

The Journal

Upcoming Events

Harvest Dinner

October 28, 2009 Wednesday, at Zuccaro's Banquet Center, 46601 North Gratiot, from 6:00 - 9:00, with dinner served at 6:15. Mark Christopher and his Memphis Crew does his "Elvis Reflections Tribute", also live and silent auctions and door prizes. Tickets are \$25.00 and may be purchased at the Chesterfield Township Treasurer's Office, Tom's Mini-Mart on 23 Mile Road or from any member.

Poinsettia Sale

Christmas Wreaths and Poinsettias may be ordered from Friday, May 15, 2009 to Saturday, December 5, 2009, 6 inch pot single stem, 7 inch pot double stem, 8 inch pot triple stem 10 inch pot quad stem, 12 or 14 inch fresh pine wreath with pinecones and 10 inch hanging basket of greens are available. We do bulk order for churches and orders of 15 or more. Pickup is Tuesday December 8, 2009 from 12:00 to 7:00 at the Chesterfield Township offices or other arrangements can be made. Contact Dolly Allemon at 586-465-0780 or dallemon15@att.net to order or for more information.

Christmas Open House

December 4, 2009 at 7:00p.m. in conjunction with the township tree lighting ceremony. We serve cookies and hot chocolate and local school choirs will be singing Christmas Carols.

SUMMER OPEN HOUSES & HERITAGE DAY

The Chesterfield Twp. Historical Society had the Historic Village open the second Sunday of each month this summer. Lots of people took advantage and came and viewed the village. Also at the village were historical displays of military artifacts. These included many different displays, including medals, uniforms, and documents. Karl Mark Pall had a display of Ernie Pyle,



who was an American journalist who wrote as a roving correspondent for the Scripps Howard newspaper chain from 1935 until his death in combat during World War II. He won the Pulitzer Prize in 1944. His articles, about the out-of-

-the-way places he visited and the people who lived there, were a folksy style much like a personal letter to a friend. He enjoyed a following in some 300 newspapers. Other military artifacts were loaned to the society for the display.

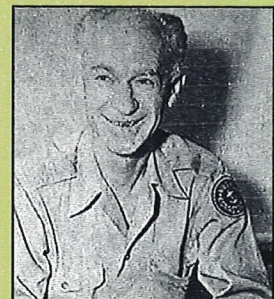
Heritage Day was celebrated on September 12. There was games and activities for the

children, guest speakers, music, craft demonstrations, classic and antique cars. People that brought

their outhouse badge or purchased a new one were able to write their name on the outhouse wall. Parking was at the Chesterfield Township Offices with a tractor drawn trolley ride to the village. Nice sunny weather made this



year's day much better than last years when it rained all day. Thanks to all who helped and contributed to a great day!



Ernie Pyle

Heritage Day



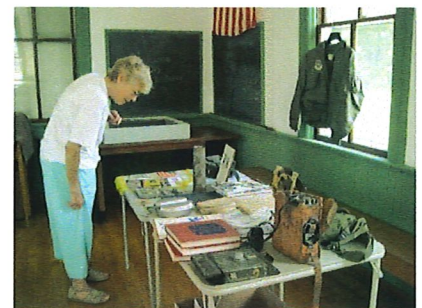
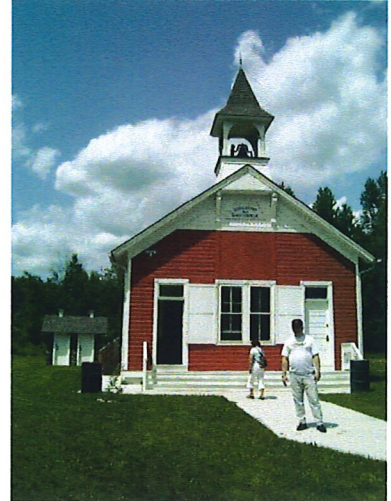
Heritage Day (cont'd)



Open House Photos from Summer 2009

Chesterfield Fun Facts

At one time there was a local French dialect known as Sugar Bush, named for the road. This dialect, also known as "Up River French," was investigated by linguist Dr. Pilling in February 1960. The last main enclave of the dialect, from where Dr. Pilling assembled the vocabulary, was considered to be Chesterfield and nearby Anchorville and Marine City.



