

News Flash! The Trinity Buildings have been moved! See back page!



Weller School

The Chesterfield Twp. Historical Society

Journal



ROY RIVARD AND GEORGE FURTON WIN APPRECIATION AWARDS

Chesterfield Township Historical Society vice-president Roy Rivard and esteemed late president and founder George Furton received Appreciation awards at the township board offices on Tuesday, June 20th!

The appreciation awards were started by the township to honor individuals who enrich the community through their efforts, usually done on a "volunteer" basis. The

awards are given in appreciation of efforts within the township. Roy and George were great choices for recipients. Both worked long and hard for the society! Accepting George's posthumous award was his daughter Diane Cornwell and also Mary Darden. (There were two copies of George's award). Roy was on hand to receive his. Congratulations Roy! We miss you George!



Above: Roy Rivard receives Appreciation Award from Pam Harris while Cheryl Printz and liaison John Grivas look on.

Below: Pam Harris presents Mary Darden and Diane Cornwell with the late George Furton's award.

Upcoming Events:

- The August picnic meeting will be held at Brandenburg Park on Tuesday, August 1st at 6:00 pm. (Please note earlier time). Bring your own drink and a dish to pass and the society will provide hot dogs!
- The September 5th meeting will be held at the Chesterfield Public Library (50560 Patricia) at 7 pm. There will be a program on Macomb Co. cemeteries in conjunction with the Anchor Bay Genealogy group. Refreshments.



THE ORIGIN OF THE CHESTERFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

We recently talked to Chesterfield Historical Society co-founder Don Howitt about the origins of our organization. He told us how in March of 1993, George Furton placed an ad in the Voice informing that anyone interested in the history of Chesterfield and the Bay Area was invited to attend a meeting at the township offices the following week. The reason for the meeting was to discuss

forming a "Chesterfield Township Historical Society." There were approximately ten people attending the first meeting. The society was formed from this small group and Don was elected to be the interim president until an election could be held. At the next meeting he was elected president and held the office for the next eleven years! The basis of the organizational structure was put

together at this second meeting of our organization. Following this, in 1993, Don had several discussions with then-township supervisor Jim Pollard about securing a piece of land from the township to develop an historical park. They originally tried to get the strip of land on the left side of the entrance road to the township offices, but they were very happy and accepted when offered the property on the right

side of the offices instead. In 1996, George F. and Don had many conversations with the Odrobina family and they made a decision to donate to the society the little red schoolhouse that had originally been
(cont'd on Page 3)



OPEN HOUSE PLANNED FOR SEPTEMBER 23RD.

Refurbishment of the log cabin continues on Saturday mornings. Roy sends an e-mail confirming when the work sessions will be. Work will continue through the summer so as to prepare the log cabin and school for an open house/picnic on Saturday, Sep-

tember 23rd. We hope to have a speaker on one-room schoolhouses as well as other entertainment of an historical nature. If you know any historical entertainment groups, please contact Roy or Eileen or e-mail the newsletter.



Historical Society members marched in the Bay-Rama parade Sunday, June 25th with the Weller schoolhouse model on the float. Nice t-shirts! (Photo by Roy Rivard).

Upcoming Local Historical Events

August

Ste. Claire Voyageurs Encampment: Aug. 26-27 at Metro Beach, Mt. Clemens. Featuring Living History Portrayals of the 1700's showing the French Fur Trade and the skills of the people living in those days. For further info please call 1-800-477-3172, or Metro Beach at 586-463-4332.

Bath City Festival-August 25th and 26th. History Tent with reps from historical groups of Macomb County. Displays, awards ceremony for Alexander Macomb Award, rides, displays, historical tours, vendors, food. Other events to be announced. Downtown Mt. Clemens. Chesterfield Historical Society will have an exhibit in the historical tent this year.

September

Third Annual Heritage Festival-Shadbrush Nature Center in Shelby Twp., Sept. 16th and 17th. Featuring historical re-enactments, wood carvers, vendors, entertainment, displays. 586-323-2478.

New Baltimore Historical Society History Fair-Historical displays, vendors, entertainment. Sept. 30th. Downtown New Baltimore centered around the Grand Pacific House museum.

