



The Journal

Chesterfield Historical Society



VOL. 16 NO. 2

NOVEMBER 2020

In this issue:

Fun Facts.....	pg. 2-3
In Memoriam.....	pg. 4-5
Local Author Barb Pert Templeton.....	pg. 6-7
New Local History Digital Archive.....	pg. 8

Chesterfield Twp. Historical Society

President-

Kathy Vosburg

Vice-President-

Rick DeClaire

Secretary-

Adam Mueller

Treasurer—

Marsha Lathrop

Trustees-

Deborah Bach

Linda Hartman

JoAnn Power

Newsletter Editors-

Alan Naldrett

Adam Mueller

Wait 'Til Next Year.....

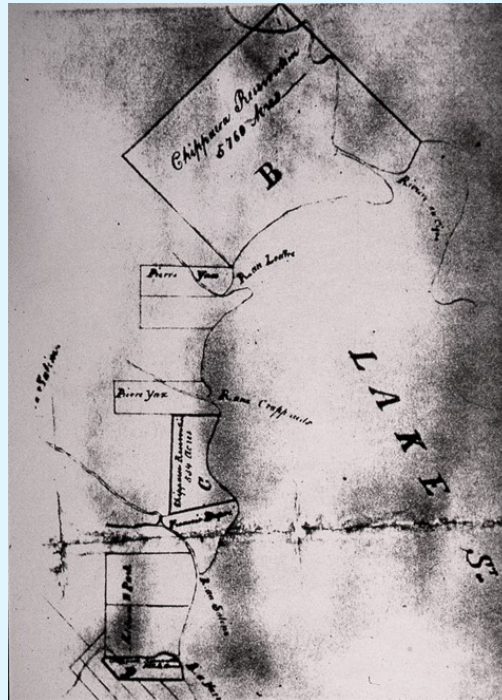


Next year (August 8) is the 25th anniversary of the Weller schoolhouse move to the historic village.

Chesterfield Fun Facts

Did you know that...?

- Chesterfield Township was the site of two Indian/Native American reservations (or "Indian Reserves" as they were called). One was in the vicinity of present-day Brandenburg Park, and the other was in the area of the township offices and the Historical Village.



Map of the Indian Reserves

- Slightly northeast of where Green School is located was once the site of a Native American burial mound. It was excavated in the 1930s by the University of Michigan Anthropology Department but not before the owner, Edward Green, discovered human skulls and displayed them on fence posts around his property. A township meeting persuaded him to remove the skulls.
- Besides the skulls that Edward Green found on his property, the U of M anthropologists, led by Emerson Greenman found over 350 skeletal remains, along with a variety of artifacts including pottery, elbow pipe fragments, and copper beads.
- Chesterfield was once the World Headquarters of Lionel Train Company.
- Chesterfield was named for Lord Chesterfield, an Englishman famous for his books on advice.

- There was once a small village at 22 Mile Road and Gratiot called Chesterfield. The Grand Trunk Railroad had their depot there.



The Grand Trunk Railroad depot in Chesterfield village.

- It's been said that six square acres of Chesterfield Township are underwater since most townships have 36 square miles and Chesterfield has only 28.
- The Chesterfield Town Hall was located at 24 Mile Road and Gratiot, once a town with its own post office named Milton, named for the family with a nearby farm. The hall had once been the Milton Methodist Church and burned down due to an arson fire. This was shortly before it was scheduled to be moved to the Historical Village on Sugarbush Road, by the township offices.