Open House Photos from Summer 2009 (Cont'd)



Can't Keep My Feet on the Ground

This is the title of the late George Furton's biography about life in the early days of Chesterfield Township. Now in its 3rd printing, copies are available for \$10 apiece at Tom's Mini-Mart on 23 Mile Rd. and Seaden, or by calling Duane Vosburg at (586) 949-3810. George was not only one of the founders of our historical society, but a state representative, pioneering fireman, pilot, and local businessman whose story yields much information about the early days of our township. Profits from the book will go to the historical society.



Open House Photos from Summer 2009 (Cont'd)

Chesterfield Fun Facts

Around the 1840s, planks were added to three Chesterfield roads-Cratiot, Washington from downtown New Baltimore to Romeo, and 23 Mile Road (then called Telegraph for the telegraph wires along it). Plank roads usually had toll booths, charging 10 cents for a one-horse carriage and 10 cents for every 20 hogs or sheep.



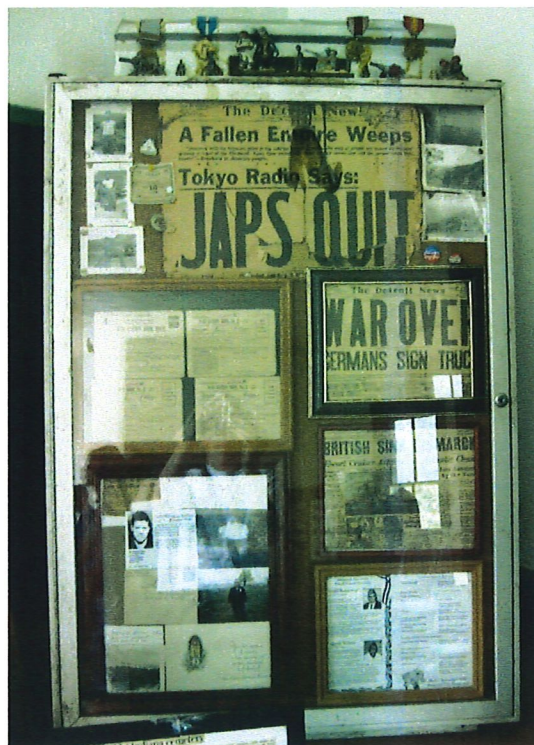
Chesterfield Fun Facts

There was once a settlement, at Fairchild and 23 Mile Road, known as *Fairchild* or *Slippery Corner* because an old clay bottom road caused buggies to slide into the ditch. In 1906 it had its own post office and it had a station on the Rapid Railway (one of the interurban trains that ran along 23 Mile).

2009 Officers

- President-* Eileen Rivard
- Vice-President-* John Power
- Secretary-* Duane Vosburg
- Treasurer-* Lucille Adcox
- Trustees-*
- Tracy Antrikin
- Frank Adcox
- George Deeby
- Membership Chairperson-*
Janine Smith
- Curator-* Kathy Vosburg
- Newsletter Editor-*
Alan Naldrett
- Past Presidents-*
- Don Howitt
- George Furton
- Kermit Harris

Open House Photos from Summer 2009 (Cont'd)



Open House Photos from Summer 2009 (cont'd)

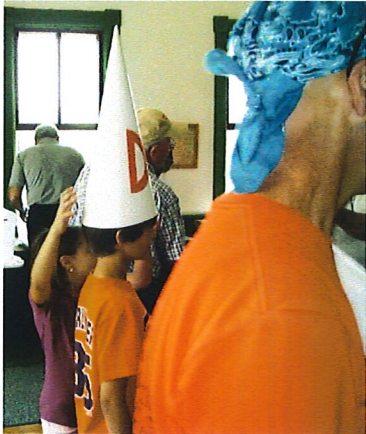
Chesterfield Fun Facts
 From 1807 until 1830 there were two Native American reservations located in Chesterfield Township. One was near Brandenburg Park and the other was near the township offices with the border being Au Vasse Creek, going down to Anchor Bay.



