

The Village Log

Volume 42, Issue 4

July/August 2018



The year is half over and it has been one of ups and downs so far. We have had some great events this year which have brought in many visitors and money for the Village but we can't rest just yet. We are now entering into the Fall Festival season and need to be sure to end with a bang to guarantee we have plenty of money to see us through the Winter.

One thing that we always need to remember is that the Pioneer Village while being a non-profit organization is still a business with physical needs like building maintenance, grounds maintenance, infrastructure (pipes, electrical, etc...) and these things are a year-round job and not just for a few months out of each year. These tasks also take a lot of money to maintain along with all the money we need to maintain the buildings so fund raising should always be a top priority for us and finding new ways to bring money in to the Village.

Over the years there has been a lot of misconception about what exactly we are. Above everything else, we are a non-profit living history museum. We operate as a non-profit business with the goal of educating the public about history through living re-enactment. This involves demonstrations, both hands-on where the public can participate and where they are watching the members of the Village demonstration a Pioneer Era (early 1800's) skill. This portrayal of Pioneer Life is what the public is looking for when they come to our events along with learning a little bit about the History of each of the buildings.

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Our events are our main source of income and this income is what we use to keep the Village surviving for many years to come so generations beyond ours can enjoy the Village. We are truly a rare treasure among a world that has moved to a world where history is just something on a computer screen. We are a true piece of history. We are not a recreation of a Pioneer Village or something used to portray history but instead we are true history. The buildings which we see every time we are at the Village have survived for hundreds of years and this is a rarity that sets us apart from everyone else. Our buildings are not just modern buildings representing old cabins but the actual original old cabins. We always need to remember the treasure that these buildings are and granted they have survived for hundreds of years but they are going to take a lot of care to be able to survive for hundreds more. Many of these buildings, the logs were covered for many of those years and are now exposed so we need to put a lot more effort into their preservation.

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August 11th Meeting

At the August 11th Meeting we will be having a vote on changing the number of members on the Board of Trustees. We have been looking at the number of people who are on the Board and realizing that it is a very disproportional number compared to the number of members in the Village. Because of this fact, we are going to have a vote to change the number of Members of the Board of Trustees for the rest of the year and moving forward. This vote will be by the active members who attend the August 11th meeting.

Upcoming Events:

August 11th – Membership Meeting – 11:00 am (workday following meeting)

August 18th/19th – Keeping History Alive Timeline - 10:00 am to 4:00 pm each day

August 25th – Membership Meeting – 11:00 am (workday following meeting before the event)

August 25th – Cabins & Chrome – 3:30 pm to 9:00 pm

September 8th/9th – Civil War at the Pioneer Village – 10:00 am to 4:00 pm each day

October 14th – Membership Meeting – 11:00 am (workday following meeting)

October 20th/21st – Harvest Festival – 10:00 am to 4:00 pm each day

October 27th – Pioneer Trick or Treat – 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm each day

2019 Calendar

We have already begun putting together the Event Calendar for 2019. If you have an event which you think would be good for the Village and help us to achieve our goals of preservation and educating the community through our Pioneer Events than make sure to get them submitted by/at the August 25th meeting. We will be working on finalizing the schedule at that meeting, so we can have it published in September and start generating interest for 2019. This also allows us to get the schedule to the State Park and get all the procedural paperwork taken care of quicker.

One of our big goals for 2019 is to make sure the public is informed of our events as early as possible. Below you will find the events which we have already put on the schedule for 2019:

Date(s)	Event
March 16/17	Pancake Brunch
April 13	Habitat for History
May 3/4/5	Vintage Base Ball Festival
June 8	Village Unplugged

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Fall Events:

Keeping History Alive Timeline: This event returns once again this year after making its debut last year at the Village. We will have separate areas of the Pioneer Village representing the different eras of war throughout history. The Revolutionary War, War of 1812, World War I, and the Civil War. Each area of the Village will help to educate the public about each of these different wars and the impact they had on the history of the United States.

Cabins & Chrome: Our car show will be back again this year and we are still working out all the details but as usual, all the cabins are expected to be open and we will have the kitchen kicking out some great food (and there are rumors that someone may be cooking pulled pork for the event also). As usual we will have awards for different classes of cars, trucks and motorcycles. Registration of vehicles will begin at 3:30 pm and judging will occur at 8:00 pm with awards being given out at 8:30 pm. Registration for vehicles is \$10 per vehicle.

If you have a car, truck, or motorcycle, bring them out and enter them in the car show. We can also use help handing out flyers. If you attend any car shows or cruise-ins, please take some flyers with you and hand them out everywhere you can. If you need a copy of the flyer, they can be sent either electronically or we can give you flyers which are already printed out. Please talk with either Drew Browne or Allie Jarvis for details.

Civil War at the Pioneer Village: The Village will represent the Civil War for the weekend through demonstrations and speeches from many different re-enactors. There will be skirmishes in the Common Green area of the Village representing actual battles which would have occurred during the Civil War. Re-enactors will be camped around the Village in period authentic tents and will be on hand to educate the public about different aspects of the Civil War and the effects it had on the United States.

