

LA GAZETTE HELVETIQUE

THE NEWSLETTER OF MUSEE DE VENOGE, INC.

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No.1

July 4th, 1815 Celebrate Our National Day At Musee de Venoge

4085 Hwy 129, West of Vevay off of St. Rd. 56

June 29, 2019

Saturday only 10 am - 5 pm Free Admission



Celebrate Independence Day, 1815 style! The War of 1812 has ended and Indiana is on the verge of statehood.

Join us at Venoge for great family fun and an old fashioned 4th of July Celebration!

When Switzerland County founders, the Dufours, first came to this country, they were just in time for a Fourth of July celebration in Lexington, Kentucky arriving on July 3, 1801. The Fourth of July was first celebrated by the Swiss Colony in 1805 in Vevay when Jean Jacques Dufour read the Declaration of Independence and gave an oration, after which there were 13 toasts followed by a barbecue and dancing. Trenches were dug for an all-day fire to roast an ox, a technique learned at the First Vineyard in Kentucky.

Our event is centered on the French built house and the Switzerland County French-Swiss immigrants' celebration of the 4th of July in 1815. Enjoy a traditional reading of the Declaration of Independence with speeches by politicians of the day and related festivities. The French-built house is an active backdrop and 'participant' in the events.

You will be able to watch the hearth cooking and bake oven demonstrations and try a few samples! The music is provided by Michael Thompson and the Travelling Caudell's. The Forget-me-nots will lead the dancing.

The Thomas Family Winery will be selling their wines and brick oven baked breads plus cheese.

There will be wood carver, a cooper working plus a gun smithing demonstration, book binding, weaving, and other artisans sharing their skills. Also for amusement and edification see the Grand Camera Obscura! Don't ask, you have to see it for yourself and walk inside!

The new barn at Venoge will be open with exhibits of local history plus children's games and a small shop to

Schedule

- 10:00 am. Site opens
- 10:00 am. Applecore Tavern opens
- 10:15 am. Flag raising and welcoming speeches by 1815 dignitaries
- 11:00 am. Musical performance by the Traveling Caudell's in the Applecore Tavern.
- 11:30 am. Country dancing on the lawn.
- 1:00 pm. Firing of the National Salute. (One cannon shot for each state in the Union for 1815.
- 2:00 pm. Musical Performance by the Traveling Caudell's at the Applecore Tavern.
- 2:45 pm. Fife and drum music
- 3:00 pm. Patriotic exercises and orations including:
 - Fife and drum will play to gather the public and participants.
 - Reading of the Declaration of Independence
 - Cannon Firing
 - A stirring rendition of the *Defense of Ft. McHenry* sung by Hannah Sunflower Stoppel.
 - Keynote Address
- 5:00 pm. Site closes



Means to a Mission!

Venoge will be doing something new this year at the 4th of July Celebration. We will be filming activities on Friday through Sunday with the idea of making a video.

Videos will be created of differing lengths for use on our website, social media and our You Tube channel. When completed it will be shown in our Barn, to visiting school groups as an introduction to architecture, restoration and local history.



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This will be the second year that Venoge has recreated this celebration. We want to take it further now and film the festivities, merging the restoration of the house, festivities of the Fourth and the lives of the first inhabitants. We will show how one creates the setting for the other.

Our videographer, Joe Erdmann, will be on site Friday and Saturday recording the event and Sunday to film house construction details. He will have access to photos of the restoration process for his final videos. We will make several versions, from 3 to 15 minutes to be used as a teaching tool on different venues; our website, Social Media, our You Tube channel and as an intro for school classes and visitors.

Our intention with the videos that will be created is to merge the restoration process of the house with video of its current restored condition along with the fascination story of Jacob Weaver and Charlotte Golay. This will be told through the reading of Jacob's own letters. We want to recreate vignettes of daily life...merging with the restoration process.

During restoration, the building was stripped down to its 'bare bones', ceilings were raised, floors leveled, siding replaced, hearths rebuilt, windows and doors rebuilt, floor joists were sistered and foundations reinforced. We have documented that in photos and now combined with the new video, we can show the house restored.



Christmas Past

Country Christmas at Venoge last December was full of Christmas cheer...a table full of treats, impromptu musical treats, adorable children and dogs. Some found it hard to make a decision on which Christmas delicacy to start with.



The Thiebaud Farmstead and Venoge celebrate in a traditional way every year and this was no exception. Each celebrates true to their time period, 1860 or 1820. This coming December will be no different. Visit both houses on December 14th this year.



A Frolic in May!



During our Domestic Skills Frolic last May, participants spent a day and a half at Venoge in the rural setting of Switzerland County. It was an immersive experience with hearth cooking, using the bake oven, decorative arts, and a musical evening. Sunday, Amy Liebert and Brian Cushing brought us up to date on rural fashion in the early 19th century.

