



MACKTOWN MONITOR



Weekends are for Family, Friends, and History!

~ Upcoming Events ~

October 8 - October 9

Stephen Mack & Hononegah Family Reunion

October 8 (Sat.) 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Food Preservation

October 9 (Sun) 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Pressing Old-fashioned Cider

October 15 (Sat.) 9 a.m. - 4p.m.
Frenchmen's Frolic

October 16 (Sun.) 9 a.m. - 4p.m.
Frenchmen's Frolic continues

November 13 (Sun.) 2 p.m. - 4p.m.
Getting Ready For Winter: Native American

December 11 (Sun.) 2 p.m. - 4p.m.
Christmas at Macktown

Celebrate Autumn!

Frenchmen's Frolic

Saturday & Sunday, October 15 & 16

Laissez les bons temps rouler! If it's mid October in the beautiful Macktown Forest Preserve, it must be time for Frenchmen's Frolic, the last hurrah of the season for trappers, traders, voyageurs, Native Americans and pioneers as they rendezvous on the shores, by the cliff and along the Old State Road at the confluence of the Rock and Pecatonica rivers. Stroll through the mid-1800s encampment or join with them for some old-fashioned:

- storytelling •exchanging of news
- cooking •feasting •playing of games
- hawk throwing •black powder long gun shooting
- trading •seminars •demonstrations
- and other mid 1800s activities.

Admission is FREE. Accept our kind invitation to be a part of something special. And if you enjoy yourself, the volunteers of Macktown Living History would be pleased to accept your monetary donations that help us to bring programs and events like this to the people of Winnebago County and beyond. While your generosity will be greatly appreciated, don't forget to join in the old-timey learning and fun. Let the good times roll!

*(Need more information to be an encampment/
re-enactor participant?
Contact Mike Bost 815-978-8090.)*

Tidbits of Past Times

Secrets of the Dead: the Disposition of Stephen Mack, Hononegah and More . . .

This is a story worth retelling. Many of you have walked past the Macktown graves, surrounded by a wooden fence, just to the north, across the road from the Stephen Mack house. But if you have not golfed at the Macktown Golf Course, you may not have seen (close to the flag pole) the memorial stone for Stephen Mack and his wife, Hononegah, marking the former site of the Macktown cemetery. No one could have imagined in the 1850s that a golf course, for a game scarcely known in the 1800s, would be developed over the Macks' original place of rest!

But the story takes a turn. In the early part of the 20th century after more than a half century of Macktown decline, the flatland (present golf course land) was lease or purchased back in the day for farming. The Macktown Cemetery plot, now surrounded by a rotting fence, proved an annoyance to the farmer wanting to simplify the plowing. He announced his intention to till over the graves, but thoughtfully allowed ancestors enough notice to dig up the interred bodies and move them. And this is what happened, at least for Hononegah, Mack, and son, Henry Clay Mack. But their final resting place would not be in front of the old Mack House, but rather the Phillips Cemetery on Bates Road, 4 ½ miles SW, just south off Freeport Road. Alas, the spirits rested comfortably until the 1950s when the restoration of Macktown as an historic site was

coming to fruition. Once again, the graves of Mack & his wife, Hononegah, and Henry Clay were dug up and returned to Macktown, the remains now residing at their 3rd and final resting place opposite the federalist designed, restored Mack house.

Now, about that golf clubhouse rock – While we know about the disposition of the last remains of the Macks, 300 people lived in Macktown in its heyday. What of those people who died in the mid to late 19th century? It is quite possible, actually probable, that not all of the bodies were exhumed and transferred to another location. In addition, stories still circulate that when the golf course was created in the early 1930s, the sculpting of the greens and traps unearthed stashes of relics, Native American artifacts, most of which received a cursory examination, then were recovered with sod and seeded with grass. So the next time you tee off at the Macktown Golf Course, remember this story and the secrets still buried, definitely stuff as interesting as any reality TV episode.



Notes of Thanks

Thank you to these local donors who have kindly sponsored some of our fall events:

•**Anonymous** – Archaeology Awareness Day

•**J & G's Coins, Rings & Things**

(419 E. Grand Ave, Beloit, WI)

-and-

•**304 Main LLC**, (Rockford, IL)

for the 2nd October Sunday Cider event.

