



FRIENDS OF FORT MIMS

The 'Fort Mims Arrow' flies again!

Hello and thanks for coming to the *Friends of Fort Mims* portion of our website. Fort Mims Restoration Association is happy to welcome old friends back and we hope new friends will join us!

As this is a 'new beginning', let me give you a few guidelines so we will all be on the same page:

First and foremost, we need you to join so we will have an organized group. You can be an active or passive participant. If you want to join in activities there are many things to accomplish! If you just wish to support the group and keep up with what is going on, that's fine, too. We just need you!

For a \$20 annual donation, we will provide a membership card, have an annual 'Friends' gathering, and most importantly, keep you informed regarding the happenings and needs at Fort Mims. An update every month will be posted on the website or sent via snail mail for those without internet access. We plan to include things of interest such as the workshop that was held last weekend. Your donation will go toward the completion of projects on the site. Please mail your name, regular and email address and check to the FMRA treasurer, Johnny Chason at 69002 T. J. Earle Rd., Little River, AL 36550. You will be added to the '*Friends of Fort Mims*' listing on the website.

As needs arise, these will be posted and anyone who is able to help is encouraged to come forward! The site at Fort Mims is small but the events there significantly changed American History. We look forward to your ideas and responses. Feel free to email me at: claudia_cmpbll@yahoo.com (underscore between Claudia and cmpbll) with questions, comments or suggestions.

This is the first newsletter for the Fort Mims Arrow in almost 20 years! I am in hopes that this will draw all of us who are interested in Fort Mims into a closer and well-informed group. Although separate from the board, ideas and suggestions will be welcomed from our friends.

It is important to understand some of the background of Fort Mims so everyone knows what to expect.

The Alabama Historic Commission (AHC) owns the site of Fort Mims. The Fort Mims Restoration Association works directly with them and anything done on the site must be approved prior to beginning. Fort Mims is an 'Archeological Site' and this itself is cause for a great deal of careful planning! No digging is allowed on site without clearance in advance. Luckily, Dr. Greg Wasselkov and his staff at the University of South Alabama are nearby and are very helpful.

FMRA has been making many plans this year. Our Master Plan has been approved by AHC and from this a 2, 5 and 10 year plan have been developed. This two year plan will directly coincide with the 200th Anniversary in 2013. Excitement over this is running high! These are our goals:

1. Build the blockhouse at the Southwest corner of the fort wall
2. Move the monuments and flagpole to a more visible and central location (near the southeast corner of the wall for more visibility)
3. Replace front fencing with split rails
4. Build the Loom House

As you can see, a lot is happening at Fort Mims!! Our progress may not be too fast, but we are steadily working on things.

As far as our mentioned goals:

1) Plans are nearing completion on the blockhouse. The construction committee headed by the tireless work of Brett McWilliams and Charlie McCulloh has brought us to this point quickly. The design is beautiful and perfect for the setting at Fort Mims!! With final board and AHC approval, we hope to begin. We think this will cost around \$30,000 to complete. This is no small task and we will be planning fundraising

efforts to raise this money. If you have some ideas, let us know!! FMRA has limited funds and what we have has come from the reenactments and individual donations. This year we are again raffling a beautiful **Flintlock Rifle complete with a powder flask and a possibles' bag**. Tickets are \$5 each or 10 for \$25 and can be bought in advance from board members or at the Re-enactment. The drawing will be held on Sunday, August 28, immediately following the last battle.

2) An easier job will be moving the monuments and the flagpole. Dr. Greg Wasselkov has agreed to come 'clear' the spot for the flagpole so that should open the way for completing this project. We hope to have this completed before this years' reenactment!

3) As far as the fencing goes, we are looking for the best price we can find for split rails. Cedar is the wood of choice and would closer resemble the fence that General Claiborne drew/described in his description of the fort in 1813-14. If you have connections regarding this please let us know.

4) The loom house is down the line and won't be under consideration until the blockhouse is finished!

**** The 2011 Reenactment will be held on August 27-28th ****

Put this on your calendar and try to make it for this wonderful event!! You will see the beautiful grounds and understand more about what we do. We frequently have 1000 visitors over the weekend.

This two day event requires lots of planning! We usually have period artisans and craftsmen who set up at Fort Mims. Do you know anyone with these 'old timey' skills? We are looking for basket weavers, potters, wood carvers, quilters and such. Do you have a collection of

artifacts or arrowheads you would like to share? If you or someone you know would like to participate, contact us. If you would like to help there are many places for extra hands: at the gate, assisting with parking, help with garbage, sale of items, food areas, displays, tomahawk throw, first aid station, raffle sales, and more.

We welcome all who would like to re-enact, too. This requires preparation for the correct attire for the early 1800's. This month, the workshop given on May 14th by Steve Thomas will be included in this newsletter. His informative writing covers Flintlock Rifle care and use plus period clothing. Also websites are listed that will help everyone in choosing the right styles.

Brien and Brett McWilliams with the Alabama 6th Cavalry have both worked enthusiastically to assure safe and accurate portrayals of the Mims battles for over 20 years. Many others work with these men to make this event great! There is a website to check out if you are interested in learning more:

<fortmimsremembered@yahogroups.com>

I hope this newsletter has been helpful. I look forward to any responses and hope our number of 'Friends of Fort Mims' will grow tremendously. This is a great cause and we should continue to honor the memory of those who died at Fort Mims.

**Claudia '2G' Campbell, President
Fort Mims Restoration Association**