Harvest Festival and Fall Gathering: This is an annual event for the Pioneer Village where we represent what life would have been like for Pioneers during their Fall Gathering where all the families of the community would come together and harvest their crops and trade goods in preparation for Winter. If you have a demonstration which you would like to do, it would be greatly appreciated to do it during this event. If you know of any traders who would be interested in coming to the Village during this event, make sure to pass along our contact information to them so we can get them set up to come in as a vendor. In years past this was a big event along with our Spring Gathering for Vendors and Traders and we want to get it back to that point again where we have the Village full of Vendors and Traders. We also need to have as many demonstrations going on as possible. In the past we have had Walnut dyeing of clothes back by the Harkrader Barn and if we would get some of our members out to the Village to carry on traditions like this it would be amazing.

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Infrastructure Updating

Kitchen: Kitchen upgrades have been continuing. The “storm windows” need to still be replaced. We have replaced the mechanism for holding them open during the summer months but with Fall and Winter quickly approaching we need to finish off the windows to make sure they are ready for Winter. The outside of the serving area has also received a coating of resin, so it should be smooth and able to quickly be cleaned now along with being weather resistant and should stand up for many more years.

The Outside Plumbing has received a more permanent fix and no longer is leaking from the joints above ground. It needs a replacement valve in the valve pit for the kitchen though as it continues to leak and needs to be permanently fixed. If anyone is good at plumbing and can replace underground valves, this is one of a few that needs to be replaced this year before winter is upon us once again.

Painting continues on the building and we are hoping to have it completed by the Cabins & Chrome Festival at the end of August.

Rest Rooms: The plumbing in the rest rooms at the front of the Village (Breeze Building) are almost complete. This job should be completed by the end of August, but we do already have new plumbing in the middle of the rest rooms along with a new water heater installed and a better layout to the plumbing in general. The women’s rest room has a few issues that still need to be resolved but the toilets and sinks are mostly operational within both restrooms (there are still a few small fixes to the women’s rest room which should be completed very soon).

When this is all finished, this will complete round one of the fixes which are needed for the rest rooms. The next stage will be doing a complete overhaul of the walls, floors, etc.... in each side to give them a much cleaner and updated appearance. This stage will be carried out in either 2019 or 2020 as funds become available.

Gravel Driveway: The Gravel Driveway around the Lukens Barn has been re-graveled and is once again looking good and not a mud pit that it had become. Brownie donated gravel to fill in the driveway around the Barn and spent a few days spreading it and smoothing it out.

Lukens Barn Floor: The Barn Floor has been 95% cleaned out and the remaining things that need to be taken care of will be cleared out by September hopefully. This will allow the Barn Floor project to begin to move to the next stage of getting all of the materials ordered and on site so we can start digging the holes and assembling the floor.

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Village To Do List:

List of items which need to be done around the Village which have not already been spoken for. These tasks can be done by anyone and are all in need of being done soon with some taking a higher priority.

Outhouse Roof by the Kitchen	Privacy Fence for the Outhouse by the Kitchen
Linseed Oil all Buildings	Repair Head Shed Roof
New Shut Off Valves in the Main Valve Pit	New Shut off Valve in the Kitchen Valve Pit
Head Shed – Replace Front section of Siding (by big door)	Finish Painting Caretaker Garage
New Front Door Left Side of Hawkins	Rebuild Kiln
Fix Crack in the Chimney for Hawkins Cabin Right Side	Back Half of Meeting House Roof replaced
Replace Roof Harkrader Barn	Flashing on Chimney for Bullskin Inn
Water line to Sugar Shack from Caretaker Cabin	Cut Slab wood for Firewood
Split Firewood Logs	Paint/Preserve Sugar Shack Roof
Clean Up behind School – Junk Wood/Hay	Cut up tree by Stage into Firewood lengths
Cut up tree by Sugar Shack into Firewood lengths	Cut up tree by BBQ Shack into Firewood lengths
Deck Boards on Bridge from Kitchen to Bull Skin	Paint Outside of Kitchen Outhouse
Paint Lukens Barn	Repair and Paint Lukens Barn Roof
Paint/Preserve BBQ Shack Roof	Permanent Power run to the Stage
Put in electric to the Harkrader Barn/Scout Camping Area	Fix the outside lights for the Restrooms
Repair Bullskin Porch – Edge of Roof (Drip Edge)	Threshold Door Left Side of Hawkins
Re-nail Bullskin Inn Roof	Re-nail Metal Roof on Hawkins Cabin
Re-nail Metal Roof on Scale Barn	Repair Side of Mollie’s House
New Gate and Post for Mollie’s Pen	

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The Village:

The Pioneer Village is a living history museum. When our visitors set foot on the ground of the Pioneer Village, they are walking into history. It is not each building being its own museum but instead the whole grounds. Our grounds once belonged to Levi Lukens and we have proceeded to make a museum remembering what life was like back in the early Pioneer Days by bringing all these buildings to the Village. We need to remember to treat every building with the utmost respect they deserve and to keep each of them in the top condition to ensure they last for a long time. This takes a lot of work and a lot of dedication from everyone. When you think about how much work it takes to maintain your own house and then remember that we have over 20 buildings which need the same type of care and maintenance. This takes a lot in the way of money and a lot in the way of hours of work.

