



Chesterfield Township Historical School

The Journal

Chesterfield Historical Society



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APRIL 2021

In Memoriam

Long time event volunteer, Leonard Goike passed away on March 9, 2021.

Merle P. Davies passed away on March 28, 2021 at the age of 91. Merle served in the U.S. Army and was a retired supervisor for Michigan Bell Telephone. Merle was an early member of the Chesterfield Historical Society.



The Historic Village was home to a group of gnomes in December for the ground display "From Our Gnome to Yours!"

Chesterfield Twp. Historical Society

- President-**
Kathy Vosburg
- Vice-President-**
Rick DeClaire
- Secretary-**
Adam Mueller
- Treasurer—**
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- Trustees-**
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Linda Hartman
JoAnn Power
- Newsletter Editors-**
Adam Mueller



JoAnn Power, Easter Bunny, Dolly Allemon, Kathy Elliott and her granddaughter, Linda Hartman, Adam Mueller

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Resale Shop

On October 10, 2020 an Antiques and Vintage Sale raised \$251 and cleaned out some surplus antiques for much needed space.



Kolping Bust

The bust of Father Adolph Kolping was presented to the Chesterfield Historical Society by Kolping members Joseph and Lynne Rheker on November 10, 2020. The bust had been in the lobby of the former Kolping Society Hall in St. Clair Shores. Its new home is on top of the triangular cabinet in the rear of the Kolping Chapel and looks like it has always been there.

Intern

Special thank you for the outstanding work of Tyler Kumas, a University of Michigan-Dearborn student who completed an internship with the Chesterfield Historical Society during the Fall 2020 semester. He helped in many ways, including creating displays in the Weller Schoolhouse, assisting in the resale, organizing curator files, scanning documents, decorating the log cabin and general store for the winter holiday walk.



Historic Village Winter Walk

The historical village was open for visitors to stroll through our winter holiday themed village. Ten businesses and community supporters sponsored pre-decorated lamp posts and ground displays. The display ran from December 4—January 31. All the lamp posts were sponsored and one light pole also had a ground display.



Santa Claus Visits Weller School

Chesterfield Township Leisure Services hosted a photo opportunity with Santa Claus in a sleigh in front of Weller Schoolhouse on December 4 and 5.

Visiting Kolping Chapel on Christmas

Wendy Jones and her brother, Fr. Matthew Anthony-Hysell, a priest of the Archdiocese of Edmonton in Alberta, Canada; and Wendy's daughter, Elizabeth Spencer, visited Kolping Chapel on Christmas evening, December 25, 2020.



Bundle Up With The Bunny



Chesterfield Township Leisure Services hosted a photo opportunity with the Easter Bunny at the Historic Village on March 27, 2021. Over 200 children registered. Kolping Chapel and Weller Schoolhouse were also open for visitors.

Remembering Salt River School Part 1



Salt River School was located in Section 14 of Chesterfield Township, north of 23 Mile Road and East of Salt River and was built around 1844. It was part of the Anchor Bay Rural Agricultural School District, which existed from May 19, 1948 to July 20, 1955. Afterward, it was absorbed into the Anchor Bay School System.

On the preceding page, "Mrs. K" shares her memories of teaching at the Salt River School, beginning in 1844. This was originally printed in the *Mount Clemens Monitor* in 1885.

Next newsletter: "Remembering Salt River School Part 2"

"Mrs. K" shares more memories of her time teaching at Salt River School.

School Keeping in Macomb County Forty Years Ago. – No. 1

Seeing the name of Salt River in the paper a few weeks since, I was reminded of the days when I first went “up Salt River.” It is supposed to be a mythical river, where only defeated candidates go. It was no myth to me, but a very stern reality.

I first went up the river by the way of the “Sugar Bush road,” about Nov. 1st, 1844-yes, forty years ago. I was like David Copperfield, dreadfully young, but the school director and my father conspired together to think I was old enough to keep the Salt River school. I was to have twelve shillings per week in winter and ten in summers, and “board ‘round, keep every other Saturday,” build my own fires, and sweep the school house. What would our young lady teachers in 1884 think of that? And yet in those days no woman teacher in the county had more, and there were very few schools taught by men.

