

July 2012 **Shinnin' Times** Vol. 17, #7

A Publication of the Early Arkansas Reenactors Association (EARA)

Web Page: www.arkansaw.us

To subscribe to the EARA listserv, address your e-mail to:

Arkansas-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

MOC BUILDING AT CAROL'S BARN (DAY TWO)

Carol Fritts hosted a second day for EARA members at her new home and barn.

EARA member enjoyed the cool breezes on Carol's porch as they learned how to sew mocs from instructor Tom Reedy. Carol, Pam, Connie, Heather, Miss Hattie, Nonose, Betty and "the girls" learned how to cut out, size, and sew various styles of mocs. Construction of soft and hard sole mocs were shown by Tom and Betty Reedy. Pam finished her pair of center seam mocs on Saturday in one day. Way to go!!!. Many others got a good start. Some got a start on a "Good idea" and plans to finish later. Thanks to all who attended and put in their ideas. The food was great. Grillmaster Nonose cooked chicken with potluck sides brought by all. Please, let the group know if you want another date of moc building. There has been interest by members that were tied up with other duties. We will plan another date asap to continue our projects. Thanks, again to Tom for his expert instructions.

And to Carol for her hospitality and her "great porch".

Miss Hattie/Nonose
501-247-6466.

FOURTH OF JULY AT HAMM HISTORICAL ARKANSAS MUSEUM, LITTLE ROCK, AR

The schedule is to spend an hour outdoors, with drill the kids militia style and a parade, then moving inside for the reading of the Declaration of Independence and toasting. If you want to help, please, please call, 501-324-9351 to let them know you are coming.

16TH REGIMENT OF FOOTE

Is looking for new recruits to fill its rank to fight for King George III

Come and take the Kings Shilling!



Contact William Hardage
(britishofficer@yahoo.com)
Unit Website: <http://www.16thfoote.org>

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Selected Excerpts from the Text of *Culinary Chemistry*, Fredrick Accum (London: Ackermann), 1821

Tomata Catsup, page 246: Mash a gallon of ripe tomatas; add to it one pound of salt, press out the juice, and to each quart add a quarter of a pound of anchovies, two ounces of eshallots, and an ounce of ground black pepper; simmer the mixture for a quarter of an hour; then strain it through a sieve, and put to it a quarter of an ounce of pounded mace, the same quantity of allspice, ginger, and nutmeg, and a half a drachm of cochineal; let the whole simmer for twenty minutes, and strain it through a bag; when cold, bottle it:

Or, put tomatas into an earthen pan, and bake them very slowly in an oven. Rub the pulp through a hair sieve, to separate the seeds and skins. To every pound, by weight, of the pulp, add a pint and a quarter of vinegar, with a drachm of mace, ginger, cloves, allspice, and one ounce each of white pepper, and minced eshallot. Simmer them for half an hour, and strain off the liquid.

Orange Marmalade, page 265: Cut the oranges into pieces, remove the pulp, squeeze it through a sieve, and measure it, Boil the rind in water till it is quite soft, then clear it from the interior side of the white pulpy mass, so that nothing but the thin outer yellow rind is left. To every pint of the pulpy juice add three-quarters of a pound of coarsely powdered loaf sugar, and add also the rind of the yellow orange, cut into thin slips. Let the whole simmer, till a sample, when taken out of the saucepan, and suffered to cool on a plate, exhibits the consistence of a semi-fluid mass.

I think we should try these at one of the 2nd Saturdays or at some of our encampments, don't you?

THE STUFF OF LEGENDS: THE WAYS OF THE MOUNTAIN MEN

The legends and feats of the mountain men have persisted largely because there was a lot of truth to the tales that were told. The life of the mountain man was rough, and one that brought him face to face with death on a regular basis.

The mountain man's life was ruled not by the calendar or the clock but by the climate and seasons. In fall and spring, the men would trap. The start of the season and its length were dictated by the weather. The spring hunt was usually the most profitable, with the pelts still having their winter thickness. Spring season would last until the pelt quality became low. In July, the groups of mountain men and the company suppliers would gather at the summer rendezvous. There, the furs were sold, supplies were bought and company trappers were divided into parties and delegated to various hunting grounds.

The tradition of the rendezvous was started by General William Ashley's men of the Rocky Mountain Fur

Company in 1825. What began as a practical gathering to exchange pelts for supplies and reorganize trapping units evolved into a month long carnival in the middle of the wilderness. The gathering was not confined to trappers, and attracted women and children, Indians, French Canadians, and travelers. Mountain man James Beckworth described the festivities as a scene of "mirth, songs, dancing, shouting, trading, running, jumping, singing, racing, target-shooting, yarns, frolic, with all sorts of extravagances that white men or Indians could invent." An easterner gave his view: "mountain companies are all assembled on this season and make as crazy a set of men I ever saw." There were horse races, running races, target shooting and gambling. Whiskey drinking accompanied all of them.

