

Historical reenactors to converge in C'field

Living history timeline event returns June 5-6

By Nicole Tuttle
For MediaNews Group

The past will converge with the present in Chesterfield Township in early June, when reenactors of multiple historical eras come together to create a unique living history timeline of dress, daily life and wartime.

The History Alive event will take place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. June 5 and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

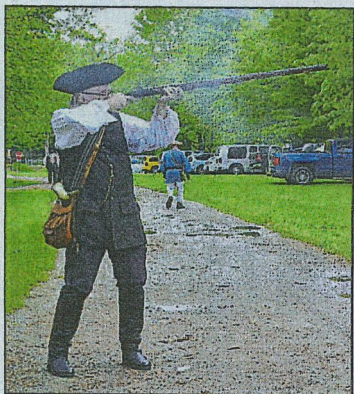
June 6 at the Chesterfield Township Historical Village, located adjacent to the municipal offices on Sugarbush Road. The event will take place outdoors, but some of the village buildings will be open such as the school and blacksmith shop.

Reenactors coordinating the event are from the Lac Ste. Claire Voyageurs and the Michigan Military Technical and Historical Society in Eastpointe, said Kathy Vosburg, president of the Chesterfield Township Historical Society and a township trustee.

The society will accept donations at the event — \$1 per person or \$2 per family is suggested — and food will be available for purchase. Funds raised will support continued programming in the historical village, Vosburg said.

Michigan Military Technical and Historical Society President Chris Causley said he anticipated historical displays, reenactors and encampments would be

REENACTORS » PAGE 2



MEDIANEWS GROUP FILE PHOTO

Some reenactors will portray armed individuals of various time periods, bringing blank ammunition for potential demonstrations. A reenactor is pictured here at the 2019 History Alive event.

Reenactors

FROM PAGE 1

present to represent a sort of stretched out living timeline of many eras in history.

"I believe we should have reenactors there representing eras from the French and Indian War all the way up to Vietnam," Causley said.

Joseph Coppens, a volunteer reenactment coordinator with the Michigan Military Technical and Historical Society, said that although reenactors he coordinates with tend more toward 20th century history, some displays will also represent the 18th and 19th centuries.

Coppens said that as registration remains open, it is difficult to give an accurate number of reenactor participants, particularly as some reenactors have equipment to portray different eras and could switch from one era representation to another based upon need at the event. Some Civil War reenactors have expressed interest as well as some from the late 19th century Westward Expansion time period and World War II.

"There will be a WWII chaplain display in the school house. Another individual has what sounds like quite an impressive display on the Army's paratroopers in the Pacific Theater of war. Another registered participant has indicated he'll be doing a Vietnam



PHOTO COURTESY OF ADAM MUELLER

The Chesterfield Township Historical Society will host a historical reenactment event including the Lac Ste. Claire Voyageurs and reenactors from other eras.

era display," Coppens said.

As of May 15, Coppens was planning on portraying a U.S. Navy Hospital Corpsman himself, with the aid of two other reenactors portraying Marines from the 5th Marines during the Battle of Okinawa in WWII.

"While my grandfather was a Marine, and the Corps has a special place in my heart, studying history is a rabbit hole you can fall down. I've obviously branched out quite a bit, but I'd have to say in all my reading that some of the most heroic men in the history of war in my opinion are our combat medics and Corpsmen. I've built kits around both for most wars, but seldom get to bring them out. This is a major advantage of the

timeline setup, you can bring out something that interests you, rather than what the event is themed for. I'll be happy to get to display my Corpsman kit," Coppens said.

Coppens said some reenactors will portray armed individuals of various time periods and will be able to bring blank ammunition for potential demonstrations.

COVID-19 orders issued by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services will be followed throughout the event.

For more information, call 586-949-0400 or go to chesterfieldhistoricalsociety.org.

Nicole Tuttle is a freelance reporter for MediaNews Group.