

WE PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN, TO RELAX, TO HAVE FUN: SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

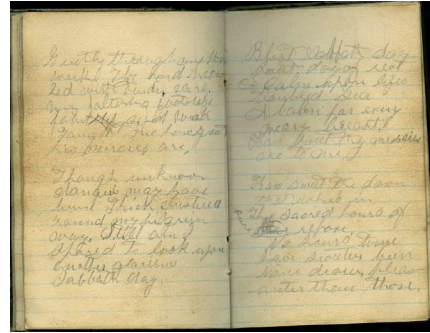
PARK HAPPENINGS

All the rain in April has brought on some fabulous May flowers in the village! The Thornapple River rose 4 ½ feet and was over the road in much of the recreation area. We are happy to report that the river is down again and all the roads are open for the summer, as is the Park. Our summer hours, 7 days a week 8 am-9 pm, started early this year on May 1st and we have been open on weekends since early April!

K-9 One Search & Rescue has been using the Park as a training site once again. If you would like to see them in action, they will be demonstrating during Charlton Park Day on May 28th! Check out their website for pictures and information: www.k-9one.org.

The Michigan Paranormal Research Society will be studying several of the historic village buildings in the month of May. It will be a late night for our staff, but we are very interested in the results!

A new display of clocks and pocket watches is up in the entrance way to the Civil War exhibit. Also, in honor of the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, we are posting diary entries and letters from Matthew Baird, Barry Co. soldier in the 3rd Michigan Infantry. We will publish his thoughts on the corresponding dates 150 years after he wrote them. Baird was involved in the conflict from start to finish and kept up a diary and correspond-



Entry from Baird's Diary

ence throughout. We will reveal his story almost daily over the next 5 years! You can find a link to the blog at www.charlton-park.org.

The missing Civil War era documents have still not surfaced, but we are still optimistic that they will be returned. If you have any information, please do not hesitate to contact the Park office at (269) 945-3775.

5th Annual
Charlton Park Day
Celebrating 75 years
1936 - 2011
Saturday, May 28th
11 am - 4 pm

Small Town Son, winner of the 2010 Colgate Country Showdown, from Kalamazoo will be our opening musical act, followed by Thornapple Valley Strings and Jacob's Journey.

Join us for a FREE day of family activities, food and fun! Help us celebrate 75 years of operation and our founder Irving Charlton who started Charlton Park in 1936. Scheduled activities: Sheriff's Posse fingerprinting children, 2 bounce houses, face painting, crafts, food, balloons and popcorn, K-9 Search & Rescue demonstrations, May Pole demonstration, sawmill in operation, music and all of the historic buildings will be open and staffed!

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The mission of Charlton Park is to provide educational and recreational opportunities, through the collection, preservation and demonstration of early rural Michigan life, artifacts and buildings, and the maintenance of natural and recreation areas.

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EVENT NEWS

The annual Barry Conservation District Tree Sale was the first activity at the Park on April 15th and 16th with many trees sold and picked up during the event.

The first County Wide Yard Sale of the 2011 season was on April 30th, this was the first of four for the summer. 15 vendors set up by the Gas & Steam Barn, due to the wet ground closer to the village, and there were many shoppers throughout the day. At the same time Spring Into The Past (museums tour) was taking place April 30th and May 1st. Visitors were able to wander the village buildings and visit other local museums. Attendance numbers were difficult to determine Saturday, but SITP drew approximately 50 people on Sunday, the highest attendance we have had!

HELLO CHRISTINA!

The Park is pleased to welcome the 2011 summer intern, Christina Heady! She will be assisting with education programs and working on 2 projects while here.

Christina Heady grew up in Fort Myers, FL, but claims Georgia as her home. She obtained two de-



degrees from Florida State University in Secondary English Education and Literature, taught 8th and 10th grade English and Journalism classes in Tallahassee, FL, then moved to be near family while applying to graduate school. Christina

is currently a Graduate Student in the University of Michigan's School of Information, where she is studying Archives and Records Management and Library and Information Services. In her spare time she enjoys reading, relaxing in coffee shops, and spending time outdoors. Passionate about the importance of history and teaching, Christina has joined the Park team to learn the many aspects of running the Park,

to gain experience as an interpreter, and to help preserve our collections.

OPERATIONS UPDATE

The Maintenance department has been cleaning up after the receding waters of the river, picking up sticks and raking in the village. The white bathrooms near the Bristol Inn are now open and all of the wells back on. All of the tractor equipment received a fresh coat of paint. They also built new screen doors for many of the buildings in the village!

