

Shinnin' Times

July 2013

Vol. 18, #7

A Publication of the Early Arkansas Reenactors Association (EARA)

Web Page: www.arkansaw.us

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UPCOMING EVENTS

JULY 13 2nd Saturday at Cadron Cadron State Park, Conway, AR

Dr. D.F. Littlefield is the director of the Sequoyah National Research Center at 2801 S. University Ave, LR which is open from 8am-5pm M-F. It was established in 1983 with the support from UALR. He is coming to speak at one of our meetings at 2nd Sat at Cadron on Sat., July 13, 2013. The SNRC is an archival repository for all forms of American Indian expression. It consists of two major components: The American Native Press Archives, the world's largest collection of Native American newspapers and periodicals as well as significant collections of manuscripts, writings, and other forms of Native expression and the Dr. J.W. Wiggins Collection of Native American Art, the largest collection of Contemporary NA visual expression in the region and one of the largest in the nation. He gave a talk in Bryant about the movement of the Removal of the Choctaw and Chickasaw Indians along the SW Trail from 1800-1850 in Feb. Misshattie was in attendance, and he accepted her invitation to speak to our group. Many of his topics touched things that EARA would be interested in learning about Arkansas History from our time period. It will be a great pleasure and opportunity to hear him speak at Cadron. Please, come and bring friends to the event. It will be GREAT. Bring your questions. He will answer many of them. Misshattie hopes to have a lecture and a roundtable discussion of events, times, places. As always, we will have a potluck lunch. Please, all bring Voo dishes and chairs and come in period dress. It will be a great learning experience.

"355"

"Many intelligence historians consider her one of this country's first female undercover operations officers. Still others refer to her as the "hidden daughter of the American Revolution." While defending against British trans-gressions in and around New York, George Washington came to rely heavily on the information she supplied him. But even today, she is known only by the designation "355," the code-number for "lady" in an encryption system used by the famous Culper Ring.

It was to the Culper Ring that "355" reported, having been selected for the silent service by Abraham Woodhull, chief of the

clandestine group. A Long Island farmer, Woodhull's nom de espionage was Samuel Culper, Sr. His principal agent was a Quaker dry goods merchant named Robert Townsend, who was known as Samuel Culper, Jr. This fictitious father-son arrangement formed the basis of the highly effective Culper network.

Utilizing a variety of tradecraft, including a type of invisible ink developed by the brother of future Chief Justice John Jay, the Culper Ring provided timely and accurate intelligence to American military leaders, most notably General Washington.

It is believed that "355" was a member of a prominent Tory family, a position that would have allowed her virtually unrestricted access to British political and military leaders operating in the New York area.

For her part, "355" helped expose Benedict Arnold's treasonous role in the surrender of West Point and neighboring military outposts, an act that earned him a £20,000 gratuity from the British government.

She also facilitated the arrest of Major John André, the head of England's intelligence operations in New York, who was eventually hanged as a spy on orders from General Washington.

While in New York, the debonair Andre kept company with any number of beguiling and available women. Taking advantage of this, "355" worked the parties he gave and attended, paying careful attention to what he offered during conversations that were often plied with considerable quantities of ale. Any substantive information "355" gleaned from these indiscretions, such as the deal to hand over West Point for payment, was surreptitiously passed by way of the Culper Ring to an appreciative George Washington.

It is believed that "355" was actually Robert Townsend's common-law wife, with whom he had a son. When the junior "Culper" learned that his prized operative and lover was to bear his child, he pleaded with her to forgo her dangerous espionage work. She refused, believing, and rightly so, that the information she was providing was of the highest value. "Three-fifty-five's" days were, indeed, numbered, thanks, so the historical reflection goes, to the traitor Arnold, who gave her up once he had defected to Great Britain following the arrest of André.

In October 1780, "355" was captured and ordered held in fetid conditions aboard the prison ship Jersey, which was moored in the East River. While incarcerated, she gave birth to a son, whom she named Robert Townsend, Jr., after the Culper Ring operative. She died shortly thereafter.

To new intelligence service hires, "355" is often cited as an inspirational example of a trusted field agent, who has retained her anonymity even 222 years following her death. The young woman's contributions to America's War for Independence did not go un-noticed by the head of the fabled Culper Ring, Abraham Woodhull, who wrote that she "hath been ever serviceable to this correspondence" and could "outwit them all."

This biography is excerpted from the NWHM exhibition Clandestine Women: The Untold Stories of Women in Espionage, Curated by espionage historian Linda McCarthy, 2002. (from National Women's History Museum, www.nwhm.org)

CARE FOR LEATHER ARTICLES

Leather can be virtually indestructible if treated properly. With a little bit of care and attention, your new leather will last well into vintage age and your vintage leather will continue to have a long happy life.

The most important things to remember about leather is not to get it soiled, soaked, or let it dry out. Despite the fact that all of these things can be rectified to some extent, it is helpful to not let leather get into such a condition in the first place. Proper storage, cleaning, and conditioning will keep leather looking as good as new no matter how old it is.

Storing Leather:

Storing leather properly when it is not being used is the most important thing you can do to keep it in its best condition. When leather is stored it should not be in extreme hot or cold, or in excessive dryness or humidity.

How to Store Leather Properly

The most important things to remember about leather is not to get it soiled, soaked, or let it dry out. Despite the fact that all of these things can be rectified to some extent, it is helpful to not let leather get into such a condition in the first place. Proper storage will keep leather looking as good as new no matter how old it is.