Trinity Buildings Updates

- The Chesterfield Historical Society and the Chesterfield Public Library are both looking for information, artifacts, photographs, or any other information having to do with Bernard Trinity and the Trinity Library. Thanks!
- The road commission of Macomb County will waive the fees for moving the two outbuildings from the Trinity site to the historic village. Discussion was held on receiving a loan from George Deeby for the purpose of moving them. The approximate cost will be \$6000. It was decided that we would set up a loan contract of agreement at our next meeting.

Origin of the Chesterfield Historical Society (cont'd)

Chesterfield District #1 schoolhouse, also known as the Weller school. It had most recently been a real estate office for Odrobina Realty, still in its original Gratiot and 22 Mile Road location. George and Don worked out the particulars to get the school over to the historical property. The society later received donations of two bells, two horsehead tie-up posts, and many books, paper artifacts, and much more. The

society is presently working with the Chesterfield Public Library to preserve, store, and make available to historians these artifacts and others that have been donated since then. The first building that was going to be taken to the property was another schoolhouse that had also been used as a township meeting hall. Unfortunately, this building went up in flames the weekend before it was going to be moved.

Therefore, the society was very happy to get the Odrobina building. After the building was moved to the historical area, Mary Jane Howitt and Don worked out several grants and the society held several money makers to help rehabilitate the school. The school has now been refurbished and has been open to the public many times since then, with the next public event planned for September 23, 2006. Don has received a special commendation from the township for his work with the founding of the historical society.



George and Don scope out the site for the Weller School.

**P R O G R A M
N E W S**

Bernard Pearl will be the guest speaker for the first joint meeting of the Anchor Bay Genealogical Club and the Chesterfield Historical Society. This will be at the regular time of the September meeting, Tuesday, September 5th, at 7 pm. However the meeting location will be the Chesterfield Township Public Library at 50560 Patricia Avenue- near 23 Mile and Gratiot. (Look for the library signs.) We are pleased to have Bernard Pearl doing our first joint program. The subject is one that we think will be of interest to both groups-the cemeteries of Macomb County!

A little bit of information about Bernard Pearl in his own words:

I have completed 18 books and maps on cemeteries in northern Macomb Co and 4 cemeteries in St Clair Co. At this time there are 37,600 names in my computer database, about 19,000 who are buried in local cemeteries and the rest are their family members or are buried in other cemeteries. My studies cover names, location, birth date and place, death date and place, marriage date and place, military, Masons, father, mother and family tree info. I also have another database with 73,240 people that includes my family and work that I did for research for my church. As far as myself, I have prepared books on my military life, my Ancestors, my family name, a book on my personal life, starting as a child through adulthood, and books for members of my family for all of the previous listings. The books contain pictures, personal data, family trees, and many individual stories. My family dates back to Kings of France, England, Scotland and Jerusalem, who are connected to the royalty of many other countries and times. My relatives and ancestors have served in Vietnam, Korea, World Wars 1 & 2, Civil War, Revolutionary War and were active in many old world wars and go back to being active in the Crusades. I currently am a cousin to living people who were or are, President of Chrysler do Brazil, and a director of Volkswagen, Mr. America and Mr. Universe, a Commander of Pensacola, Florida Air Base and he worked in the Pentagon, a CEO to a current large Corporation and other successful people in life. As far as myself I was an tool designer and engineer for many small companies and also for Chrysler Corporation, both in the United States, Mexico and South America. I served in the US Army in the Unites States and Europe and enjoy history, genealogy, gardening, travel and the study of religious topics.