VOLUNTEERS' CORNER

The spring Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon and Meeting was held on April 16th with approximately 30 people in attendance. Attendees feasted on subs, macaroni, fruit salad, cookies and cake while hearing about the last couple of months from Dan Patton and Claire Johnston. Volunteers signed up for the events they wanted to work in the 2011 season, if there are certain events you would like to work, please let Claire Johnston know. Charlton Park Day is fast approaching and we will need lots of help! After the luncheon, Print Shop training was held and volunteers learned the basics and how to operate 2 of the presses in preparation for the event season!

We would like to welcome 3 new volunteers to the Park team! Herb McPeake will be working in the



Herb McPeake at work!

Print Shop, Shirley Barnum will be assisting with the education programs and Carissa White will be learning how to weave/spin. Say hello when you see them!

Many of the blacksmiths met to practice on March 19th and April 30th, led by James Tyler. The group has been working on technique. Thanks to Joe Medendorp, Chris Pillars, Larry Neil, Dan Harrow and James Tyler for all of their hard work!

Positive Directions is still working hard to clean the buildings during the week too! Thank you all!

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DIRECTOR'S SPOT

Summer is just on the horizon and spring has certainly sprung. A visit to Historic Charlton Park is a wonderful opportunity throughout the year to experience our rich history, the beauty of nature, or to simply do some fishing.

Beyond our event season activities and educational programming our staff will be working behind the scenes making improvements. Thanks to our continued partnerships within Barry County we are able to secure our future for another 75 years. Below I have listed some of our partners for 2011.

- Thanks to Hastings Mutual Insurance Co. we will add a HVAC system to the Michigan Tornado, Cyclone, and Windstorm Insurance Co./Bank building.
- Thanks to Hastings Charter Township we will be repainting the exterior of the Hastings Township Hall.
- Thanks to Hastings City Bank we will be working on the restoration of the old Hastings City Bank clock, and Hastings City Bank is celebrating their 125th anniversary this year!



- Thanks to the Charlton Park Foundation we will be repainting the exterior of the Sixberry House and the Lee School House, along with making improvements in the Museum, and funding a collections intern.

As you can see, there are many exciting things going on here at Charlton Park to improve what we offer, and we hope you will join us this summer and create your own excitement, make your own history, and celebrate 75 years with us. Your Charlton Park can create that "staycation" destination for the whole family.

Sincerely,
Dan Patton, Director

EDUCATION/COLLECTIONS

The education programs have been in full swing since mid-April! Other than all of the rain, the programs have gone smoothly and we are looking forward to a much more pleasant May! Thanks go to many people this season: Glen Smith, Kerri Steward, Lorena Wright, Christina Heady, Barb Turkal, Shirley Barnum, Elaine Drury, Ruby Cairns, Lois Bremer, Bonnie David, Bess Gross, Wes Robinson and Joe Medendorp (who helped present the new blacksmith program). Without all of these wonderful interpreters, we would not be able to put on our programs!

Historic Charlton Park will be participating in No Family Left Indoors this summer along with many other Barry County organizations. The goal of this series of FREE summer programs is to get families outside and exploring their local community. Programs are offered on Tuesday nights starting on June 7th from 6:30 pm - 8 pm at the YMCA



of Barry County. The Park's program will focus on games and the school house on June 14th. The programs website is hosted by Pierce Cedar Creek Institute (<http://www.cedarcreekinstitute.org/no-family-left-indoors-0>) and funded in part by the Barry Community Foundation. Get outside this summer and enjoy the FREE programs!

Georgia Robinson has been busy entering data on the different lighting and communication devices in the collection, while Judy Mudge has continued entering archives data. Jack Boarts, David Chase, Anne Cole, Roberta Meeker, Barb Crawford, Sharon Zebrowski and Sherlyn Courtney have been working on the sorting of the Barry County documents, which our intern Christina Heady will also be working on this summer.

Contact Information

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www.charltonpark.org

(269) 945-3775 - fax (269) 945-0390

Hours of Operation:

Open 7 days a week 8 am - 9 pm

The historic village is open from 9 am - 4 pm.

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 28 5th Annual Charlton Park Day
11 am - 4 pm, FREE

June 19 30th Annual Father's Day
Car Show
8 am - 5 pm
Adults \$5, Kids \$3 (5 - 12 yrs),
4 & under free

June 25 County Wide Yard Sale
9 am - 3 pm, FREE

July 4 Old Fashioned 4th of July
11:30am - 5pm, FREE except
for barbeque