

Window on Woodville



The Newsletter of the

Neville House Associates

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A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Recently I came across a quote by President Ronald Reagan that stated, "Putting people first has always been America's secret weapon. It's the way we've kept the spirit of our revolution alive - a spirit that drives us to dream and dare, and take

great risks for a greater good." As I read the quote several times, it occurred to me that this very poignant quote about the citizens of the United States was both relevant and appropriate to the endeavors of the NHA and its membership on several levels. It also reminded me of a quote from my good friend and fellow board member, interior designer Richard Smith. When asked what interior design was all about, he answered bluntly and succinctly, "Duh!... It's people." This humorous, yet concise, quote eventually became the basis for a lecture he conducted on the topic. Both of these pertinent quotes exemplify the success that we are experiencing at Woodville in our first year of ownership by the Neville House Associates.

On a rudimentary level, we measure our day-to-day success at general openings and events by simply counting the number of people that visit our site. Through the first six

months of 2008 we have been visited by over 600 visitors, an increase of over 500%. (In fairness, the number is inflated because we are now open every Sunday, compared to opening on May 1st of 2007) If we simply break even for the remainder of the year, we will easily surpass our goal of 2000 visitors to the site, the most ever in a single year.

Secondly, we have increased the level of programming through the theme of "People of the Plantation." These

events showcase the lives of the individuals that lived and worked at Woodville. They are making the site more than just a house museum - but a living, breathing recreation of life at the turn of the 19th century. This year, we have begun to see numerous repeat visitors who are returning to the site and becoming members in order to see and experience our programs. No longer are visitors seeing the "same old house" year after year.

They are "experiencing" life as it

would have been in the 1790s. One recent visitor paid an extraordinary compliment to our gardener by stating, "Wow, you guys are just like Williamsburg." While I was pleased with his view of our success, I think that we do a better job than Williamsburg because, due to fewer numbers of visitors, can we give each visitor a personalized tour.

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Woodville Plantation

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A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

During the past few years, Woodville has done more to expand our interpretation of the people who owned the house. We have conducted additional research on early 19th century residents, the Cowan and Wrenshall families, and now include more information about these people in our tours. This fall, we will be completing the restoration of Christopher Cowan's bedroom and will be including it as part of the tour. The research that has gone into restoring the final, unrestored room on the first floor at Woodville is both exciting and interesting. It will allow our interpreters and guides to include one more person, and a very interesting one at that, in their story of the Woodville mansion. It will become more than simply the Neville story.

Ultimately, the most important people at Woodville are the members and visitors that make us successful. Without our small and dedicated group of volunteers and donors, we could not interpret the sight at the level that we do today. As we grow, so will our "people" needs - not only with membership, but with visitors also. Nothing is worse than having an interpreter come to the site for an event, only to have no people (members or visitors) show up on that day. It not only makes it very difficult to get these valuable historical resources to return to our site, but it also diminishes our credibility as a full-scale living history site. For this reason, we need your help by simply attending the events. Even if it for only a few minutes. It is simple to participate - just stop by, meet the interpreters, sign the member's book and bring your friends. Remember it is all about the people, America's secret weapon and Woodville's as well.

Rob Windhorst

Rob Windhorst

President, Neville House Associates

2008 PROGRAMS AT WOODVILLE

Step back in time at Woodville Plantation, the home of John and Presley Neville. See how Pittsburgh's wealthiest citizens lived during the period of 1780-1820, the Era of the New Republic. Grounds are open for free self-guided tours year round, Wednesday - Saturday, from 10 am until 6 pm. Guided tours of the house are available every Sunday, from 1 to 4pm. Admission to the house is \$5 for adults and \$10 for families. Children under 12 are admitted free. Please visit our website at www.woodvilleplantation.org or telephone us at (412)221-0348 for more information. We look forward to your visit.



SCHEDULE of EVENTS

July 27 - A Delightful Recreation: Games of the New Republic

Join the people of Woodville Plantation as they enjoy a day of recreation. Learn about and participate in some unique games that have been lost to the ages such as Nine Man Morris, Quoits and Stool Ball. Spend the day and join in the fun.

July 30 - Woodville 101: 18th Century Decorative Arts "Textiles"

Rob Windhorst, representative from the English fabric company Lee Jofa, instructs students on the correct use of textiles in the period house. Learn about hand-blocked fabrics, woven textiles and historically accurate color schemes for use in historic houses. Program begins at 7 pm in the Still House Visitor Center. Fee is \$10 for non-members and \$5 for members.

