Vincennes University
Registration Form cue.

[Please don't wait 'til the last minute]

Make sure your unit commander includes you in his or her registration

Event Registration Commanders--Please register your unit

DEADLINE MAY 21

UNIT NAME _____

Name _____ Phone _____

Est. WEDGE TENTS _____ MARQUEES _____

FLIES _____ Other tentage _____

STRAW BALES _____

MODERN CAMPERS? _____ TYPE _____

Bringing ARTILLERY? _____ Shoot or Display? _____

EST. NO. ADULTS _____ CHILDREN _____

TO: Bill Potter platrine@msn.com

8811 W. 102nd St.

Palos Hills, IL 60465

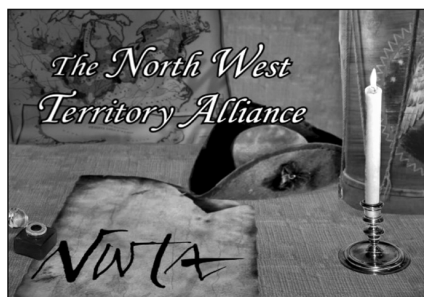
(708) 598-5552

[E-MAIL REGISTRATION
IS PREFERRED]

Puzzled about NPS rules/inspection?--contact B. Potter platrine@msn.com; use "nps BP inspection" as subject line.

Note: PLEASE make all your cartridges prior to the event--no bulk powder in camp!

The Alliance has a three-minute promotional video produced specifically for generating new event sponsors. To familiarize you with its content, a sampling of the visuals being used and the script are on this page.



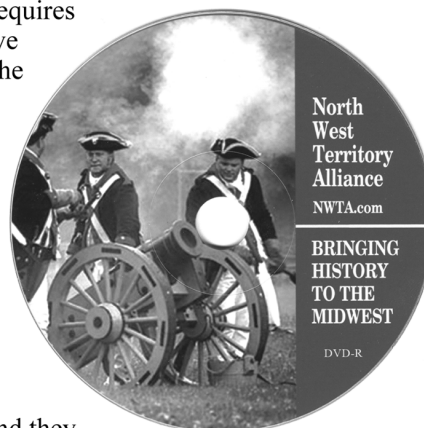
"Every once in awhile, a special event requires something more special than what you've done in the past. It requires more than the usual community gatherings that bring everyone together to celebrate.

You've been to concerts in the park, outdoor art fairs and crafts and bake sales.

This isn't a concert, but music definitely fills the air.

It isn't an art festival, but you do see bright colors and decorative crafts everywhere you look.

It is the North West Territory Alliance and they put the "special" in special events wherever they go!



Created in 1974 in Racine, Wisconsin, the Alliance is committed to an authentic portrayal of our nation's founding as the British Empire fights a losing war to secure its American colonies. Whether you come for the education or just to be entertained, you won't be disappointed.

Hundreds of dedicated Midwestern historians are ready to educate and entertain your local audience -- transporting them back to, as Thomas Paine said, "the time that tries men's souls." These reenacting historians bring the experience of being in documentaries for Public Broadcasting and The History Channel as well as major motion picture productions.

Like a movie set that awakens you at every turn, the encampment opens the world of conflict as the Continental Army and its allies ready themselves in camp for the next battle with the mighty British Regulars -- trained and weathered by the demands of maintaining order throughout their empire.

As you walk through the event site, experiencing its residents going about their early American lives, you will begin to appreciate their strength of purpose and their human frailties also. And it is so much more than the military displays... the historians in camp speak to the issues that shaped our founding generation's lives and offer an understanding of early American folkways from cooking and clothing to etiquette and healthcare.

Sponsoring an 18th century encampment event shines a light on the differences and the similarities between people who lived over 200 years apart -- those in your audience and those who fought that we might be free.

The North West Territory Alliance stands ready with all of its resources to assure an excellent experience with you. Our organization handles everything from camp layout, setup and removal to internal communications about your event and assisting you with your promotional ideas.

If you are you looking for a unique idea for a special celebration in the next few years, maybe an event filled with energy, excitement and patriotism is what you need!

We hope to see you on our campaign trail in the future... where the future meets the past."