Chesterfield Town Hall/Milton Methodist Church

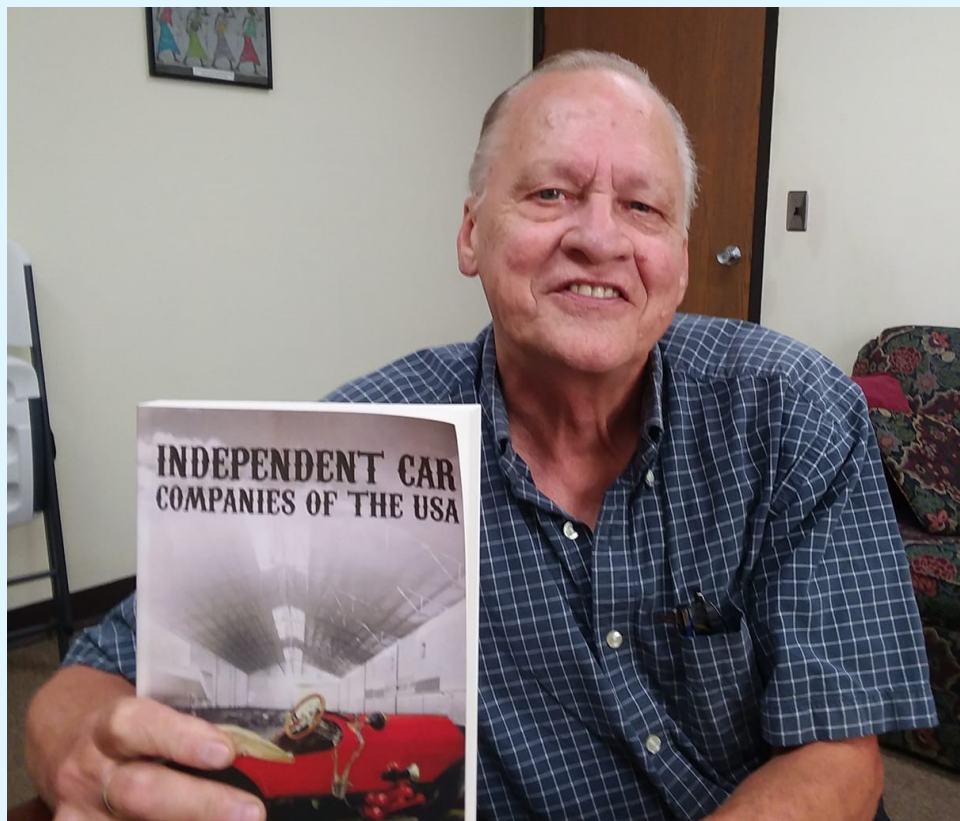
—Alan Naldrett

In Memoriam

Alan Dean Naldrett passed away on September 2, 2020. He was born April 12, 1953 in Mount Clemens, Michigan and grew up in Anchorville and New Baltimore. Naldrett received a bachelor's degree from Michigan State University then moved to California where he worked as an insurance agent and stock broker. He moved back to Michigan and after turning fifty acquired Master's Degree in Library and Information Science in 2003 and a Certificate in Archival Science in 2009 from Wayne State University. He was first a medical librarian and then an academic librarian for a private Michigan college for more than ten years.

Alan Naldrett served on the Chesterfield Township Library Board from 2001 – 2020. He was currently Vice-President and served as President of the Library Board 2004 – 2005. Alan also was currently serving on the Suburban Library Cooperative Board of Trustees. He was a life member of the Chesterfield Historical Society and New Baltimore Historical Society and the Wills Sainte Claire Museum. Alan was a prolific author of local history, publishing at least nineteen books: *Images of America: Chesterfield Township* (2011), *Images of America: New Baltimore* (co-authored 2013), *Images of America: Fraser* (co-authored 2013), *Forgotten Tales of Michigan's Lower Peninsula* (2014), *Lost Towns of Eastern Michigan* (2015), *Lost Car Companies of Detroit* (2016), *Detroit Becomes the Motor City* (2017), *Michigan's Forgotten Celebrities* (2017), *Michigan's C. Harold Wills: The Genius Behind the Model T and the Wills Sainte Claire Automobile* (2017), *Michigan's Great Small Towns* (2018), *Tales of the Lieutenants: the Lt. Governors of Michigan* (ebook 2018), *Putting the Vice in Vice-President* (2018), *Capitalists, Clowns, and Crooks, Choir-boys and Clerks: the Mayors of Detroit* (2019), *Michigan's Great Thumb Fires of 1871 and 1881* (2019), *Michigan's Hidden Hamlets and Vanished Villages* (2019), *The Triumphs and Tragedies of the Orphan Auto Companies* (2019), *Guide to the Governor's and Lieutenant Governors of Michigan* (2019), *The Poorhouses and Poor Farms of Michigan* (2019), *Independent Car Companies of the USA* (2020). His local history articles have appeared in *The Bay Voice*, *Thumbprint News*, and *Michigan History* magazine. Alan was also a member of the F Street Blues, a Michigan blues band.

—Adam Mueller



Local Author Captures Tales from Across the County

So many stories but only so much space.

It's the first lesson I learned as the author of the book, *Historic Tales of Macomb County*.

Writing about Chesterfield Township was no exception but after some trimming and digging, I settled on four worthy trailblazers. Dean Naldrett, Bernie and Ceola Trinity and George Furton offered plenty of great tales, the latter two subjects helped along by Chesterfield Township Librarian Adam Mueller.