*Chesterfield Twp.
Historical Society*

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Vice-President-
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Recording Secretary-
Duane Vosburg
Correspondence Secretary-
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Treasurer-
Kathy Vosburg
Trustees-
George Deeby
Janine Smith
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Don Howitt
George Furton
Board Liaison-
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*Chesterfield Twp.
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ODDS and ENDS

- The schoolhouse was broken into the weekend of June 10th. The annex door was kicked in and the panels on the door between the annex and the school was smashed so the intruders could crawl into the school room. It appears no damage occurred, some of the desks were turned over and the piano was uncovered.
- George Deeby announced that a 6-month extension has been granted to the Friedeman farmhouse so as to remove historical artifacts.
- A display shelf was purchased to display items in the log cabin.
- Our board liaison John Grivas secured storage space at the police station for the historical society to store large items.
- The footings are in, at the historical village location, for the two Trinity buildings to be moved.
- Michael Dixon gave a presentation on how automobiles were influenced by small boat engines at the June meeting. He brought along the three books he has written on the subject.
- The society will sell poinsettias and wreaths at Christmas time as a fund-raising venture. This was suggested by Carol Rose, the Senior Center director.

Local History Links

1838 History of the Clinton and Kalamazoo Canal in Clinton Twp.- www.clintontownship.com/histcanal.htm

Armada History: www.ole.net/~maggie/macomb/armada.htm

American Local History Network-Michigan: www.usgennet.org/usa/mi/state/

Centennial History of Mount Clemens, Michigan, 1879-1979; Electronic edition: <http://offserv.libcoop.net/mtc/centhist.htm>

Chesterfield Township History: <http://chesterfieldtpw.org/history.asp>

Clinton Township History- www.clintontownship.com/History.htm

Eastpointe History: www.ci.eastpointe.mi.us/Hist.html

Erin-halfway Days,Living history, East Detroit, Crafts - <http://www.erin-halfwaydays.org>

History of Washington area: www.hsmichigan.org/washington/

InfoMI-Macomb Co. History: www.infomi.com/county/macomb/

Macomb Co. MIGenWeb-Michigan Genealogy on the Web (Part of the USGenWeb project): www.online-isp.com/~maggie/macomb/

Macomb Co. History: www.online-isp.com/~maggie/macomb/history.htm

Macomb Co. Ancestry Tracer: www.michiganancestry.com/macombco.html

Macomb Co. History Resources: www.michiganancestry.com/macombco.html

Macomb Co. Poor Farm Picture: www.poorhousestory.com/MI_MACOMB_PF.htm

Macomb County MIGenWeb : <http://www.online-isp.com/~maggie/macomb/index.htm>

Mt. Clemens History: www.geocities.com/michhist/mtclemens.html

Mt. Clemens Map: Land Claims & Plats Recorded Prior to 1875- www.geocities.com/michhist/mapmtclemens.html

Mt. Clemens Land Claims prior to 1875 (text version) - www.geocities.com/michhist/mtclemensland.html

Mt. Clemens History and Library Resources- www.geocities.com/michhist/mtclemensland.html

Mt. Clemens Historical Commission:
www.libcoop.net/mtchis/frame_main.htm

New Baltimore History: www.newbaltimorehistoricalsociety.org/

Online Macomb Co. Genealogy Links: www.genealogyforum.org/resources/MI/mimacomb.html

Romeo Historical Pictures: www.willett.org/michiganhistory/romeo.htm

Roseville Brief History- www.ci.roseville.mi.us/

Richmond History: www.usacitiesonline.com/micountyrichmond.htm#history

Richmond History: www.cityofrichmond.net/history.htm

Suburban Library Co-Operative Digital Media Archive Search Engine: www.macomb.lib.mi.us/mountclemens/local.htm