The school house was a small log building with a large box stove in the center. The windows were two panes of 7x9 glass, and six panes high, two logs being cut away for that purpose. There were only three or four American families on the river, and most of the French people who sent to school hired the teacher boarded their share, at one of the other of those families. Some of the houses consisted of only one room in which would be two beds, with a trundle bed for the children, a huge fireplace extending across one end. There was not a cook stove on the River. It was a lonely, out-of-the way place, five miles from the mouth of the river and one from the lake, where New Baltimore now stands. The fare was plain and wholesome, but only sauce being stewed pumpkin, but how good it was, sweetened with maple sugar and moistened with cream. The only travel past the school house in those days consisted of stave bolts. One grey team gave a name to its owner, always called “Grey horse Phelps.” Mr. Wm. Jenney Sr. culled and marked staves and the sound of his marking hammer was heard day after day. I kept, dare I say taught? That school four “quarters.” The three R’s were their “best hold,” they had no use for grammar in those days. Should this escape the waste basket, I will be glad to send a few more of the memories of those days, which may interest some MONITOR reads. Most if not all the heads of those families have gone over to the majority. “Big Dennis,” Uncle Jerman, Uncle Bill, and Aunt Ruthie, all are gone. The old log school house is gone to.

K.

(originally printed in the *Mt. Clemens Monitor* January 30, 1885)

CHESTERFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2021 SUBJECT TO CHANGE

JUNE 5th, SAT. 10 – 4, June 6th SUN. 10 – 3 pm

STE. CLAIRE VOYAGEURS & HISTORY ALIVE

Come see the Ste. Claire Voyageurs, 1750 era French fur trade reenactors and History Alive! “A Timeline of Historical Re-enactors.” Historians in period clothing, encampments and displays will tell the story of Macomb County’s history, from the early days of the fur trade through the war on global terror. A donation of \$1 per person or \$2 per family is suggested. Food and drinks will be available for purchase.

JUNE 27th, SUNDAY 1 – 4 pm

MICHIGAN LOG CABIN DAY

JULY 10th, SATURDAY 10 – 4 pm, JULY 11th, SUNDAY, 10 -3 pm

WORLD WAR II REENACTMENT

We will host the Michigan Military Technical & Historical Society in a World War II reenactment of Operation Cobra. The event will feature both an Allied & Axis encampment for public displays with two public battles. (11 am & 2 pm) on Saturday, and one (1 pm) on Sunday. Military vehicles will be on display. Food and drinks will be available for purchase. Entrance fee is a donation of \$1 per person or \$2 for a family.

AUGUST 14th, SATURDAY 10 – 4 pm, AUGUST 15th, SUNDAY 10 – 3 pm

VIETNAM ERA REENACTMENT

Presented by the Michigan Military Technical & Historical Society. Food and drinks will be available for purchase. Entrance fee is a donation of \$1 per person or \$2 for a family.

SEPTEMBER 18th, SAT. 10 – 4 pm

HERITAGE DAYS

Enjoy horse rides, photos and games, a “Kids Tent” and candle making, rope making, corn grinding, scavenger hunt, craft show and classic car show. Food and drinks will be available for purchase. Entrance fee is a donation of \$1 per person or \$2 for a family.

OCTOBER 21st, THURSDAY 6 – 9 pm

HARVEST DINNER

held at the VFW Hall on 23 Mile Road in New Baltimore. 50/50 raffle, auctions & giveaways.

DECEMBER 3rd, FRIDAY 6:30 pm

TREE LIGHTING

The schoolhouse and log cabin will be open in conjunction with the township’s tree lighting ceremony. Enjoy hot chocolate and cookies served in the schoolhouse, and candy canes at the log cabin.

Contact us

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