

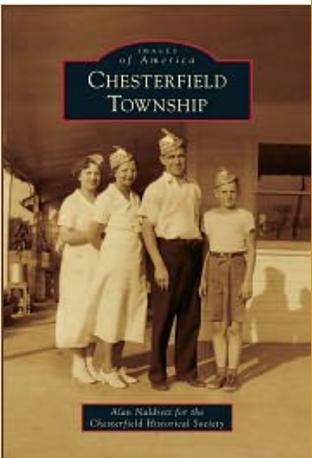
# The Journal

of the Chesterfield Township Historical Society

[www.chesterfieldhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.chesterfieldhistoricalsociety.org)

June 2011

*The History  
of Chesterfield  
Township*  
Book Out On  
July 4th



The History of Chesterfield Twp. contains lots of local pictures and plenty of information about the local area. The author is donating his proceeds to the Chesterfield Historical Society. Available online at Amazon and at Barnes and Noble and Borders.

## Ste. Claire Voyageurs to Set Up Camp in the Historical Village

On June 11 and 12, the Ste. Claire Voyageurs will be having an encampment in the Chesterfield Twp. Historic Village from 10 am to 5 pm both days. If you are interested in the early history of our township, then it is imperative that you come to the encampment. The Ste. Claire Voyageurs recreate what life was like in the early 1700s for the French settlers that first came to the area from the New World. Visitors to the encampment will learn about & experience the rich history connected with the Voyageurs, Coureur de bois, early settlers & military of the Great Lakes fur trade era. This living



Ste. Claire Voyageurs at Metro Park Encampment

history reenactment of the life-styles & skills of this era will include demonstrations and displays of canoe building, traditional crafts and skills, trade goods and artifacts, blacksmithing, campfire cooking, cannons and weaponry, and much more! Come and enjoy music and dance, stories and lectures, and the sharing of a unique culture and history. The public is invited. Admission to the event is free. The Historic Village is located next to the township hall at 47425 Sugarbush Road. Additional parking is located at the township offices.

# Summer Events

- **June 11 and 12**-Ste. Claire Voyageurs Encampment in the Historic Village from 10 am to 5 pm.
- **June 26**, a state-wide function is Log Cabin Day. All of the public historical log cabins in Macomb County will be open from roughly 1 to 4 p.m. This includes the log cabins of the Chesterfield Twp. Historical Society, The Richmond Area Historical and Genealogical Society, and the Clinton Township Historical Society. (Richmond will be open from Noon to 4 p.m.)
- **July 7**-The Chesterfield Historical Society will be sponsoring a Local History at the Library program on the first Thursday of the month. Kicking it off will be Alan Naldrett with The History of Chesterfield Township. This will be in support of the book coming out on July 4. The slide show accompanying the presentation will be mostly pictures not in the book. This will be held at the Chesterfield Township Public Library at 50560 Patricia Ave. at 6:30 p.m. The program is free.
- **July 10**-The historical village on Sugarbush will be open from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
- **August 4**-Local History in the Library will have Mary Hortos, who will present a film and talk on the history of St. Joseph Hospital, one of the first in the area.
- **August 13 and 14**-The Society will host Civil War Days. Featuring the 8th Arkansas and the Michigan 15th Volunteer Infantry, it will feature living history encampments and battle skirmishes. It will all take place in the Chesterfield Twp. Historical Village at 47425 Sugarbush next to the township offices.
- **September 1st**-Karl Mark Pall will present his dialogue on money of Macomb County. This will include rare bills from the Bank of St. Clair, Belvidere (the sunken city), and more! This will be held at the Chesterfield Township Public Library at 50560 Patricia Ave. at 6:30 p.m. The program is free and will feature many old bills and other exhibits.

**FUN FACT**-Vice-President Roy Rivard has done some research on the houses of Chesterfield Township and discovered that there are 61 homes in the township that are over 100 years old, and five homes that are over 150 years old!

## French Settlers in Chesterfield Township

The first French explorers and missionaries came to the area around 1611, naming the dominant waterway Luc Ste Claire on August 12, 1687. The French built earthen huts, farmed "strip farms" which were long, narrow pieces of land with the narrow end near the lake, taking maximum advantage of the available natural waterways. The chief commerce of the French settlers was the buying, selling, and trading of animal fur and pelts. They adapted the Native American canoes and bateaux to move their furs, as well as using sailboats. The French, like the Native Americans, also made salt, so their settlement was known as *La Saline* and later became known as the *Salt River Settlement*. The salt comes from a salt spring located about four miles from the mouth of the river. Unlike the Native Americans who were content to lay the salt water in the sun and let the water evaporate to get the salt, the French would take the quicker method of boiling away the water to obtain the salt. (From "The History of Chesterfield Township")