August 3 - Rare Breed Chickens at Woodville

Woodville welcomes its newest residents, the dominique chickens. After a fifty year absence from the farm, poultry returns to the plantation. Learn about the most common breed of chicken in the late 18th century, the dominique. As far back as the first settlers at Plymouth, Massachusetts, these animals were valued for their adaptability and resistance to disease and climate.

August 27 - Woodville 101: 18th Century Decorative Arts "Paints"

Woodville welcomes Vicki Burton, expert on 18th century paint finishes and instructor at the Belmont College School of Preservation in Ohio. She will teach students about the correct use of historic paint colors and historic wall coverings. Program begins at 7 pm in the Still House Visitor Center. Fee is \$10 for non-members and \$5 for members.

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2008 PROGRAMS AT WOODVILLE



August 31 - People of the Plantation: Meet the Soldier

Join a soldier from Anthony Wayne's Fourth Sub-Legion, one of the soldiers stationed at Fort Fayette in Pittsburgh in 1794. These were the troops sent to defend Bower Hill during the Whiskey Rebellion. Learn about a soldier's life in camp and experience drilling and marching first-hand.

September 7 - Above Stairs: A Behind the Scenes Look at Woodville

Visitors will be treated to a special tour of a rarely seen area of Woodville Plantation, above stairs in the main house. Visit the private rooms of the Neville and Cowan families and see the distinctive original painted checkerboard floor in A. Cowan's bedroom. Don't miss this rare look into the private lives of the residents of Woodville.

September 21 - Harvest Day and People of the Plantation: Meet the Gardener

Join the gardeners of Woodville Plantation as they harvest the crops grown at the site during the summer growing season. Meet the head gardener and learn about 18th century crops, growing techniques and tools.

September 28 - People of the Plantation: Meet the Soldier

Join a soldier from Anthony Wayne's Fourth Sub-Legion, one of the soldiers stationed at Fort Fayette in Pittsburgh in 1794. These were the troops sent to defend Bower Hill during the Whiskey Rebellion. Learn about a soldier's life in camp and experience drilling and marching first-hand.

October 26 - Woodville 101: Sweetmeats and Coffee "Desserts of 1794"

Learn about 18th century desserts as you prepare, serve, cook and eat a selection of 18th century sweetmeats using original "receipts" from 1794. Participants will make a selection of unique desserts that include lemon creams, raspberry fool and syllabubs. This working event will begin at noon, concluding with a sampling of the prepared foods in the Still House at 5 pm. Please wear appropriate clothing for cooking over an open fire. The event is open to six people. Fee is \$35 for non-members and \$25 for members. Call (412)221-0348 to participate in this unique event.

November 2 - People of the Plantation: Meet the Soldier

Join a soldier from Anthony Wayne's Fourth Sub-Legion, one of the soldiers stationed at Fort Fayette in Pittsburgh in 1794. These were the troops sent to defend Bower Hill during the Whiskey Rebellion. Learn about a soldier's life in camp and experience drilling and marching first-hand.

November 23 - Holidays at the House

Come celebrate the holidays in a "different light" with candlelit tours of Woodville Plantation. Learn about holiday customs that differ from today's celebrations such as Twelfth Night, Boxing Day and the firing of Christmas guns. Admission is \$5 per adult and \$10 per family. The site will be open from noon until 8 pm.

December 7 - People of the Plantation: Meet the Wool Spinstress

Meet the wool spinstress. Learn how wool was spun and woven into items for use by workers on the plantation.

December 14 - Above Stairs: A Behind the Scenes Look at Woodville

Visitors will be treated to a special tour of a rarely seen area of Woodville Plantation - above stairs in the main house. Visit the private rooms of the Neville and Cowan families and see the distinctive original painted checkerboard floor in A. Cowan's bedroom. Don't miss this rare look into the private lives of the residents of Woodville.

Woodville Plantation will be closed from December 21, 2008, through January 3, 2009.

Woodville will re-open for tours on January 4, 2009.



THE SOLDIERS of WAYNE'S SUB-LEGION at BOWER HILL



Harry Truman, 33rd President of the United States, wrote that President George Washington's suppression of the Whiskey Rebellion was one of the six "great turning points" of American history. The significant, yet generally forgotten, events of the summer of 1794 strengthened the sovereignty of the unproven and newly formed nation and also helped to solidify the authority of the Federal Government.