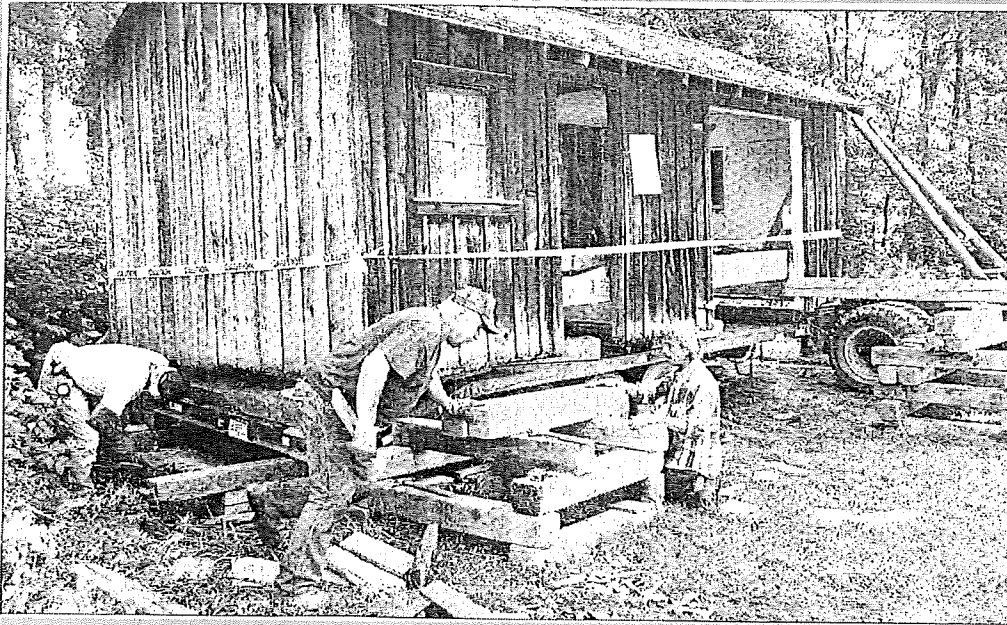
Sterling Heights History: www.shpl.net/histcom.html#Sterling%20Heights%20Historical%20Collection

Shelby Twp. History (contains many links): <http://shelbyhistory.tripod.com/>

Utica History: www.cityofutica.org/history.htm

Warren History: www.hsmichigan.org/warren/

Detroit News Article-Tuesday, July 25, 2006, about the Trinity buildings move



C&A Construction crew members prepare the Trinity carriage house for its move to Sugarbush Road north of 21 Mile in Chesterfield Township. The blacksmith building is expected to make the same move today.

Inch by inch, old carriage house moves to new spot

By EDWARD L. CARDENAS *The Detroit News*

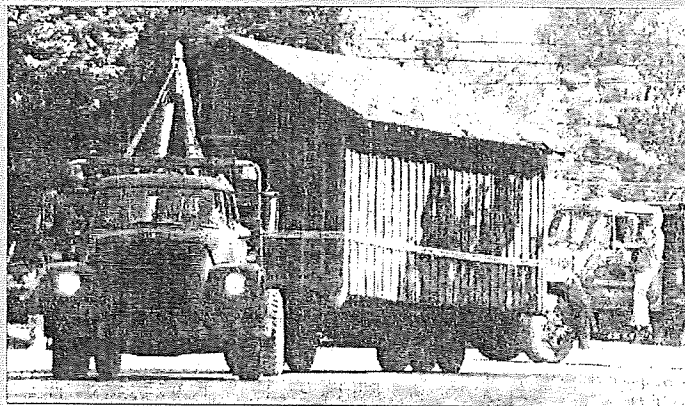
CHESTERFIELD TOWNSHIP - A weathered wooden carriage house had its own police escort Monday as it made its way down the road to its new home at a township park.

The carriage house was part of a collection of buildings on the grounds of the Trinity Museum and Library, a popular spot for Chesterfield residents in the 1950s. Most of the buildings on the site at Sugarbush and Cotton roads are replicas built about 50 years ago to commemorate the original 1800s-era settlement.

As he directed traffic to make way for the carriage house, Chesterfield Township Police Lt. Chuck Verschaeve recalled visits to the Trinity Museum and Library. Verschaeve would buy penny candy and hear stories told by Bernard Trinity, an upholsterer whose family owned the settlement.

"It brought back old memories," said Verschaeve. "It was a great time back then. You had to use your imagination."

The carriage house was moved to a new spot on township grounds on Sugarbush north of 21 Mile. Township Historical Society members arranged for the move; today, the slightly larger blacksmith building is expected to follow the same route. "We are very happy to get the opportunity to get these buildings," said George Deeby of the historical society. Crews from C & A Construction of Berville in St. Clair County spent nearly five hours working to secure the building and prepare it for the three-tenths of a mile trip south on Sugarbush. Workers first placed large boards on the inside of the building, and then used jacks to raise it.



Carriage house heads down Sugarbush to the historic village area by the township hall.