Membership Types and Annual Dues

Student	\$5.00
Individual	15.00
Family	25.00
Business/Organization	30.00
Individual Life	100.00
Family Life	150.00

Membership expires one year from when first paid.



The Society held their annual picnic meeting in Brandenburg Park on August 4, 2009. Here are some photos of the picnic by Brenda Rivard. They also appeared on the Society's Facebook page.

Chesterfield Fun Facts
Most townships in Michigan have 32 square miles but Chesterfield has only 26. It has been said that six of our square miles are underwater.



The Village of Milton

A vanished community of Chesterfield Township was the Village of *Milton*, located at Bates and 24 Mile Road, just off Gratiot (which is the oldest "official" highway in Macomb County, established in 1835 as a military road between Fort Gratiot, near Port Huron, and Detroit). Milton was a station on the Grand Trunk Railroad in Chesterfield Township. Milton's first post office was started by town namesake Robert O. Milton in 1837. The post office was in his house and called the "New Haven Post Office." This post office was moved closer to New Haven with Alfred D. Rice establishing a new Milton post office thereafter. Milton had a post office from January 10, 1856 to July 15, 1904 with Edmund Matthews as the postmaster. Milton boasted a school; Baptist, Congregational and Methodist churches; a physician, a blacksmith; a dry goods and grocery store; a couple of taverns; and about a dozen homes. Over 200 people lived in Milton at one time.

The Methodist church "went broke" and the building was sold to New Haven where it became a grain elevator. The Congregational Church of Milton was deeded to Chesterfield Township in 1928 to be used for township purposes and had a sign reading "Chesterfield Town Hall." It was remodeled in 1930 and used for township business and civic events. In May of 1964 it became a focal point of aid distribution during the tornado that struck the community on May 8, 1964. In 1992, it was slated to be moved to the new historical area on Sugarbush. Shortly before it was to be moved, it burned to the ground, a suspected arson.

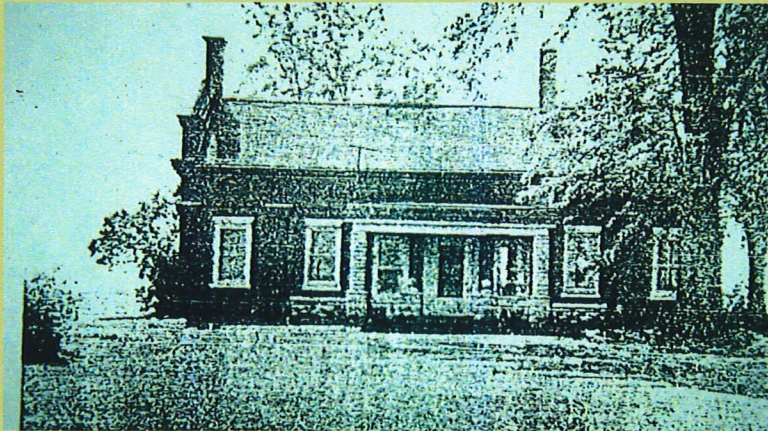
Many of the Milton family are buried in what was then the Union Burying Ground, established by the Union Burying Ground Society in 1846. The society bought the land and it is now called Union Cemetery.



Union Burying Grounds, now called Union Cemetery, on Fairchild near 23 Mile Road.

Robert Milton's brother Joseph also helped establish the village. He operated a dairy barn and a jelly, apple, and cider mill. His cider mill was so successful that he couldn't grow enough apples in his own orchard to meet the demand. Neighbors recalled seeing as many as twenty-five wagons full of apples lined up ready to sell to Mr. Milton. He built a 21 room red brick mansion on the east side of Gratiot, north of 23 Mile. The house was divided into two parts with a section near the rear and upstairs for the hired hands. The house was one of the first tri-levels in Michigan.

Joseph's son Ford was a teacher for five terms at the Salt River School, located on 23 Mile Road at the Salt River, on the site of the present-day Salt River Country Club.