Going forward, we all need to be coming up with ideas that can help make money for the Village while not taking away from the fact that we are the Pioneer Village. We have bills that we need to pay all year long and right now we struggle with some months where we have very minimal interaction at the Village. Every weekend we have hundreds of visitors streaming through the Village and yet the doors to our cabins remain closed and we appear to not be open. Some of our buildings are falling into disrepair and need extra attention which is falling on only a few members to maintain instead of everyone pitching in. Even if we are not having events every weekend, if we at least at a few buildings open every weekend we could generate interest for the events which we do have. Facebook and our Website go a long way towards promoting us and have had a great return on the investment which we have put into those but nothing beats being able to talk to the public face to face on our "off" weekends.

So far this year we have been making a lot of visual improvements to the Village with making sure the restrooms are operating correctly and should be operating correctly for many years, so we don't have to keep doing patch work fixes every year. Painting of the trim of the buildings to show that we are still improving the look of the cabins, improvements in the kitchen complex so visitors will receive food that they feel is a real value for what they are paying. The barn will have a new floor before the year is out so it will once again return to its former glory of being able to hold barn dances and other functions, and the restrooms will be completed before the year is out, but we still have tasks like the Heighway Cabin which has fallen under disrepair, the Tollhouse Cabin which is still in need of a permanent solution for its problems, the valve pit which needs new valves installed before we hit the cold winter months and we need to turn off all the water to the village so the pipes don't freeze. We have buildings which need new roofs before the harsh winter months come upon us and the spring rains of next year.

For those who find it tough to do the manual labor, we also need funds raised. While we do have money in our accounts, all these repairs listed above need considerable funds to be taken care of. We also need more members of the Village, people who are dedicated to seeing the Pioneer Way of life preserved in our wonderful little Village and who want to dedicate time to seeing it succeed by interacting with the public and by contributing physical hours to the work that needs to be done at the Village.

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Also, we always must remember that we are a non-profit business. We aren't a club or a group or just an association of people come together to hang out. There were many years that the Pioneer Village was treated as a weekend retreat for the members and that has earned us a bad reputation that we are still struggling to recover from. While we can still have a lot of fun while we are at the Village, we also need to remember that it is a living, breathing, business that has bills and physical needs which take a lot of money and a lot of fundraising. We currently have many buildings which are starting to show the years of neglect and we need to make serious efforts to remedy those problems. While our general fundraising (non-event money) has been improving over the years, we still have leaps and bounds to go. We must be sure to keep ourselves as one of the crown jewels of the Caesar Creek State Park since we are associated with them and no matter what we will always be seen as being a part of the State Park although we are a separate entity from them.

One thing that we need to keep in our minds above all else is that we should all be wanting to volunteer our time to seeing the Village succeed. Our first and foremost goal should always be to see the success of the Pioneer Village and the preservation of the Pioneer lifestyle and bringing this piece of history to many future generations to come. That our grandchildren's children will be able to see that we were a part of this and a part of keeping this alive and prosperous for them to enjoy.

What everything boils down to is.....we are a family. We will have our moments where we agree with each other and we will have our moments where we disagree with each other, but we always must remember that we are a family that has come together for a common good. We are all coming together for this one common good of selflessly donating our time and manpower to preserve this piece of history. In this effort we are becoming a part of the history of these buildings ourselves.

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2018 Schedule of Events

Date	Event	Date	Event
01/26	Polar Bear Public Paranormal Investigation 7:00 PM to 2:00 AM	07/16 – 07/20	Pioneer Day Camp 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM Daily
01/27	Polar Bear Public Paranormal Investigation 7:00 PM to 2:00 AM	08/17 & 08/18	Keeping History Alive Timeline 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM
03/17 & 03/18	Maple Syrup & Pancake Brunch 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM	08/25	Cabins & Chrome Car Show 3:30 PM to 9:00 PM
04/07 & 04/08	Civil War Union Training Camp 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM	09/08 & 09/09	Civil War at the Village 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM
04/13 & 04/14	Public Paranormal Investigation 7:00 PM to 2:00 AM	10/20 & 10/21	Harvest Festival & Gathering 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM
04/21	Habitat for History 8:00 AM to 5:00 pm	10/27	Village Trick or Treat 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM
05/05 & 05/06	Vintage Base Ball Festival 9:00 AM to 7:00 PM	11/17	Fireside Chat 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM
05/26 & 05/27	Spring Gathering 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM	12/01	Candlelight Walk 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM
06/09	Village Unplugged Music Festival Noon to 6:00 PM		

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Contact Information

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