Using the museum's hearth and bake oven, participants teamed up with the cooks of Venoge to prepare lunch and supper on Saturday. Breakfast on Sunday was provided. Classes and discussions ranged from local French-Swiss history, early 19th c medicinal herbs to basic sewing techniques and rural fashion from 1800 to 1820. The participants made herbed vinegar with herbs from the Venoge garden and each vinegar grained paper mache boxes. First we all learned the ins and outs of making the early 19th c bed ... beginning with stringing the ropes!

This frolic was fun for all, especially the Venoge volunteers and we plan to do it again next spring.



Basic rope bed making skills, rope then add straw mattress and top with feather tick.



Introduction to cross stitch.



Make your own herbed vinegar (L) and proud of sliced corn (R)! We used the cob to make a pattern on the grained boxes.



Vinegar graining a paper box



Sunday's rural fashion talk with Brian Cushing and Amy Liebert

Jacob Weaver's Long Journey to New Switzerland.

Getting from here to there in 1813 wasn't what it is today. Jacob Weaver and his family left New York in mid October and didn't arrive in New Switzerland until the very end of November. It wasn't easy either as shown in the excerpt below...and there was real danger.



"What I found the worst of all being so muddy that our horses was not able to draw their loads up. We had to carry part up and walk one before the horses to steer them and the other behind to keep the wagon and cart from over setting. Knee deep through the mud. I have overset three times with the cart. The first time was nearly on level. The one wheel hit against a stump and overset with my wife and children excepting Elizabeth and nary one was hurt. The other two times there was nobody in the cart when it overset.

Mr. Bakes overset his carriage at the bottom of one of the three brothers, had in when he overset Elizabeth (Charlotte's sister) and his three children and nary one hurt but broke part of the top of his carriage and broke his end of his block tung. He got two iron bars made fastened with the one end round each end of the fore exeltree and the other end fastened with a bolt threw the tung of the carriage.

As he was going up a hill just past the town of Greensburgh, Mr. Bakes before, and I behind, the bolt which was patched threw the tung of the carriage give way and let loose the carriage from the horses which ran back down the hill and I turned my horse and the carriage hit against one of the shaves of the cart and overset against a fence with my wife and her child and Mrs. Bake's child on her lap and David and _____ my child was taking up supposing it was dying. It was black in the face but soon came to again in a few minutes appeared not hurt. In a few seconds after Mis Bake's child fainted away and was very bad for a long time they send for a Doctor but before the doctor came the child came to and was well again.

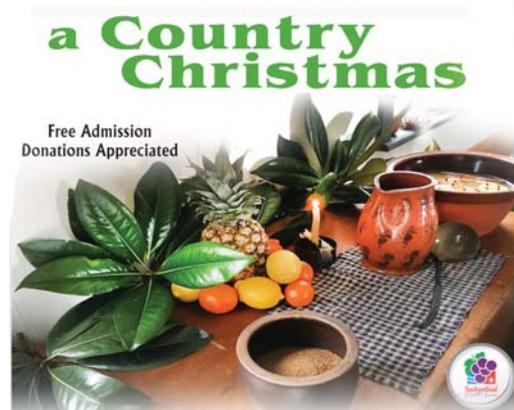
The other two children was not hurt and my wife was not hurt. No other accident happened along the road excepting very bad roads."

Comming up

The Venoge board is thinking about a possible late fall event or workshop centered around wood working. It would feature demonstrations of early techniques and specialities. Stay tuned.

Hold the Date

Venoge And The Thiebaud Farmstead will again celebrate Christmas each in their own way on the same day, December 14, 2019. Holiday treats and festivities liven each house. Don't miss this traditional feast.



WANT TO VOLUNTEER?

Email www.venoge.org or call 812-593-5726 for more information on opportunities.

THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS!

Happy Smith, Susan Ash, Mike McHugh, Aimee Graves, Betsy Lyman, Geri Emmelman and Sonny Ash. Extraordinary volunteers.

CONTACT VENOGÉ

Contact Venoge with comments or questions or to volunteer. We are open by appointment for you or your group to visit.

Call 812-593-5726 or email info@venoge.org

IN EXPLANATION

LA GAZETTE HELVETIQUE (the Helvetian or Swiss Newspaper), is the official newsletter of Musee de Venoge (Museum of Venoge). The French adjective 'helvetique' refers to the Latin name for Switzerland (Helvetia) in use for more than 2000 years. Rhyming with "antique" it is easier for English speakers to pronounce than its synonym "Suisse". In 1802 the settlers of New Switzerland in the south eastern corner of Indiana territory, renamed Indian Creek "Venoge" after a small river in the grape growing region of European Switzerland.