The Joseph Milton house was located at 23 Mile and Gratiot until approximately 1960.

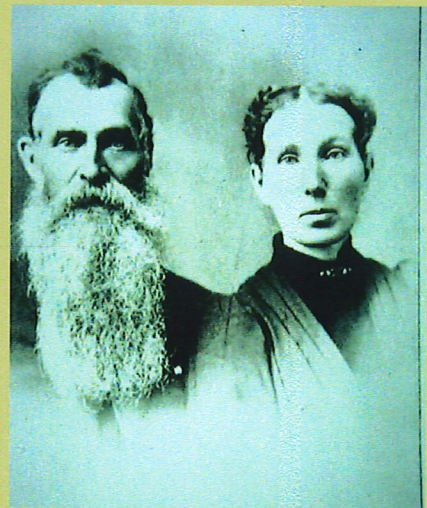
Milton (continued)



Once the Congregational Church of the village of Milton, this building was sold to Chesterfield Township in 1928 and became the town hall. After its use as a town hall, it was mainly used for storage and sometimes rented out for events. In May of 1964 it became a focal point of aid distribution during the tornado that struck the community on May 8. In 1992, it was slated to be moved to the new historical area on Sugarbush. Shortly before it was to be moved, it burned to the ground, a suspected arson.



Milton School



Joseph's son Ford Milton with wife.

Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month and are open to everyone!

They take place at the Senior Center at the Chesterfield Township Office Complex, 47275 Sugar Bush Rd. at 7 p.m. Refreshments are served. 50/50 drawings conclude the meetings.

Brenda Rivard has started a Facebook page for Chesterfield Township Historical Society. If you are on Facebook, just "Friend" the society and then you can see the pictures that Brenda has posted, make comments, and have access to other information on the Facebook page.

For any additions, corrections, or other information please contact chesterfieldhistory@yahoo.com.

Website:

WWW.CHESTERFIELDHISTORICALSOCIETY.ORG

ODDS AND ENDS

- Putting a 12 by 24 foot culvert on the Historical Village driveway was discussed. The cost would have been about \$175.00. It was approved at the May meeting. Unfortunately, it will not be able to be installed by the log cabin as planned due to wet land restrictions.
- Roy Rivard brought a drill driver for the village and it will be stored in the addition.
- A new project for the society will be a bridge over Aux Vasse River in the Historic Village similar to the one in River Bends Park in Shelby Township. The bridge would go to the township hall from the village and would cost approximately \$2,000. A number of fund-raising ideas are being considered, including testimonial bricks at each side of the bridge crossing that patrons could buy. A separate fund for bridge monies has been opened.
- We have received a corn sheller for the village.
- Graffiti was found in

the school outhouse. It was reported to the police and the outhouse is now locked.

- The June meeting of the society was held in the Weller School.
- The sink in the annex has water now. Also, cabinets were purchased and installed in the annex.
- Security cameras are being looked into for the village.
- The 50/50 money will go into the Bridge fund.
- The society went to the Stars and Stripes Festival in June and the Heritage Alliance in April. It is being considered to have the 2011 Alliance in New Baltimore and Chesterfield.
- June 28 was especially busy for the society-a table at the Stars and Stripes Festival, the village open for Log Cabin Day, and marching in the Bay-Rama parade!
- The cabin has electricity now!
- We are members of the Blacksmith Asso-

ciation.

- A battery-powered screwdriver and a snow shovel were purchased.
- Looking for a permanent home for the miniature Weller School float.
- Roy Rivard stripped the stain off the school steps and repainted them and the doors and shutters.
- Tom Gawronski and Roy R. added a cedar cover over the cobbler shop.
- Bill Wallace and Roy R. stripped and re-shingled the round outhouse with cedar shingles.
- Al Pouget and Roy R. wired the cabin so there are Christmas light outlets.
- Kevin Keena of the Michigan Artist Blacksmith Association and Bill Wallace got the forge working in the blacksmith shop.
- Poinsettias may be pre-ordered from Dolly Allemon now.
- We are still looking for old pictures of Chesterfield.