To Store Leather

- Clean and condition leather before any long period of storage
- Keep leather in a cool, dry place. Humidity can lead to mold, one of leather's number one enemies.
- Keep leather out of sunlight and away from any heat sources to ensure that the skin does not dry out and crack
- Leather is heavy, so always hang it on a durable, padded hanger. Wood hangers are preferable.
- Stuff leather (arms, legs, etc.) with acid free paper to help keep its shape and help prevent dampness.

Clean/Condition Leather

Keeping leather clean and conditioned only takes a few minutes, but it will make a big difference in how good it looks. If a leather item lasted 30 years of abuse before getting to you, a little soap and water won't hurt it.

Cleaning and conditioning leather is very simple if you just think of leather as skin. Just as you need to clean and moisturize your own skin, leather needs to be maintained in the same way to stay supple, pliable, and resilient. If you keep your own skin care in mind while caring for your vintage leather, it is sure to outlast you.

Next Month: "Cleaning Vintage Leather"

Excerpted from an Internet Article

(Editor's Note: If anyone has any comments or suggestions to add, please email me and I will add your comments to next month's "chapter". Thanks! Renee.)

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

It's that time of year again! If you have not renewed your membership, please contact Michael Bethea or one of the other EARA Officers/Board Members and get your membership renewed! Also, if you know anyone who might be interested in becoming a member, contact us and we can get an application to you.

EARA COOKBOOK

Several folks have talked about getting together an EARA Cookbook (especially after the Bread Pudding incident at Woolly Hollow). Start gathering your favorite recipes together and either bring them to Saline (and/or to 2nd Saturdays at Cadron) or send them to Misshattie (misshattie1234@gmail.com) or Renee (bubbamoore1208@gmail.com) and we will start getting them together. It sure would be nice if we could have this completed in time for Christmas presents! Contact Misshattie or Renee if you have any questions.

NEWS & NOTES

I'm sure most of you have heard, but Suzy Olson (a/k/a "Crazy Lady") passed away earlier this month. We're all going to miss her. Please keep her friends and family in your prayers.

2nd Annual

LESLIE MOUNTAIN MAN RENDEZVOUS

Oct. 11-12

{Early set-up - Oct.8-10, Potluck - Oct.12, Breakdown - Oct.13}



No Camp Fee!

Vendors on site: Bring spending money!



9a.m. to 6p.m. Friday & Saturday

Tomahawk and knife throwing competition, shooting demos, cannons welcome

Public, Private & Home Schools invited on Friday.

Admission: Free!

Located behind the Killebrew House by Intersection of:

US Hwy. 65 & State Hwy. 66 -- Leslie, AR.

{Sponsored by Leslie Area Merchants Association and Early Arkansas Re-enactor's Association}

501-941-4828

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

If you know of any events that are not on our calendar of Upcoming Events, please send them to Renee at bubbamoore1208@gmail.com.

JULY 2013

4 – 4th of July at HAMM

6 – An 1812 Independence Day Celebration, 1 PM -4 PM.
For more info, contact Audubon State Historic Site, St. Francisville, LA (225-635-3739).

13 – 2nd Saturday at Cadron. Speaker: Dr. D.F. Littleton

18-22 – MOJAM (not an EARA event, but we have had interest as a needed skill/learning event)

AUGUST 2013

10 – 2nd Saturday at Cadron. Undetermined event at this time

31 – The Battle of Baton Rouge 1779, **NOTE – this event has been moved to October 5-6.

SEPTEMBER 2013

7 – Annual EARA Picnic

14 – 2nd Saturday at Cadron. Undetermined event at this time

13-15 – Indian Heritage Days Rendezvous, Calico Rock, AR. (Contact James and Sharon Ross (870-368-2273, cell 870-615-3120, or mountainmanrss@aol.com)

20-22 (tentatively) – Old Washington Soggy Bottoms

21 – Celebrating the Outdoors, Felsenthal Wild Life Refuge, Old Beer Joint Access, under the River Bridge, Crossett Harbor, 10 AM – 3 PM. Contact Amanda Wilkerson (879-364-3168) or Ed Williams (501-944-0736 or e-mail ed_laurine@juno.com) for more details

OCTOBER 2013

5-6 – The Battle of Baton Rouge 1779. Contact Daniel P. Wilcox at Audubon State Historic Site (225-635-3739 or Audubon_int3@crt.la.gov) or William Hardage (britishofficer@yahoo.com) for more information.

8-12 – 2nd Annual Leslie Rendezvous, Leslie AR – early setup 8th-10th. **Please Note: We will be having a Ladies Tea. More info to come.**

11-12 – Cadron Days

12 – 2nd Saturday at Cadron. Undetermined event at this time

18-19 – Ouachita River Celebration, Union Parish, Bayou D'Arbonne Lake State Park, Farmerville, LA. Contacts: Stephanie Herman (318-368-9288/9226, sherman@state.lib.la.us) or Ed Williams (501-944-0736, ed_laurine@juno.com) for more details

18-20 – Hardy Voo, Hardy, AR

NOVEMBER 2013

9 – 2nd Saturday at Cadron. Undetermined event at this time

11/28-12/01 – Petit Jean Voo

DECEMBER 2013

8 – HAMM Christmas

13-15 – Fort St. Jean Baptist, 300th Anniversary of the Founding of Natchitoches, LA. Contact: Rhonda Gauthier (888-677-7853)

14 – 2nd Saturday at Cadron. Undetermined event at this time

26-29 – Keelboat Float Trip on the Ouachita River, Nix Ferry to Camden (40 miles). Contact Ed (501-944-0736 or e-mail ed_laurine@juno.com)

EARA INFORMATION

Newsletter Notice

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

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

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Keelboat – Ed Williams

EARA WEBSITE

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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 Cir., Cabot, AR 72023

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P.O. Box 21491
Little Rock, AR 72221-1491