Printed historical documentation tells the story of the insurrection through the eyes of the rebels, in accounts by William Findlay and "The History of the Western Insurrection in Western Pennsylvania" by Henry Brackenridge. We also see the point of view of the Federal Government through George Washington's papers, the personal letters of Daniel Morgan and the letters of both John and Presley Neville. We get an account of the military involvement at Bower Hill on July 17, 1794, through the narratives and reports of Isaac Craig, the Quartermaster General for the American Army at Fort Fayette in Pittsburgh (who was both John Neville's colleague and son-in-law). Additionally, Abraham Kirkpatrick, the officer sent to defend and capitulate the Bower Hill mansion on behalf of Neville, shares his version of the events. Unfortunately, the account of the "Battle" of Bower Hill that has been lost to the ages is the story of twelve soldiers and one sergeant who were sent to defend John Neville's country estate against a seemingly insurmountable opposition of several hundred angry Western Pennsylvanian farmers. Dispatched by the newly-appointed Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Butler, these valiant soldiers were the foundation of the new American Army.

In the early 1790s, the Western Pennsylvanian frontier was a perilous and unsettled land. Attacks by Native Americans were occurring with ever-increasing frequency. Military expeditions were conducted in 1790 and 1791, culminating with two of the country's worst defeats in the Indian Wars by Native American Chief, Little Turtle. General Josiah Harmar, who lost over 700 killed and wounded at the Battle of the Maumee, was second only to General Arthur St. Clair. St. Clair, Commander of the U.S. Army in 1791, lost over 900 of his 1400-man army at the Battle of Wabash (also known as St. Clair's Defeat). To put this in perspective, General Custer would lose fewer than 260 men a century later!

With fewer than 300 soldiers protecting the new nation, these defeats left the United States in a perilous military position. Following the rout of St. Clair (which Washing-

ton described as "complete"), Anthony Wayne was appointed the new Commander in Chief of the almost non-existent army in early 1792. The headquarters of this new army would be in Pittsburgh at Fort Fayette. The fort was built in the spring of 1792, under the supervision of Isaac Craig. Craig described the fort as "completely stockaded in, and

one range of barracks, a blockhouse in one of the angles finished." In May of 1792, Craig officially named the fort in honor of the Marquis de Lafayette, for whom Presley Neville served as both friend and aide-de-camp throughout the Revolution.



Re-enactors from Wayne's Fourth Sub-Legion at Woodville Plantation during Whiskey Rebellion Day.

By this time, Anthony Wayne had reorganized the army into a legionary force. Each legion was made entirely self sufficient by having artillery, rifle and cavalry units. Wayne took up

cantonment at the fort and began relentless training in an effort to ready his army for the expedition against the bellicose natives in the Northwest Territory (present day Ohio and Indiana). By mid-year 1792, Wayne had reformed the army into the First and Second Sub-Legions from the remnants of the defeated First and Second Regiments. By September of that year, he had raised enough new troops to create the Third and Fourth Sub-Legions. On September 4, 1792, the Fourth Sub-Legion was officially commissioned under the command of Captain Thomas Hughes of the Second Sub-Legion. By the autumn of 1792, the new legion had begun to resemble a formidable army and as Wayne wrote, "discipline begins to make its appearance."

Wayne also began to realize that the cramped living space and training area available in town were beginning to have a negative effect on his men. In late October of 1792, Wayne scouted a new and more isolated location, 22 miles from Pittsburgh on the Ohio River near present-day Ambridge. In late November, he would begin moving the army to this new encampment named Legion Ville. Training, which stressed marksmanship exercises, endless marching, maneuvering and mock battles, would be completed by April of 1793. The army then embarked by barges, down river and into the Ohio territory, to begin their campaign against the natives. Legion Ville was abandoned and a company of the Fourth Sub-Legion was left behind at Fort Fayette in order to defend Pittsburgh and to secure the supply base of the American Army of the west.

Fort Fayette was built approximately 1/4 mile upriver on the Allegheny, from the ruins of Fort Pitt. It was described as being "completely stockaded in" by pickets made of wood twelve feet high. There were two sets of double storied

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barracks holding 200 men, officers' quarters built from brick salvaged from the ruins of Fort Pitt, three wooden blockhouses on each corner and a powder magazine in the remaining corner. The fort stood near the intersection of Ninth Street and Penn Avenue today, near the Pittsburgh Convention Center. Although it was a secure facility for the soldiers of Wayne's Legion, it was hardly a formidable stronghold. Victor Collot, a military engineer for the French Army, wrote "on a dark night four grenadiers could burn the entire works without allowing a single member of the garrison to escape." In 1794, Fort Fayette was headquarters for the American Army and home to the soldiers of the Fourth Sub-Legion.