If you know of someone who could be a potential event sponsor in municipal government, a chamber of commerce, historical society, park district, campus organization or a service group, contact David Jahntz at djahntz@comcast.net



N W T A

Klash on the Kankakee

Bourbonnais Township Park District—Perry Farm

June 12 & 13 2010

Unit: _____

Contact Name: _____

Tents: _____ Marquees: _____

Contact Number: _____

Straw: _____ Space Required: _____ Crown _____ Congressional _____

Unit Registration Requested

Emergency Contact—Bourbonnais Police Dept.
(815)937-3577

Mail registration to:

Bart T. Durbin, P.O. Box 93

Bonfield, Illinois 60913

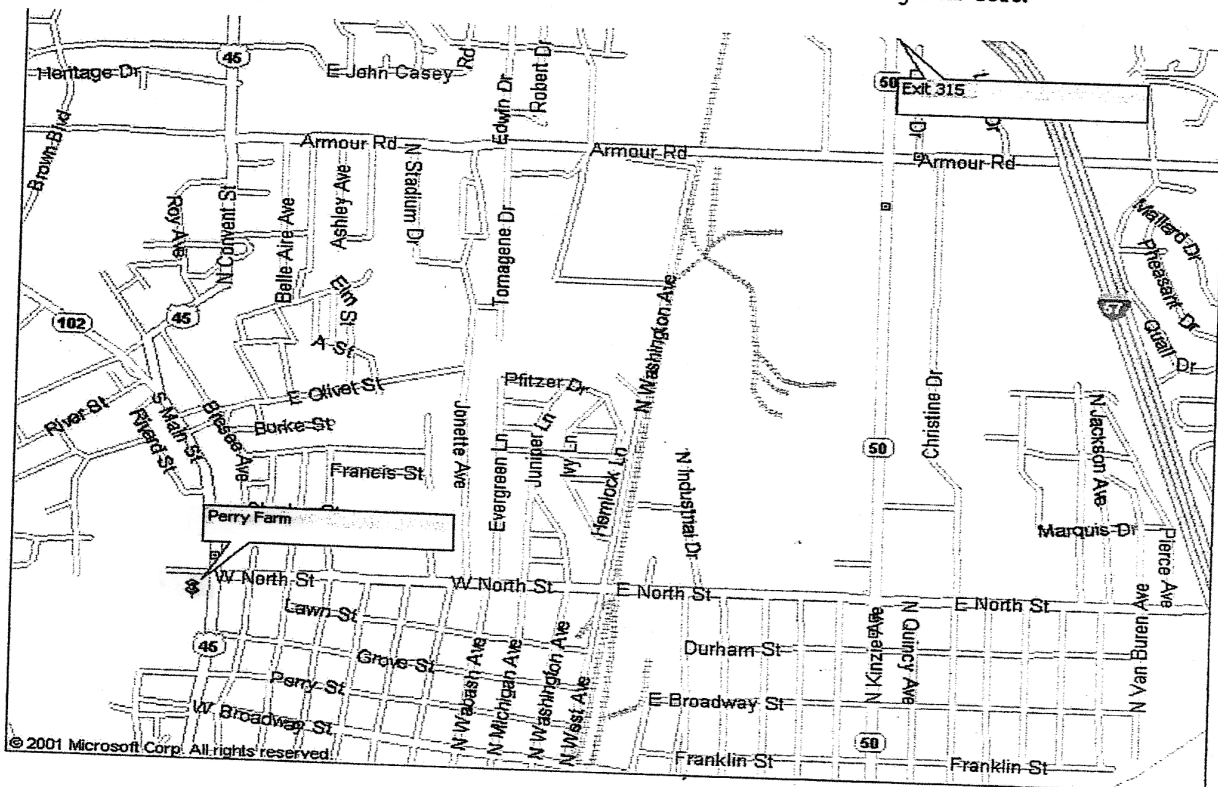
815-936-9169

im4fni@aol.com

I57 South—take exit 315 (Hwy. 50). Go south past Kmart, Lowes to North Street, about 6 traffic lights. Turn right. Go until the road “T’s.” Turn left. Perry Farm is on your right.

I 57 north--Take exit 312 (hwy 17) go west to hwy 45 north (just shy of the river) go about 4 lights. Perry Farm is on the Left

I55 North or South—Take Exit 217 (Dwight), Hwy. 17 east about 33 miles to Kankakee. Cross the river and turn left. Go four lights. Perry Farm is on your left.



NWTA SCHEDULE 2010

*February 5-7 - Reenactor Fest 6 - Wheeling, Illinois **

*February 27-28 - Echoes of the Past - Trade Show - Oshkosh, Wisconsin **

March 6 - NWTA Board Meeting 9:00 AM CST- Cabella's, Highland, Indiana

April 17 - NWTA Symposium - Highland, Indiana.