If you or your business wishes to support Macktown through its educational program series, contact Program Coordinator Connie Gleasman, rmj5288@gmail.com.



Welcome to our Newest Members!

Richard & Kathleen Ruhsam

Appleton WI

Dennis A. Henry

Roscoe IL

Kim Mclver

Freeport IL

Tidbits of History Request

Macktown is looking for the script of this original play written by William Lewis many years ago, "Stephen Mack and Hononegah: Their History" was presented in 2004. The MLH board is interested in obtaining a copy for the archives, and for a possible revision and future performance. If you or someone you know has a copy you would share, please email macktownlivinghistory@gmail.com, or leave a message on the Education Center phone number, 815-624-4200. Thanks for your help.

Help Pave the Way to Restoration

Macktown Living History sponsors an ongoing program of commemorative heritage bricks to help preserve and maintain the National Historic Site in the forest preserve. Opportunities still exist to participate in this lasting cause by purchasing a commemorative brick:

4 x 8" brick	\$100
8 x 8" brick	\$250
12 x 12" brick	\$500

Please print clearly as you wish it to appear on the brick. Use up to 14 characters per line. Spaces and punctuation count as characters. Up to 3 lines per brick. For corporate logos, signatures, or artwork, call 815-624-4200 and leave a message.

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The holidays are not so far off. What do you get for the person who has everything? For someone who is fond of Macktown and the treasures of history it offers, the name of an individual, family, organization, corporation, or memorial on the paved surface surrounding the beautiful Macktown Education Building is a lasting gift. It is a visible testament to future generations that people who cared came together to save and restore the site, and educate the public about the lives and significance of past generations at Pecatonic, the first name of the area we now call Macktown.

Mail your check and info to: Macktown Living History P.O. Box 566 Rockton, IL 61072

Volunteer Spotlight:

Lucy Pilbin Andrignola

How does one become the invaluable volunteer secretary for Macktown? Like so many other interests or passions, it starts with an invitation. Lucy's daughter knew an MLH board member who invited her to a Christmas activity, to which Lucy's daughter encouraged her to go, too! Then greeters and helpers were needed at the national Between the Fences program 17 years ago, and it's been a labor of love and commitment ever since. As a former florist and master gardener, Lucy's natural talents helped develop and expand the historic gardens at Macktown. When Native American interpretation was needed, Lucy stepped up to that, too, including fashioning for herself a gorgeous white deerskin beaded and fringed costume. The previous MLH secretary moved away, and Lucy was asked to fill the gap . . . which she's done ever since. Need a tour? Lucy does that, too. For these and so many other reasons, including her naturally cheerful, helpful nature, WE LOVE LUCY!



Become, Renew, Engage!

Macktown Living History can be a significant part of your life. Where do your talents lie?

- Become involved in your community
- Expand your historical knowledge
- Help provide educational programs
- Work with historians
- Learn to give tours and talks
- Meet and greet the public at events
- Assist with restorations, renovations, and more!

Fill out the form for yourself or your family or business. Or consider gifting a membership to someone you love.

- | | | |
|--|---------|--------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Settler
<i>(individual)</i> | \$20 | 1 year |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Frontier Family
<i>(2 adults & children)</i> | \$40 | 1 year |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pioneer Trader
<i>(Business membership)</i> | \$100 | 1 year |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Heritage Guardian
<i>(Lifetime membership)</i> | \$1,000 | |

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Phone: _____
(cell) *(landline)*

Additional gift to support programming \$ _____

TOTAL: \$ _____
(Make checks payable to Macktown Living History.)

Return this form with your payment to:

Macktown Living History* *501(c)3 nonprofit
P.O. Box 566
Rockton, IL 61072 Ph. 815-624-4200

*Online membership form and electronic payment available at
MacktownLivingHistory.com at SUPPORT

Visit this autumn at our location in the beautiful Macktown
Forest Preserve at 2221 Freeport Rd, Rockton IL.