In the spring of 1792, the reorganized American Army began to take shape under the supervision of General Wayne, Secretary of War Henry Knox and Quartermaster Isaac Craig. The army also began to take on the uniformed appearance of a legitimate and organized fighting force, similar to that of the European powers. Anthony Wayne, who had always been a strict adherent of military discipline and ceremony, immediately began redressing his troops. Until 1792, the army was being supplied primarily with old uniforms from the Revolutionary War. By the fall of 1792, most of the uniforms issued to the original legion, dark blue coats with scarlet facings, were beginning to wear out. While waiting for the new uniforms to be issued, Wayne ordered the tails of the coats to be cut off and used as patches for coats and trouser knees. A 1792 drawing by Archibald Robertson of the troops stationed at West Point, New York, shows the assembled soldiers with distinctive round blue dots on their knees. The dots were a result of rudimentary repair work being done by the soldiers in a futile effort to maintain their uniforms. Also, the traditional "cocked hats" had become misshapen and were in various states of disrepair. Wayne ordered that they be converted into "jockey" style caps, similar to a modern baseball cap with a small visor and a shield on the front made from scraps of the brim.

By the time of the Whiskey Rebellion in 1794, most of the troops had been issued new uniforms developed for the army. Coats would be dark blue with scarlet colored facings and a stand up collar. Turn backs and linings would be white linen or wool. Following a change of fashion occurring in the civilian world, waistcoats were cut straight across the bottom. Buttons on the coat and waistcoat were molded with a federal eagle or "frog-legged eagle," the unofficial symbol of the new republic. Trousers were long-legged "overalls" that covered the top of the shoe and buttoned high above the natural waist. Leather neck stocks were to be worn when on duty. Finally, the hats were new "round" hats, similar to a modern top hat, cocked up on the left side. These hats were covered with bearskin to protect them from the elements. Bindings and trim on the hats were to designate the Sub-Legion that the soldier belonged to. The First Sub-Legion had white binding upon their caps, white plumes with black hair. The Second Sub-Legion had red binding to their caps, red plumes with white hair. The Third Sub-Legion had yellow binding to their caps, yellow plumes with black hair. The Fourth Sub-Legion had green binding to their caps, green plumes with white hair.

Each soldier would have a waterproof knapsack (painted red or blue), a wooden canteen (painted blue) and a cartridge box holding a full combat ration of twenty-four cartridges (loaded with both round and buck shot). The infantry was armed with surplus French muskets from the Revolution. The muskets were equipped with a bayonet that was to remain "fixed" at all times and "scabbards and frogs to be thrown away" because, according to Wayne, a man should never be without his "cold steel."

Ultimately, the Fourth Sub-Legion produced some of the heroes of the early nation, including Thomas Butler. Appointed Lieutenant Colonel of the Fourth Sub-Legion in July of 1794, Butler bravely stood up to the insurgent leaders as the whiskey rebels threatened to march on Pittsburgh in 1794. His response to the insurgents marching on Pittsburgh was that he would maintain the fort "at all costs." His resolution against the threats was enough to dissuade them from attacking the town. Another famous officer of the Fourth Sub-Legion was William Eaton, the "Hero of Derna." Eaton, along with a small contingent of U.S. Marines that included Presley Neville O'Bannon (nephew to John Neville), were able to capture the Tripolitan stronghold on "the shores of Tripoli." In 1794, Eaton was commissioned a Captain in the Fourth Sub-Legion and participated in the Battle of Fallen Timbers. But arguably, the most famous soldier of the Fourth Sub-Legion was William Clark. Nine years later, Clark would embark on his famous journey to the west with another legion soldier, Meriwether Lewis. In 1794, Clark was commissioned a First Lieutenant and fought with distinction at the Battle of Fallen Timbers.

These individuals, along with the twelve brave men that one would have encountered at Bower Hill on that fateful day in July of 1794, were the soldiers of the Fourth Sub-Legion. It is difficult to imagine the apprehension and angst that each of these individuals must have felt as they prepared to march from Fort Fayette on the evening of July 16, following the first attack on Bower Hill. They were leaving the relative safety of a fortified American military installation, to face an armed and angry mob. Most likely, this mob would be in excess of the 150 men that had attempted to attack Neville on the previous afternoon. In spite of the opportunity to simply "drift away" during the ten mile march from the fort to Bower Hill, each of these men persevered and bravely took up a position at the mansion house on heights over looking "Shurtees Creek." They bravely defended the home of the Federal Inspector of Revenue for most of the afternoon, until the flames from the burning barns and outbuildings began to consume the home. Only then did the soldiers surrender, on the condition that they lay down their arms and return to Pittsburgh. After all was done, according to conflicting reports, two soldiers were either killed in the house or deserted and three others were wounded. Although the men of Wayne's Fourth Sub-Legion were ultimately unsuccessful in their defense of the property at Bower Hill, for at least a short time they were able to exemplify the strength of a newly-formed government. The soldiers demonstrated to the insurgents the impending resolve of George Washington's leadership and the strength of the United States.