After rendezvous, the men headed off to their fall trapping grounds. The mountain men usually traveled in brigades of 40 to 60, including camp tenders and meat hunters. From the brigade base camps, they would fan out to trap in parties of two or three. It was then that the trappers were most vulnerable to Indian attack. Indians were a constant threat to the trappers, and confrontation was common. The Blackfeet were by far the most feared, but the Arikaras and Comanches were also to be avoided. The Shoshone, Crows and Mandans were usually friendly, but trust between trapper and native was always tenuous. Once the beaver were trapped, they were skinned immediately, allowed to dry, and then folded in half, fur to the inside. Beaver pelts, unlike buffalo robes, were compact, light and very portable. This was essential, as the pelts had to be hauled to rendezvous for trade. It is estimated that 1,000 trappers roamed the American West in this manner from 1820 to 1830, the heyday of the Rocky Mountain fur trade.

In November the streams froze, and the trapper went into hibernation. Trapping continued only if the fall had been remarkably poor, or if they were in need of food. Life in the winter camp could be easy or difficult, depending on the weather and availability of food. The greatest enemy was quite often boredom. As at rendezvous, the group would have physical contests, play cards, checkers and dominos, tell stories, sing songs and read.

Osbourne Russell provides an apt description of the typical mountain man from one who was there: "A Trappers equipment in such cases is generally one Animal upon which is placed...a riding Saddle and bridle a sack containing six Beaver traps a blanket with an extra pair of Moccasins his powder horn and bullet pouch with a belt to which is attached a butcher Knife a small wooden box containing bait for Beaver a Tobacco sack with a pipe and implements for making fire with sometimes a hatchet fastened to the Pommel of his saddle his personal dress is a flannel or cotton shirt (if he is fortunate to obtain one, if not Antelope skin answers the purpose of over and under shirt) a pair of leather breeches with Blanket or smoked Buffalo skin, leggings, a coat made of Blanket or Buffalo robe a hat or Cap of wool, Buffalo or Otter skin his hose are pieces of Blanket lapped round his feet which are covered with a pair of Moccasins made of Dressed Deer Elk or Buffalo skins with his long hair falling loosely over his shoulders complete the uniform."

*Excerpted from Website:
xroads.virginia.edu/mtmen/lifestyle*

KEELBOAT WORK DAY **JUNE 9, 2012**

Question: If you won a \$20,000 lottery ticket, would you throw it away? Ed contacted a person who has a keelboat, just like ours, in the State of Montana, and asked him what he thought the value of the keelboat was. He replied that he has his keelboat insured for \$20,000. Okay all of you folks pay at least \$12 dues your EARA membership and you have in value a lottery ticket (i.e., the keelboat) worth \$20,000. Yet, turnout for the keelboat workday is always low! Come on, what does it take for your folks to get out in front of your TV or from your I-Phone to come and help? The next workday is Saturday, July 7th. Please, if at all possible, plan on attending this workday. There are several things that need to be worked on, and we cannot expect to carry it all. The last email Ed sent out about the workday, he got one response, from Tom Bristow in the Dallas, TX area saying he could not make the workday - duh, drive 12 hours one way. Most of you are within less than 2 hours. Don't let this \$20,000 value be nothing. Please contact Ed if you will be able to attend

the workday on the 9th. Ed's email is (ed_laurine@juno.com)

2ND SATURDAYS AT CADRON

On June 9, 2nd Saturday at Cadron was held at Cadron Park. We didn't have a program scheduled, but we made do. Carol Fritts and Renee were there, in the Blockhouse, enjoying the nice breeze off the River. We had a few public visitors and answered any questions we could about the blockhouse. We both had to leave around lunch time because of other appointments.

In addition, Tom Walker (Poison), Dave Lefler and Glenn Cook were there. They had the hawkblock set up and were providing instruction to anyone who wanted to try their hand at throwing. A good time was had by all (that's my story and I'm sticking to it!).

The next 2nd Saturday at Cadron is scheduled for July 14th. Steve Holmes (well-known for his biscuits, among other things) will be doing a presentation on making salves. Come early to get a good seat.

On August 11, 2012 (the following 2nd Saturday) at Cadron Park, Pole Dancer wants to teach us how to make charcloth and start fires with flint and steel, show people things that can be used for firestarting tender, rocks, boxes for kits, and other things that are used in the firestarting process.

Members have discussed how unique it would be if we could start each weekend event's first campfire using flint and steel to make the fire with a camp meeting, then each of us could take fire from that fire and start each of our individual campfires. We could rotate the firestarter duties to members around the group. Tom and I would like to institute this occurrence at all campouts or events that we need a fire to cook. We will be cooking at Cadron. The next overnight campout will be in October at Critters, Old Washing-ton, Leslie, Hardy, and Petite Jean in Nov. We will have a lighting of someone's campfire with flint and steel and a camp meeting at the beginning of each event on Thursday/Friday night. If you have any questions regarding this event, please, call Glenn Cook at 501-833-8605. Don't miss a great experience.