*May 15-16 - School of the Piece - Boscobel, Wisconsin (Artillery Program) **

May 29-30 - Spirit of Vincennes Rendezvous - Vincennes, IN

June 12-13 - Klash on the Kankakee - Bourbonnais, Illinois

June 26-27 - Back to the Days of Kosciusko - Warsaw, Indiana

August 21-22 - Battle on the Ridge - Highland, Indiana

September 4-5 - Pioneer Village - Saukville, Wisconsin

September 11-12 - Cantigny - Wheaton, Illinois (School Days - September 9 & 10)

October 2-3 - Feast of the Hunter's Moon - West Lafayette, Indiana

October 30-31 - Market Days at Locust Grove - Louisville, Kentucky

November 6 - NWTA Board Meeting 9:00 AM CST-Cabella's, Highland, Indiana

* Non NWTA Event

Notions, Goods, Wares & Furniture For The Colonial Home



Print: Prayer
at Valley Forge



Accessories for
home & camp



Custom Period Furniture
by Dennis Bork, Owner

Recipient of the 2009
"Cartouche Award"

EAL Craftsman Directory
for 16 consecutive years
1994 - 2009

Antiquity

Period Designs, Ltd.
Delafield, WI
262/646-4911



Windsor Chairs
and Dining Tables

Shop our tent
store this summer.
Baldwin's Reg't.

Now - secure online shopping
www.AntiquityPeriodDesigns.com

...AND TOOK A PAIR OF STOCKINGS

Stockings...nearly all of us wear them, so nearly all of us must document them. The devil is often in the details, but Ms. Linnea Bass has been kind enough to provide the following runaway ads indicating the presence of cotton stockings for your documenting pleasure.

Advertisements like these are wonderful for finding documentation for our items—take a moment to see if any of your other items could be documented, in part or whole, by these advertisements.

Note as well that Ms. Bass has provided a complete citation—she gives not only the primary source, but the secondary source or collection each is found in, allowing anyone the ability to track back to the source and read more.

Four Dollars Reward.

Run away from the subscriber, June 18, 1776, a servant Girl, named Mary Allen, of middle size, straight and well made, freckled in the face and arms, grey eyes, dark brown hair, a gauze cap, raised with a roller, an old straw hat, black mittens on her arms, a calicoe short gown, a dirty coloured lincey petticoat, a red under ditto, high heeled calf skin shoes, **white cotton stockings**; says she was born in England, and brought to Cecil county, Maryland, at 12 years of age, where she served her time; she afterwards went to Philadelphia and was put in goal on suspicion, but nothing proved against her, and she was sold to the subscriber for her cost. Whoever secures said servant in any goal, shall have the above reward, and reasonable charges, if brought to Joseph Park, in Sadsbury township, Chester county.

[Pennsylvania Gazette, 26 June 1776]

FROM p. 128 of *Wenches, Wives and Servant Girls: A Selection of Advertisements for Female Runaways in American Newspapers 1770-1783*. By Don N. Hagist. Baraboo, WI: Ballindalloch Press,. 2008

On Saturday the 7th of June, 1777, was stolen and carried away from the house of the subscriber, in Providence, six yards and one quarter of patch, white ground, with a chocolate stipe; one calico gown, with ruffled cuffs lined with Russian linen; one black double satten sprigged cloak, with lace round the head and gimp round the cloak; one gauze apron, one spotted handkerchief with a blue stripe round the edge, **two pair of cotton stockings**, also two thirty dollar bills, and other money; with a number of other articles. The person who stole the said articles calls herself Polly James, alias Polly Young; she is a short thick Irish girl, about 19 years of age; had on when she went away, a black skirt petticoat, a short calico gown with long sleeves, has brown hair, light eyes, fair complexion, and went off without stockings or

shoes, and without a bonnet or hat. Whoever will apprehend the said thief, and convey her to Providence, so that she may be brought to justice, shall receive a reward of Ten Dollars, and all necessary charges paid by me, John Dawson [Providence Gazette, 14 June 1777]

FROM p. 155-156 of *Wenches, Wives and Servant Girls: A Selection of Advertisements for Female Runaways in American Newspapers 1770-1783*. By Don N. Hagist. Baraboo, WI: Ballindalloch Press,. 2008

Twenty Dollars Reward. For apprehending a Runaway. James, a Mulattoe Slave, sometimes known by the name of Vulcan, but commonly answers to the name of Buck, took an abrupt leave of his overseer last Wednesday, and has not yet returned; he is a dark mulattoe, about 5 feet 9 inches high, strong made, sensible, artful, and deceptive in conversation, firm and daring in his efforts to perpetrate villainy, though of mild temper, and plausible in speech. He has frequently travelled through this and some part of the Province of Pennsylvania; is well known, it is supposed, in the borough and county of Lancaster, and is acquainted with Philadelphia; may probably therefore re-visit those places. His working cloaths were a home manufactured long cloth waistcoat with sleeves, and breeches, yarn stockings, ozenbrigs shirt and good shoes, nailed with hobs; he is possessed of and has taken with him, a blue German serge coat, a green broadcloth vest, **two pair of cotton and one pair of thread stockings**, two white shirts ruffled at the breast, a good castor hat with band and buckle, a pair of good pumps, with a pair of double rimmed silver buckles. He has a mark of distinction, which from modesty, or some other motive, he is careful to conceal; one of his ears (but which is forgot) is remarkably less than the other. The above reward will be paid if he should be taken up out of the province, or 60 miles from Baltimore Town in the province and brought home; Five Pounds if at the distance of 40 miles; Three Pounds if 30, and Forty Shillings if 20 miles, with reasonable travelling expenses, including the legal charge under the Act of Assembly, by Thomas Jones.

[Pennsylvania Gazette, 12 April 1775]

FROM 1700 Runaway Ads, 1774-1783. Transcribed by Don N. Hagist, and published on a CD. Date Unknown.

Eight Hundred Dollars Reward.

Ran Away, on Saturday, the 17th instant, John McClean, and stole the following things; a new light chintz gown, a white dimity petticoat, a striped muslin apron, a pair of light calicoe cuffs, a Damascus jacket with sleeves, an inside jacket, four check shirts, one a white ditto, one white inside jacket, **two pair of cotton stockings**, a yard and a quarter blue superfine broad cloth. The said John McClean is a lusty well set man, sandy complexion, smooth faced. Whoever takes up the said thief, or any of the said things, and brings them to Margaret Hall, in Catherine street, between Front and Second streets, shall receive the above reward, or in proportion for any part of them.

A CALL TO ARMS... AND LEGS!

All,

Mt. Prospect, Illinois would like the Alliance to make a solid presence in their **July 4th Parade** this year. I know many of you have longstanding commitments locally, but anyone who does not, please consider this opportunity to help us.

Any Alliance member who is available and could join us, please contact me at my personal email address: djahntz@comcast.net

We (the First Dragoons and myself) are working on a 2011 encampment event in this near northwest suburb of Chicago and are building a professional relationship with the village, historical society, library, and park district right now. Sixteen Alliance members from eight units will be at a library presentation in Mt. Prospect on March 25th to introduce the Alliance to the community. The next step is the parade on Sunday, July 4th. It steps off **at 1:00 p.m. and is approximately 1-1/2 miles long ending at a park** where we will have a few tents and shade. The park district would like **some of us to remain after the parade for a few hours at the park to talk to the public** about the 2011 encampment idea.

You do not need to be Congressional to help us. British Regulars, Loyalists, Native Allies, Merchants, Civilians, men, women and children are all welcome to either march or walk the parade route or be part of the small camp site at the end of the parade route. The reviewing stand announcement will be mentioning on the loud speakers our intention to be at Lions Park next year. The village and park district budgets will be settled soon after the parade and we want to make a good impression.

I can provide more information about the parade route, Melas Park, parking concerns and more.

Thanks for any support you can provide.

I am Your Most Humble and Obedient Servant, David Jahntz, 2nd Va. Regt.

LOST AND FOUND!

FOUND: 2 SPORKS WITH A LETTER PRINTED ON IT.

1 GREEN BOTTLE, SHORT AND ROUND

ONE ARMENTRAL CUP WITH HANDLE PAID 1.00 FOR IT

THINK YOU KNOW WHO BELONGS TO THESE ITEMS? TALK TO MARILYN HESS

PUBLICATION OF
THE NORTHWEST
TERRITORY
ALLIANCE

ROWENNA HAMPER, EDITOR
1385 WEST ALLEN STREET A4
BLOOMINGTON, IN 47403
E-MAIL: NWTACOURIER@YAHOO.COM

Mailing Address Line 1
Mailing Address Line 2
Mailing Address Line 3
Mailing Address Line 4
Mailing Address Line 5

SCHOOL DAYS AT CANTIGNY
Sept 9 and 10, 2010

We are looking for volunteers for school days for Cantigny. Thursday and Friday before the event, we will host local school children to share the Revolution with them. Please join us for either one or two days.

Please let us know what you would be interested in presenting in a 10-15 minute talk.

Lunch will be provided and the hours are from 9-3.

Especially needed: someone to talk about fire cooking

You can contact us at
historynoyuck@aol.com
or 608-868-7855

Thanks, Bill and Marilyn Hess

Publication Schedule

You are all invited to contribute to the Courier! Articles are always welcome, but anything you would like to share, from photos to recipes to short anecdotes, helps to fill the Courier with real voices of the NWT. Please use the publication schedule below to contribute time-sensitive pieces. I will publish other pieces on a rolling basis.

Thanks to all who have and will contribute!

Issue (published between months)	Deadline for Submissions
Jan/Feb	December 15
March/April	February 15
May/June	April 15
July/August	June 15
Sept/Oct	August 15
Nov/Dec	October 15