THE WORD FROM WOODVILLE

Welcome... to our newest Neville House Associates board member, *Kevin Allen*. Kevin joins the NHA Board as a representative for Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation. He was appointed by PHLF as their representative to the NHA Board under our agreement of ownership that was signed in September of 2007. Kevin lives in Upper St. Clair and is an attorney for the Pittsburgh firm of Thorpe, Reed and Armstrong. We are very pleased to have Kevin working with us and look forward to his expertise serving the Woodville site for many years to come.

Great work... by *Suzanne Fagan, Barbara Meharey, Mary Anne Gorman* and their team, who held a fund-raising tea on June 21st. The tea party was attended by over 40 people and included a talk on drinking tea in the 18th century by guest lecturers of the Jane Austen Society of North America. There was also a pianoforte recital by our own *Julianna Haag*. The event was a huge success, with many of the attendees expressing interest in attending the next one as well. Thanks to all who made it happen.

Also on June 21st... *Americorps*, a federally funded student work program, returned to Woodville. A small group of four hardworking volunteers from the south hills area dedicated their morning to cleaning and scrubbing the exterior surfaces, shutters and porches at Woodville. In exchange for Woodville providing lunch, these dedicated individuals provided over sixteen hours of labor to the site and provided a glistening backdrop for the tea fundraiser occurring the same afternoon. The volunteering term of enlistment for this group, who have previously helped at the site, will be ending in August. We wish them the best of luck and look forward to working with a new group of Americorps students in the fall.

Another successful community event... organized by *Mardi Jackley* was the Collier Cleanup Day on April 19th. Mardi was joined by almost a dozen other members of the Neville House Associates. They cleaned up the walkways and roadway along the front of the property, the area around the parking lot and the northern boundary of the site adjacent to the creek. Thanks to all for keeping both Collier and Woodville beautiful.

Also keeping things clean... were the *Girl Scouts of Troop 1538* in Scott Township. They assisted in weeding the gardens in early May and early July. The eight girls that attended were very helpful to the Garden Director, *Erin Calik*, in preparing the grounds for the late spring planting. Thanks to both Erin and the team of Girl Scouts.

Good luck... to the *Scott Township Conservancy* on the opening of the Whiskey Point Trails on the conservancy property on Bower Hill. Trailhead markers tell the history of the Nevilles on Bower Hill and the story of the Whiskey Rebellion. Thanks to *Retta Campbell* and *Rob Windhorst* for providing research, text and historical information for the project. The trails officially opened on July 20th, Whiskey Rebellion Day, with a guided walk starting at the historical marker and ending at St. Lukes and Woodville.

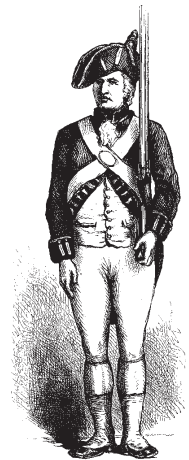
NEEDED, A FEW ABLE MEN

The soldiers of Wayne's Fourth Sub-Legion have returned to Woodville Plantation and they are looking for recruits. The unit will recreate the twelve soldiers who bravely defended Neville's Bower Hill mansion in 1794. An exhibition camp will be set up on 7/20, 8/31 and 11/2. The men will march and demonstrate the military drills of 1794 (based on Von Steuben's "Blue Book" from 1777), along with recreating various activities of camp life.

Requirements are that you be at least 16 years of age (14 if you are interested in becoming a fifer or drummer), able to attend at least one drill session per month at the Woodville site, able to attend the soldier programs at the site and are interested and committed to historical accuracy.

Woodville will provide you with a loaned uniform and all accoutrements, instruction and training on drill and history of the unit and occasionally meals prepared by the Woodville cooks during our major events. 18th century civilian dress will be provided during the training period and a custom outfitted uniform will be provided following the successful completion of training. Soldiers will also have the opportunity to muster with other units of Wayne's Legion in the local area for off-site activities.

If you are interested, please contact Woodville at (412)221-0348. Space in the unit is limited to the first twelve re-enactors to sign up. We also have similar opportunities for civilian re-enactors. Please contact us for more info.



