

Fort Getting New Signage

The Fort will be unveiling several new and improved weather-resistant educational signs at the draw-bridge and on the pathway to the beach. These large signs with new graphics tell the history of the shellfish and other sea creatures native to our shores.

The previous signs were over 15 years old and had suffered deterioration due to weather conditions over the years.

We are grateful to David Moser, City Planning Dept., Marge Ottenbriet and former director Priscilla Searles for their efforts in creating the new signs, and thanks also to the Parks Dept. for their purchase and installation. Students and visitors will particularly enjoy reading about the oyster industry, which still thrives today. Be sure to stop and view these signs on your next visit

Visit us on the web:

www.fort-nathan-hale.org



FORT
NATHAN
HALE

Fort Nathan Hale
Restoration Projects, Inc.
P.O. Box 1981 • New Haven, CT06533

Fort hale Exhibit Presented at Senior Expo

Board members Marge Ottenbriet and Tina Doyle presented an exhibit on Fort nathan Hale at the Senior Expo held at the Field House at Hillhouse High School recently. There were over 90 other booths and exhibitors of non-profit organizations and area businesses.

The Fort's exhibit highlighted the history and various events held at the Fort, the goal was to publicize the site and recruit new volunteers. There were raffles, door prizes, music, dancing, games and a free lunch.



THE PATRIOT

FORT NATHAN HALE NEWSLETTER MAY 2009

President's Message

To all our members:

This year should prove to be an exciting one. We'll be kicking the year off with our traditional flag raising at the Flag Court on May 30, (Saturday), and this year we'll be making some noise with our newly acquired 6-pounder cannon.

The year also brings the promise of progress toward the creation of a free standing Museum Building to Fort Nathan Hale. Presently, we are in a planning phase with the Connecticut National Guard to allow the museum to house the 2nd Company, Governor's Foot Guard, an historical military unit that traces its roots back before the Revolutionary War, and



has been in continuous service ever since. With the Foot Guard comes its collection of artifacts including uniforms, swords, the keys to the original powder-

house and much more of General Benedict Arnold's personal effects. The three level facility will house the Foot Guard Collection, the Fort Nathan Hale collection, a section and exhibits of New Haven and its maritime history, curatorial workspaces, offices, museum shop and a drill hall where functions can be held. Set in the area where the north side of the parking area presently is, it will also have a parade ground that can be used for reenactments and camp outs.

(Continued on pg. 2)

'Living History' Event a Success at Fort Hale

On April 25, Co. H 1st Maryland Volunteer Infantry held a "Living History" event at Fort Nathan Hale. The Event involved a recruitment scenario. Early in the morning, the re-enactors set up a recruiting camp and performed Civil War era evolutions of typical close order drills. They also gave presentations on various equipment

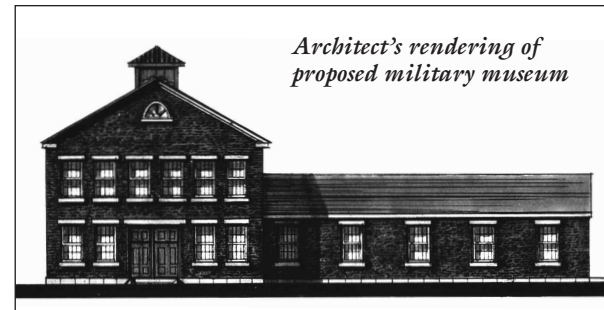
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OPENING DAY Sat. May 30, 2009

Fort Nathan Hale will open for the 2009 season on Saturday, May 30, 2009 at 10:00AM.

The annual ceremony with flag raising will begin at 11:00AM. Activities are free of charge and open to all.



Architect's rendering of proposed military museum

President's Message*(continued from pg 1)*

We have also begun the collection and identification of the artifacts and archives that belong to the organization, and in conjunction with the New Haven Free Public Library, curatorial and accession efforts are underway. The building of three new gun carriages will be completed this year. This is a singularly important milestone, given the plans for organizing a home town local garrison to man the fort in period attire. The New Haven School system has become involved in the use of the Fort for educational purposes, and a program will be planned for the Fort to be used for school field trips.

This year the Fort Nathan Hale Association is sponsoring, along with the City of New Haven Parks Department and Schooner Inc., a Civil War re-enactment and living history event that will encompass the whole of adjacent Nathan Hale Park. Troops, a Naval Landing Party, bombardments by the U. S. Navy, (Schooner Quinnipiac), artillery duels, and day to day period life experiences will be portrayed by re-enactors from several states. The local CT. 29th Regiment, with their descendants will also be involved, along with the

Massachusetts' 54th Regiment.

This event is being promoted by the State's Office of Tourism, the City of New Haven's Cultural Affairs Office, and local news media, television, radio, and newspapers. Hopefully, the weather will cooperate and we'll have a wonderful re-enactment. This type of event is planned to be held every two years, with the next to be a Revolutionary War Period living history.