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

EARA members are invited to a homemade ice cream social at Carol's porch on August 18, 2012, beginning at 10:00 a.m.

Please, bring your freezers – crank and electric – to Carol's porch and enjoy an Old Fashioned Ice Cream Social with our friends. Bring all the fixings and trimmings. . .

Carol Fritts – 501-521-0121

HISTORIC ENCAMPMENT MOUNT MAGAZINE STATE PARK

Our event has changed. We have broadened goals and time period!!! Read carefully.

Mount Magazine State Park will host Arkansas's highest living history event September 28 – 30. The Historic Encampment will not be a typical rendezvous. Our goal is to interpret various types of people that could have inhabited or visited the Mount Magazine area before statehood in 1836. Personae could include market hunters exploring up from the Arkansas River, fur traders, soldiers from the garrison at Fort Smith, American veterans of the War of 1812, professional naturalists, settlers in the valley, Osage, or Cherokee. Clothing, camp gear, and firearms must be period and regionally correct. Teepees will not be welcomed. All firearms should be flintlocks.

Squirrel season will be open and our encampment will be within a short drive to some of the finest squirrel woods in Arkansas. Demonstrations will be held for tourist on that Saturday. So, we can hunt in the mornings and clean guns and cook squirrels as demonstrations. No pets will be allowed. However, canine hunting companions and pack animals will be permitted.

The site is very shady. Trekkers will be allowed to camp in adjoining woods. This will be a good event for beginning trekkers. There are two permanent hooters on site. There is no tap water in the area. Participants should bring their own water supplies and vessels. Hopefully, a natural spring will be flowing near the encampment. Hot shower are about 1/4th of a mile away. Firewood will be provided by nature.

Enjoy beautiful scenery of the valley from nearby bluffs. Early arrival is encouraged for Friday, September 28th.

RSVP. For more information, contact Don R. Simons, Mount Magazine State Park, 16878 Hwy. 309 South, Paris, AR 72855, don.simons@arkansas.gov, or (479) 963-8502.

PETTICOAT GOSSIP

I hear-do-tell that members of the Colonial military and militia were given many of their orders via "petticoat government".

Ladies (and any gentleman not offended at the name of the column), if you have any articles/quips or quotes, recipes, short patterns, shortcuts or tips of any kind you would like to share with the other readers, it would be greatly appreciated.

FOLK REMEDIES

Corn has another side altogether, contained in its silk. A simple tea from corn silk strands is known as a diuretic and is beneficial to the urinary tract. It is used to treat cystitis, urethritis and prostatitis, and prevents the formation of bladder stones. Corn silk is also considered useful in childbirth, encouraging contractions of the uterus. Corn seeds contain allantoin, a cell-proliferant (in common with comfrey) that speeds the healing of wounds.

Another vegetable with uncommon uses is pumpkin (*Cucurbita pepo*). The crushed seeds are considered a powerful anti-worming remedy. Mix with milk and honey and drink at breakfast for three days, then purge with castor oil. Pumpkin is also rich in immunity-building zinc, and the juice is beneficial externally for burns and rashes.

One extremely widespread species is *Plantago major*, or common plantain, a plant usually found in domestic lawns. A tea from the leaves is thought to ease stomach ailments and diarrhea. Plantain is known as an antibacterial, expectorant (cleanses lungs), an astringent (discourages bleeding) and an anti-inflammatory. Externally, this plant is especially useful for bug bites and stings. Chew up a leaf and press

the substance on a bee sting; the pain usually stops within a minute.

If you've ever encountered stinging nettle (*Urtica dioica*), you probably knew it all too well. But nettle sting is actually known to promote circulation, and has been used to treat arthritis. A leaf tea is also considered useful against any sort of itch, anemia, gout, glandular diseases and spleen ailments. It is also a depressant, and has a relaxing effect.

Excerpts from the Internet

The hackberry has medicinal uses. Freshly extracted sap has pain-relieving properties. When applied topically to serious injuries, deep wounds, or fractures, it helps counter severe pain. The sap is often introduced to the patient while suturing wounds or setting fractures. Hackberry inner bark paste is antiseptic and is placed on wounds, sores, swellings, burns, cuts, and scratches to fight against infections. The paste reduces pain of swollen joints if used over long period of time. It is also potent against hard to heal sores, ulcers. Leaf tea counters fever when ingested in measured doses, relieving pain and discomfort.