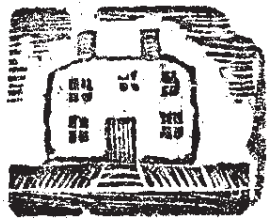
THE WORD FROM THE WHISKEY REBELLION TRAIL



One of the 2008 objectives of Woodville Plantation and Neville House Associates is to not only focus attention on Woodville Plantation, but to also bring attention to other Whiskey Rebellion sites and sites relating to the time period of 1792-1795 as well.

Other Whiskey Rebellion sites to visit include:

The Oliver Miller Homestead



On Sunday, August 17th, the homestead will be holding a summer flax festival. The process of turning flax into linen cloth will be demonstrated. A Revolutionary War encampment will come to the homestead September 20 - 21st. The Eighth Pennsylvania Regiment will set up camp on the grounds and re-enact the day-to-day life of the Revolutionary soldier. Young soldiers will be recruited and drilled. Displays of rifles and weaponry will be shown. On October 19th there will be a children's harvest festival. Kids can try their hands at various frontier crafts such as tin punching, corn crafts, games and butter churning. For more information visit their website at www.olivermiller.org.

The David Bradford House

The David Bradford House is open May - September. They are open on Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday, from 11-4 pm. Thursdays from 2 - 7 pm. This year, the Bradford site will begin reconstructing the original kitchen that burned in the 1790s. The kitchen will recreate the original structure that was located at the rear of the yard, behind the house. It will be used to illustrate the differences in the lives of the common working class residents of the area and the lives of the Bradford family. The Bradford House, along with Washington and Jefferson College, will be sponsoring a symposium on October 25th that will discuss life, politics, culture and religion west of the Alleghenies from 1750-1800. For additional information, check out their website at www.bradfordhouse.org.



Friendship Hill



Friendship Hill is the home of anti-federalist and opposition leader to the whiskey excise tax, Albert Gallatin. Gallatin was a U.S. Representative during the rebellion. The home is owned by the National Park Service and is located just south of Uniontown, PA, in Point Merion. On September 27th and 28th, the Gallatin House will hold a Market Fair that will host artisans and craftsmen demonstrating crafts and foods from the late 18th century. The house is open daily from 9-5 pm, April through October. Visit their website at www.nps.gov/frhi/.

Legion Ville

On July 20th, the soldiers of Anthony Wayne's Legion returned to Woodville for Whiskey Rebellion Day. These men recreate a Unit of the Legion of the United States, who in 1794, helped defend Neville's Bower Hill house against the whiskey rebels. Currently, the Legion Ville Historical Society is working on halting the development of the site where Anthony Wayne's original fortification, Legion Ville, was built in 1793. They are fighting to prevent Wright Pontiac from developing the "Birthplace of the U.S. Army" into a car lot. If you would like more information or if you would like to help, please visit their website at www.legionville.com.



Other related historical sites to visit include:

George Washington Distillery



Opened to the public last year, this site is a recreation of George Washington's 1790s distillery. It is part of the American Whiskey Trail, along with Woodville Plantation and Oliver Miller Homestead, recreating the workings of a full-capacity distillery for producing whiskey. See whiskey being made exactly as it would have been at the Bower Hill site. For more information visit the website at www.mtvernon.org, or the American Distillers Whiskey Trail site at www.discus.org/trail.

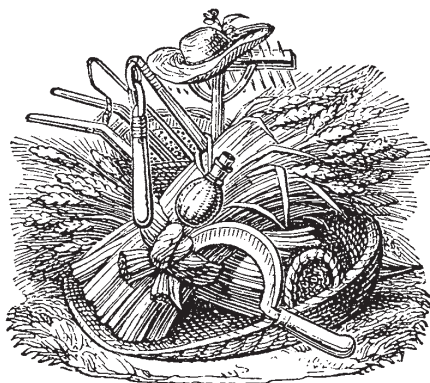
Mingo Creek Cemetery

Burial site for many of the rebels that attacked Bower Hill in 1794. This site is located approximately one mile south of Finleyville on Rt. 88.

FROM the GARDEN..

*“When gardeners garden, it is not just the plants that grow,
but the gardeners themselves.”*

- Ken Druse



Cucumbers are believed to have originated in India and have apparently been cultivated in the western regions of Asia for 3,000 years. The agriculture of these cucurbits spread through the Mediterranean and Europe with the Romans, as their empire spread across the globe. In turn, Europeans brought cucumbers to the New World. As Europeans interacted with Native Americans, the growing of cucumbers extended across North America.