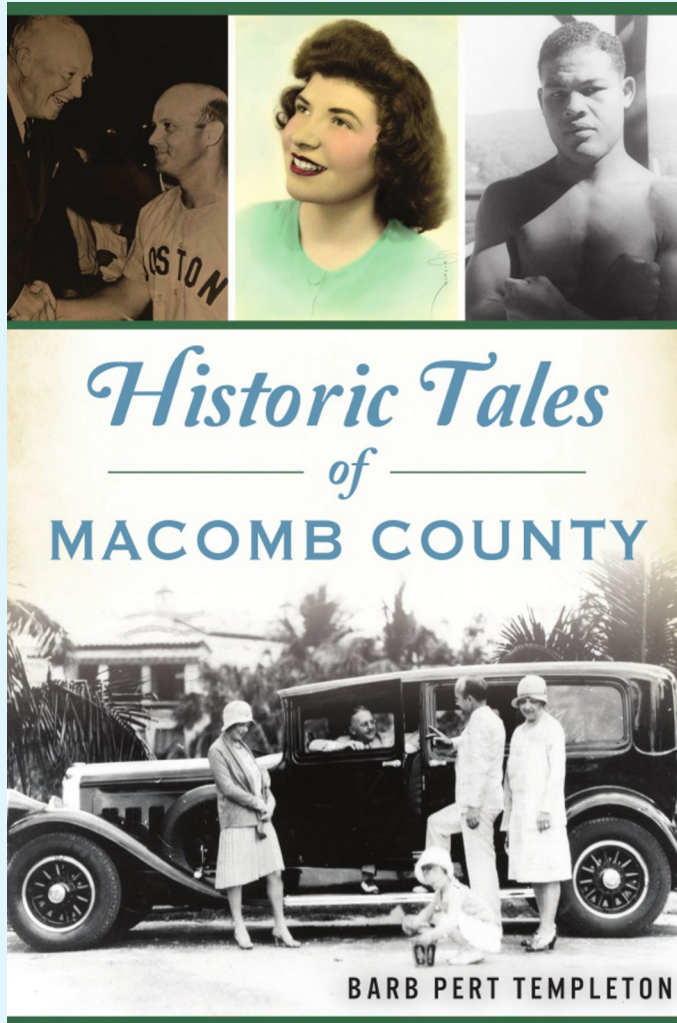
In fact, this foursome proved so accomplished the Chesterfield Township chapter is one of the longest in the book at 14 pages.

On a personal note, the chapter was also made possible by the assistance of accomplished local author Alan Naldrett. I was pleased to include a section about his late father, legendary Anchor Bay Educator Dean Naldrett, in my first book and looked forward to sharing a copy with Alan. Sadly, that wasn't to be as he suddenly passed away just two months prior to the book's publication. A shocking turn of events but his sister, Chesterfield Township resident Phyllis Maddix, will accept a copy on his behalf.

Beyond Chesterfield Township my book includes 14 chapters representing other municipalities such as Macomb Township, Utica, Clinton Township and St. Clair Shores. Each chapter is broken into sections sharing the stories of individuals, families and in one case, a group in Richmond who banded together to build a community swimming pool after two boys drowned in the local gravel pit in the late 60's.

While it was often challenging to find quality old photos but fun to write, all in all I hope the book is simply a 142-page tribute to some of the colorful characters that have shaped Macomb County.

—Barb Pert Templeton



An excerpt from the Chesterfield Township Chapter - George Furton section:

The man of many "hats"

The average size of new born baby is between five and eight pounds so when George Clement Furton bounced into the world in October 1923 weighting over 11 pounds perhaps it was a sign of the big life he would lead.

He was born at the home of his grandparents off Main Street in New Baltimore, the first child of Joseph and Odessa (Rivard) Furton. He grew up on a farm off Sugarbush Road in Chesterfield Township where his father raised chickens and hogs, while maintaining a large vegetable garden surrounded by apple and cherry trees on the property. The families small but sturdy old house included Furton, his parents and two younger brothers but lacked indoor plumbing so an outhouse was the answer.

New Local History Digital Archive Database



Explore Chesterfield Township's fascinating history using the new local history digital collection archive database. Over five hundred photographs and documents pertaining to Chesterfield Township have been added to the collection by librarians Adam Mueller and Amber Johnson with more to come.

The local history digital collection can be accessed on the Chesterfield Township Library website, chelibrary.org, under "databases." Or you can click on this link: <http://sbrb-montage.auto-graphics.com/> Users can search by subject (for example: businesses), the type of item (photograph or document), or research with a keyword or phrase to find a word in the text of any pdf document or photograph description.

The local history digital collection is provided by the Suburban Library Cooperative and shared by libraries, historical societies and other organizations throughout the area. Users can access local history pertaining to New Haven, Richmond, Roseville, Mount Clemens and many other nearby communities.

There are over one hundred photographs and documents about the Chesterfield Historical Society in the database. Every issue of the Chesterfield Historical Society newsletter is preserved and now searchable by keyword. Search your name to see if you are mentioned in a newsletter. Discover old brochures detailing the society's projects and newspaper articles pertaining to the development of the historic village. See photographs of the Weller school move, Kolping Chapel move and log cabin move.

—Adam Mueller

Contact us

Phone: 586-949-0400 ext. 6499

Email: chesterfieldhistory@yahoo.com

Website: www.hsmichigan.org/chesterfieldhs

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Chesterfield-Historical-Society-of-Michigan-117264017216/>