NoNose

BST POST (BUY, SELL, TRADE)

Looking for something you need, or got more than you know what to do with? We're going to start a "Tradin' Post" for items to buy, sell, or trade. Send your submissions to Renee (the editor) at bubbamoore1208@gmail.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS

JULY 2012

4th - Fourth of July at HAMM

Historical Arkansas Museum,
Little Rock, AR
Call Museum at 501-324-9351

7th - Keelboat Work Day

Please try to make this date.
There are several things that need to be done to the keelboat, and your help is needed.

14th - 2nd Saturday at Cadron,

Cadron State Park, Conway
Salve Making with Steve Holmes

13th-21st – Rocky Mountain National Rendezvous
Cottonwood Creek near Mountain View, WY

14th – 2nd Saturday at Cadron,
Cadron State Park, Conway
(as of the date of publishing, no program is scheduled yet)
Ree Walker (tomandree@yahoo.com)

23rd-24th – Heritage Festival,
Siloam Springs, Ark

AUGUST 2012

11th – 2nd Saturday at Cadron
Firestarting by Pole Dancer
Ree Walker (tomandree@yahoo.com)

18th – Ice Cream Social at Carol's
Porch (10:00 am)
Nonose – 501-247-6466
Carol Fritts – 501-821-0121

SEPTEMBER 2012

Annual EARA Picnic
Glenn Cook – 501-941-7917

8th – 2nd Saturday at Cadron
Ree Walker (tomandree@yahoo.com)

22nd – Plainview Frontier Days Parade

28th-30th – Historic Encampment, Mt. Magazine
State Park (more info to follow)

OCTOBER 2012

4th – Home School Days at Washington State Park
Vickie Shoenewies –
870-983-2558
Patricia.Thomas@ark.gov
870-983-2625

5th – WooloRoc Voo, Bartsville, OK
woolaroc.org
Jennifer Johnson 417-294-1175

5th – Bloomsfield, MO Voo
Jennifer Johnson 417-294-1175

5th – Crowley's Ridge Black Powder

5th-7th – Soggy Bottoms Rendezvous
Washington State Park, Arkansas

6th – 2nd Saturday at Cadron
(adjusted date to accommodate the new Voo at Leslie)
Ree Walker (tomandree@yahoo.com)

12th-14th – Leslie's Voo, Leslie, AR – Glenn Cook
(gc1760@yahoo.com)

13th – Spirits of Cadron, Cadron
Settlement Park
Ree Walker (tomandree@yahoo.com)
513-315-1149
Lynita Langley-Ware
501-329-59133

19th-21st – 2nd Annual Hardy Mountain Man Rendezvous
Loburg Park, Hardy, AR
Cheyenne – 870-405-6279
Rawhide – 417-372-1252

NOVEMBER 2012

10th – 2nd Saturday at Cadron
Ree Walker (tomandree@yahoo.com)

22nd-25th – Petite Jean – Call the
Park – 501-727-6512

DECEMBER 2012

2nd – Christmas Open House,
Historical Arkansas Museum
Call Museum – 501-324-9351

8th – 2nd Saturday at Cadron
Ree Walker (tomandree@yahoo.com)

JANUARY 2013

12th – 12th Night at Cadron
Cadron Settlement Park
Ree Walker (tomandree@yahoo.com)

EARA INFORMATION

EARA Officers and Board:

Officers:

President – Glenn Cook –
gc1760@yahoo.com

Vice President – Ree Walker –
tomandree@yahoo.com

Secretary – Teresa Lafferty –
mshattie1234@gmail.com

Treasurer – Michael Bethea –
michaelbethea@msn.com

Directors:

Neil Curry, Steve Dunlap, Lynita Langley-Ware, Larry Layne, Dave Lefler, Tom Reedy, James Thompson, and Larry Thompson.

EARA Committees & Chairs:

Education – Julia Bethea ***501-231-9730***

Editor of Newsletter – Renee Moore (rmoore@wlj.com ***or bubbamoore1208@gmail.com***)

Events – Teresa Lafferty –
mshattie1234@gmail.com

Keelboat – Ed Williams

EARA WEBSITE

Dave Cutchall

skillett dancer@yahoo.com

NEWSLETTER NOTICE

For calendar and/or event schedule changes, newsletter articles, or correction notifications, please contact Shinnin' Times Editor at ***bubbamoore1208@gmail.com or rmoore@wlj.com.***

The EARA WEBSITE Manager is Dave Cutchall at ***skillett dancer@yahoo.com.***

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Liability Insurance

To be covered you need to sign the book or if not available, a sheet of paper needs to be signed and sent to Glenn Cook. All volunteer events are covered, whether in the state or not. If in doubt always sign a sheet and send it to EARA President, c/o Glenn Cook, 331 Mark Lynn Circle, Cabot, AR 72023

“Pepper” is the password to access the online edition of the EARA Newsletter, via the EARA website.

ADVERTISEMENTS

No Sweat Soap

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