While cucumbers were known to be grown in America, no real mention of a type or variety is found until the early 1800s when Bernard M'Mahon lists eight varieties in the American Gardeners Calendar. He describes them all as having been originated in the “old world.” A few of the types specified are Early Frame, Long Green Turkey and White Spined.

Gardening treatises of the 17th and 18th centuries list green, yellow and white varieties of cucumbers. However, by the mid 1700s, references to the yellow variety are practically non-existent. The white variety of cucumber is presumed to be a descendent of the Long Yellow Cucumber. In his Gardener's Dictionary from 1754, Philip Miller makes a comparison between the white cucumber and other varieties and says of the former, “by far the better fruit, as being less watery and containing fewer seeds.”

While cucumbers were enjoyed by all, being grown in the gardens of the wealthy as well as those of slaves, the variety may have been a defining factor in what type these two classes were consuming. The white sort is described by Amelia Simmons in 1796 as being “difficult to raise and tender.” This leads to the assumption that since they would have possessed the servants or slave labor to tend a garden containing demanding cultivars, the wealthy were consuming the less common types of vegetables.

In spite of widespread cultivation of cucumbers, questions and suspicions with regard to its being healthy to eat lingered. “Cowcumber” is a common reference to this vegetable, due to the perception that it was no better than fodder. A 1663 entry into the diary of Samuel Pepys reads as follows, “Mr. Newburne is dead of eating cowcumbers, of which the other day I heard of another, I think.” Thankfully, this view of cucumbers did not persist. They continued to be enjoyed by being served fresh, pickled or as a cooked vegetable.

...TO the TABLE

Serving the cucumber as a hot, cooked vegetable is virtually non-existent in modern recipes, but a receipt to “ragoo cucumbers” can be found in the 1745 resource for 18th century cooking, “The Art of Cookery Make Plain and Easy,” by Hannah Glasse. To prepare cucumbers in a unique fashion, try the receipt below.

Take two cucumbers and two onions, slice them and fry them in a little butter, then drain them in a sieve, put them into a saucepan, add six spoonfuls of gravy (thickened beef broth may be substituted here), two of white wine, a blade of mace, let them stew five or six minutes, then take a piece of butter as big as a walnut, rolled in flour, a little salt and cayenne pepper, shake them together, and when it is thick, dish them up.



ORDER FORM FOR COMB BACK WINDSOR CHAIRS

Thank you for your contribution to the Windsor Chair Reproduction Program at Woodville Plantation, the home of John and Presley Neville. The Comb Back Windsor Chair, or "stick chair," that will be built for Woodville by local artisan Dave Burke is a style that was commonly found throughout America from 1790 to 1820. Fittingly named because of the resemblance of the back to a rooster's comb, these functional chairs would have been used for both formal occasions inside, as well as for more casual affairs on the verandah and in the garden.

Our reproductions are made using woods, such as oak, maple and pine, that would have been found near the site during the turn of the 19th century. The seats are formed from a single piece of white pine that will be contoured by hand. Spindles, legs and turnings will be created from hand-shaved maple or oak. The finished chair will be painted in an authentic "verdant green" color using a historic paint "receipt." Mixed by hand, the paint looks just as it would have in 1790. Each chair will take an individual craftsman approximately one month to complete. Finally, each hand-assembled chair will be affixed with an engraved brass plate recording an inscription of the donors choice.

The Windsor Chair will be used exclusively at the site for events, general seating and re-enactments. Woodville Plantation and the Neville House Association Board of Directors thank you for your donation and for supporting our living history programs. We look forward to seeing you enjoy a respite on the verandah of the Woodville estate, on an authentic reproduction that you sponsored.



*An example of the finished
Comb Back Windsor Chair.*

COMB BACK WINDSOR CHAIRS

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Amount Enclosed (Chairs are \$450.00 each =): \$ _____

Inscription to Read:

Make checks payable to: Neville House Associates
Woodville Plantation Windsor Chair Program
1375 Washington Pike
Bridgeville, PA 15017