This organization has a lot of energy, and plans for an interactive program to promote the mission statement of educating the New Haven and regional public in the history of the Fort, and its impact on the lives of the people of the Southern Connecticut region.

All of our programs welcome any help that you may want to give, in time, work, or in monetary gifts. We are always looking for new members, and I welcome any ideas that you may have to help us develop this organization to be the best that it can be.

I look forward to all of you helping us to plan the future to define our past. History is made every day.

Respectfully,

William M. MacMullen,
President

IN MEMORIAM: DON McCALL

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of long time volunteer Donald

McCall. Our sympathies go out to his wife Ruth and her children. He will be missed.

Living History*(continued from pg 1)*

used by the confederate soldiers of that time. This event marked the second time that the 1st Maryland had set up a recruitment camp at the fort.

The re-enactors portrayed garrison life at the fort. The group takes pride in its representation of the military during the Civil War era, (1861-1865), and the various everyday life experiences that a typical soldier would endure. This unit does this always with a "family-friendly" demeanor and proficiency that is both historically correct and understood by all ages. More events of this kind are planned.

For more information about the 1st Maryland Volunteer Infantry, go to 1stmaryland.com.

Watch for more events in our newsletter *The Patriot*.

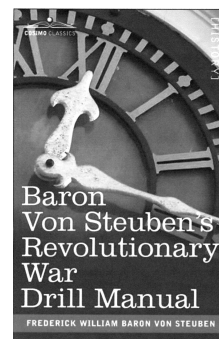
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR SUMMER SEASON

As always, we are in need of volunteers to work at the pavilion during the summer season. Volunteers hand out self-guided tour brochures, have visitors sign the guest book and handle sales in the gift shop. All volunteers will be given uniforms. The shifts are 3 hours long: 10-1 pm (mornings) and 1-4 pm (afternoons) If interested please contact: *Tina Doyle at 203.469.1125*

BOOK REVIEW:**Baron Von Steuben's Revolutionary War Drill Manual**

By FREDERICK WILLIAM BARON VON STEUBEN (1730-1794)

Baron Von Steuben served in the Prussian officer corps for 17 years. He came to the attention of Benjamin Franklin, who brought him to America's Revolutionary cause. After successfully

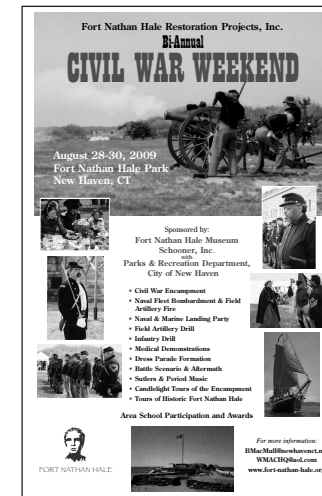


reshaping the U.S. military and helping win the war, Von Steuben retired to upstate New York.

The book offers a true historical document, written by a former Prussian officer charged with turning George Washington's demoralized army into an efficient fighting machine. This compendium of military drills and training techniques was the U.S. Army's official "blue book" until 1812. The book is a fascinating look into the disciplinary routine of an American soldier in the early years of the Republic. It was America's first military manual.

FORT HALE TO HOST CIVIL WAR WEEKEND IN AUGUST; VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Fort Nathan Hale Association is sponsoring, along with the City of New Haven Parks Department and Schooner Inc., a Civil War re-enactment and living history event that will encompass the whole of adjacent Nathan Hale Park. Troops, a Naval Landing Party, bombardments by the US Navy, (Schooner Quinnipiac), artillery duels, and day to day period life experiences will be portrayed by re-enactors from several states. The local CT. 29th Regiment, with their descendants will also be involved, along with the Massachusetts' 54th Regiment. The day's events will also include infantry and field artillery drills, Medical demonstrations, dress parade formation, candlelight tours of the



encampment and tours of historic Fort Nathan Hale. To volunteer or for more information, contact Bill MacMullen at BMacMull@newhavenct.net or www.fort-nathan-hale.org

Civil War Round Table to Celebrate its Golden Anniversary

The Civil War Round table will hold its annual dinner meeting on Monday, June 8 at 7:00 pm the in club room of the Knights of St. Patrick in New Haven, celebrating its 50th Anniversary. The program will feature the East Haddam Stage Company's production of *"They called me Lizzy - From slavery to the White House"*, the true story of Elizabeth Keckly,

a former slave, who was Mrs. Lincoln's dressmaker and a White House insider.

Also, CWRT will recognize its two remaining founding members on its active rolls: Past President Al Redway and Maj. Eugene Graze. Cost of the dinner is \$30, with a cash bar at 6:00 pm. Send check to CWRT, P. O. Box 6028, Whitneyville, CT 06517 by June 1.