WOODVILLE 101

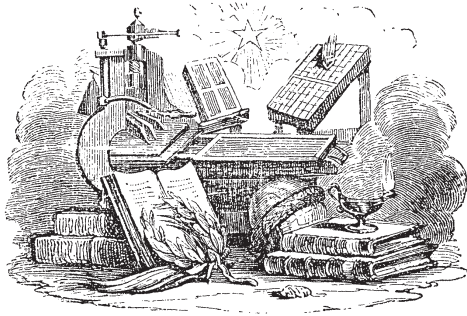
Have you even wondered what it was like to dine with the Neville or Cowan families? Would you like to learn how to make an 18th century dessert? Have you ever thought about restoring your period home, but didn't know what colors to paint or what fabrics to use? If so, Woodville Plantation has just the classes for you. In 2008, Woodville Plantation begins a new series of educational programming, instructing visitors and students on various aspects of life in the Era of the New Republic (1780-1820). These programs will include such diverse topics as 18th century cooking to historic preservation. Program sizes are limited and open to the first students to register. Programs for 2008 include:

July 30- 18th Century Decorative Arts "Textiles"

Rob Windhorst, representative from the English textile company Lee Jofa, will instruct students on the correct use of textiles in the period house. Learn about hand-blocked fabrics, woven textiles and historically accurate color schemes for use in the historic home. Program begins at 7 pm in the Still House Visitor Center. Fee is \$10 for non-members and \$5 for members.

August 31-18th Century Decorative Arts "Paints"

Woodville welcomes Vicki Burton, an expert on 18th century paint finishes and instructor at the Belmont College School of Preservation in Ohio. She will teach students about the correct use of historic paint colors and historic wall coverings. Program begins at 7 pm in the Still House Visitor Center. Fee is \$10 for non-members and \$5 for members.



October 26- Sweetmeats and Coffee "Desserts of 1794"

Learn about 18th century desserts as you prepare, cook, serve and eat a selection of 18th century sweetmeats using original "receipts" from 1794. Participants will make a selection of unique desserts that include lemon creams, raspberry fool, fruit tarts and syllabubs. This working event will begin at noon and will conclude with a sampling of the prepared foods in the Still House at 5 pm. Please wear appropriate clothing for cooking over an open fire. Event is open to six people. Fee is \$35 for non-members and \$25 for members. Call (412) 221-0348 to participate in this unique event.

NEW NHA MEMBERS and ADDRESS CHANGES

We welcome the following new members to the Neville House Associates - Huzzah!

Susan C. Novak Dianna Miller Robert & Rosemarie Schuler Kevin P. Allen C. James Strutz

Please change the following addresses in your Neville House Associates Membership Directory:

Hazel Kornis Bernadette P. Grabowski



NEVILLE HOUSE ASSOCIATES MEMBERSHIP

Please take time to renew your membership for 2008! Renewing will help the Neville House Associates staff with 2008 programming and activities, as well as newsletter and postage costs. Woodville is one of only 2,500 National Historic Landmarks in the United States. Your gift will help to support the continuing preservation, restoration and interpretation of this historic site.



DONATION LEVELS

Student/Senior.....	\$20.00	Wrenshall.....	\$100.00
Basic.....	\$35.00	Christopher Cowan	\$250.00
Mary Fauset.....	\$75.00	Presley Neville.....	\$500.00
John Neville.....		\$1,000.00 (Lifetime Member)	

All memberships include free family admission to Woodville Plantation for the regular hours of operation, gift shop discounts, invitation to "members only" events and the quarterly newsletter. Your gift is tax deductible.

Thank you for your support!

2008 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Make checks payable to: Neville House Associates, Inc.

1375 Washington Pike

Bridgeville, PA 15017

Attn: *Julianna Haag, Membership*

Gary P. Grabowski Memorial Organ Fund

Dear Friends of Neville House Associates,

We want to remember our friend, colleague and member of Neville House Associates, Gary, in a very special manner. We have established the "Gary P. Grabowski Memorial Organ Fund" with the State of Pennsylvania and Pittsburgh National Bank. This fund has non-profit status.

We are calling on you to help us obtain a much-needed organ for the Church of Ascension. We wish to purchase this organ in memory of Gary and in honor of his dedication to God, his beloved church and choir. The organ purchase was his unfulfilled dream. Our goal is approximately \$39,000.

Please help us to continue to "make a joyful noise" in Gary's memory. Your donation can be sent to:

Gary P. Grabowski Memorial Organ Fund
c/o Mrs. Mary Klinkner
2148 Mazette Place
Pittsburgh, PA 15205

Please include your name and address. Each contribution will be acknowledged. May God's grace and peace be with you always.

Sincerely,

Members of the Gary P. Grabowski Memorial Organ Fund Board
Nancy Baur, Melinda Gigliotti, Mary Klinkner, Bernice Farkas, Bernadette P. Grabowski



*Gary Grabowski
December 2, 1949 - August 30, 2007*

Window on Woodville

Neville House Associates
1375 Washington Pike
Bridgeville, PA 15017-2821

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED