

HISTORIC CHESTERFIELD

SPRING NEWSLETTER

April 2011

2011 MEMORIAL DAY CELEBRATION

Monday May 30th ~ 8:00 am – 4:00 pm

Grab the kids, hitch up your team, and follow the Portneuf upriver for a trip back in time to Historic Chesterfield! The day begins with our first annual 5K Fun Run/Walk “Running Back in Time”. A full day of activities has been planned for the entire family, including an old-fashioned auction. Free rides on horse-drawn wagons will take you on a tour of all the restored buildings or enjoy shopping in the little log store.

Monday Schedule of Events

8:00 am – 9:30am	5K Run/Walk
10:00 am	Opening Ceremony ~ Flag Raising
10:30 am	Log Store opens
10:30 am	Bakery opens
11:00 am - 4:00 pm	All Buildings open to tour
11:00 am - 3:00 pm	Lunch available
11:00 am - 3:00 pm	Activities and Wagon Tours
1:00 pm	Auction – South of the Food Tent

Something for everyone to eat

Available at the main food tent

Meal Special for \$5.00 includes:

Hamburger, salad, chips & water

Also available: Scones / Corn Dogs / Pop
Homemade bakery goods in the Amusement Hall

Old time candy and treats at the Log Store

Drinks available at all food locations

Activities: Butter making, rope making, prairie diamond rings, hankie dolls, Sawdust Band, Indian artifacts, display of vintage sewing machines and much more.

Log Store Full of fun period type homemade wooden toys, candies, dolls, drinks, pioneer hats & aprons. How about a squirrel shoot? There will be a book signing featuring authors who have written about the Chesterfield area and the Intermountain West.

Horse Drawn Wagon Tours will take you around the Townsite giving you an overview of the history of Chesterfield passing by most buildings, including the old farm implement yard and the newly restored Meetinghouse. Each historic location will have a host to welcome you, tell you about the building, and answer questions.

FREE DANCE ON SATURDAY NIGHT ~ MAY 28th

Fun for all ages ~ Live Band ~ Don't miss it!!

8:00 p.m. in the Amusement Hall (donations accepted)

For more information email us at:

info@chesterfieldfoundation.org or call (208) 648-7177

Chesterfield Meetinghouse Restored To Its Original Glory



The “must see” this Memorial Day is the interior restoration of the 1892 Chesterfield Chapel. Due to the efforts of the Chesterfield Foundation Board and most notably, Board member Val Roberts, the Chesterfield Foundation was able to purchase title to the Meetinghouse in 2009. Stipulated in the transaction with the LDS church was the caveat that the building should be shown as it would have originally been used. Therefore, the museum artifacts and DUP collection were moved into the Brick Store, which also recently restored and reopened, now serves as the Townsite’s Museum.

Concurrently with the permanent acquisition of the Meetinghouse, the Chesterfield Foundation received a grant through the National Park Service Saving America’s Treasures Fund. Money from the SAT grant, matching funds from the Chesterfield Foundation, an LDS Foundation grant, generous donations from the DUP and the Loren Smith Family and support from Myers-Anderson Architects and Bybee Construction have all made this project possible.

Work began with the unenviable job of bat eradication. To protect the squeamish, I won’t go into detail, but you can rest assured the Meetinghouse is now bat free.

In September 2010, Rigby Construction of Pocatello began work on the roof. Brave and daring men tackled the steep pitch of the roof which has shed the snow of many Chesterfield winters. The asphalt shingles were removed and original style cedar shingles now take their place. You may notice the ridge in the shingles running the length of the roof on either side of the Meetinghouse. This ¼ inch vent was a requirement of the SAT grant and will help extend the life of the wood shingled roof.

Myers-Anderson Architects and specifically Jerry Myers provided us with excellent, detailed plans and blueprints for the reconstruction work. Jerry is one of the few architects in the state of Idaho who is qualified to provide plans for a project such as this which must be done in accordance with the Secretary of Interior’s Guidelines for Historic Preservation. Interior restoration began in earnest in October of 2010. The dedicated crew from Bybee Construction actually moved into the Meetinghouse. The spirit of Chesterfield must have overcome them, as they have certainly done the restoration work with loving care, attention to detail and craftsmanship seldom seen in today’s building and finish work.



Upon entering the Chapel, the first thing to draw your attention is the exquisite pulpit front and center to the entry way. This pulpit was painstakingly restored to its original bold colors of cream and burgundy. One can just imagine the powerful words and heartfelt testimonies which have been spoken from this dais.

The sacrament table shows pitchers from the time period, as well as bread and water trays. These items were found stored in the area beneath the sacrament table. The silver pitchers on the ends are beautifully engraved, “RP to Lund Ward 1911”. The center pitcher may have been original to this chapel.

The silver and glass sacrament cups were also part of the inventory of the Chesterfield Ward. Many worthy young men knelt over the years on the padded rail which sits in front of the sacrament table.

The color scheme throughout the building is bold and crisp. It was not, however, the fancy of those involved in the restoration. Early in the work Emily Utt from the LDS Church Historical Library in Salt Lake City paid a visit to Chesterfield. She brought with her the records and inventories of the Chesterfield Chapel since its original design, building and dedication in the late 1800’s. All of the furnishings which have ever graced this building as well as the original colors painted on the walls were specifically documented in Church records. This tasteful décor shows the chapel as it originally was, certainly an orderly and welcoming house of the Lord.

The organ and piano in the chapel were the first ones used in this building. The lovely piano in the back room was the second piano of the congregation. Pews and woodwork show the craftsmanship and care taken in their construction. It is reported that the woodwork was all carved by hand with hammer and chisel by Judson Tolman, a master woodworker and a bishop of Chesterfield. The chapel has seating for approximately 100 people and would have been a warm and cozy place for families to gather on the Sabbath with a fire burning in the pot bellied stove centered in the room.

The light above the pulpit is original as is almost all of the brass hardware on the windows and doors. One piece of hardware on the windows is a mystery to us. If you know what this is and what it was used for, please share the information!



According to Ms. Utt the room behind the chapel was never used exclusively as a Bishop's office, although he may have conducted business and interviews there. It is commonly referred to as simply the 'backroom' and probably served many purposes. The beautiful doorknob and lock assembly on the backdoor are original. Notice the swinging keyhole cover which helped keep a draft or flies from sneaking in!

Up the steep, old, well trodden stairway is the alter room. When Ms. Utt first used that term to describe the upstairs room that many of us had assumed was a classroom, we were skeptical. Modern day LDS Meetinghouses have no such room. But, that was what the records of the Chesterfield Meetinghouse said and sure enough when the old woven rag carpeting and subsequent layer of early twentieth century linoleum were removed, a clear outline appeared on the floor. All of the floors in the building are made from rough cut lumber. But, over time those boards have been polished smooth by the many feet which walked this building. In the upstairs room, near the east wall is a clearly visible 3 foot by 3 foot square of rough sawn wood which was never trodden upon. The linoleum was most probably laid when the alter was removed, thus protecting the wood beneath. Just to the west, in front of the outline of the alter is a six foot long, narrow mark which may indicate a prayer or kneeling rail was located in front of the alter. We are told an old church house exists between Brigham City and Tremonton, Utah which still has an intact alter room. Further research is being done so that we may finish the restoration of the upstairs alter room as it would have been when the Meetinghouse new.

The Chesterfield Meetinghouse is a truly special and remarkable building. We hope you will enjoy visiting it this Memorial Day or whenever you can after then and share the spirit of Chesterfield. The restoration of this building has touched the lives of those of us who have worked on it and will continue to bring a meaningful sense of the faith of the hardy pioneer families of Chesterfield to countless future visitors.

The Holbrook Mercantile and Museum – Summer 2010

By Jolene Hatch - DUP member and Museum Docent

Visitors came from far and near, all looking for a new experience in an old townsite last summer. They seemed to enjoy their visit to the spacious old brick store and comments were very positive concerning its use as the new home for the Chesterfield and DUP museum collection. They were surprised and amazed at all of the artifacts, pictures and histories to be found in one building.

As the people looked around and discovered familiar names, the expression on their faces would just burst with disbelief. Actually seeing the proof of their connections to Chesterfield brought them great joy. Tears came easily, their lives were changed and they truly understood why they had been prompted to come here. Some people have returned and brought friends or family with them to see what is available for them to explore in Historic Chesterfield.

We, the DUP ladies, want to thank the Chesterfield Foundation for giving us the privilege of placing our artifacts in this historic building. Everyone is welcome to come out this summer and share your time, your information and history with us. We look forward to seeing and visiting with you! If you do not see an artifact in the new museum that you remember from the Meetinghouse, please ask us and we will guide you to the home or building around the Townsite in which it is now housed. Some of the pieces were so pertinent to a particular family we felt they were best displayed in the house with which they were associated.

The DUP is required by the Bylaws of the International DUP in Salt Lake City to keep a record of all donated artifacts. They cannot be returned to family members and are to stay in Chesterfield on the Historic Townsite. We appreciate your understanding of this requirement. Housing family history items here means all members of the extended family have the opportunity to see them and better understand the pioneer history of their ancestors.

Many volunteers have joined us at Chesterfield in the role of tour guides, docents or hostesses at the museum. We appreciate every one of you for sharing your enthusiasm, time and talents. It means a great deal to us and is vital to providing a meaningful visitor experience in Historic Chesterfield.

We look forward to another great summer. Please come see us!

UPDATES AND HAPPENINGS

As we prepare to open the Chesterfield Historical Site for another summer, we hope it will provide many new memories and experiences for those who visit this unique place. We would like to thank the many volunteers who have helped with several hours of their time, have donated funds and have fostered the overall restoration work at Chesterfield.

Livery Stable

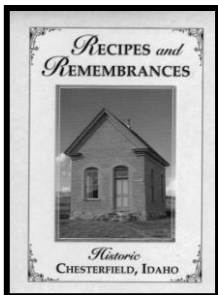
Another building benefiting from funding provided through the Saving America's Treasures grant is the old barn next to the Holbrook Brick Store. A new wood shingle roof was recently completed. Further restoration of this building will be ongoing throughout the summer of 2011.

Chester Call Cabin

The original house of Chester Call, founder of the Chesterfield Townsite, has now been acquired by the Chesterfield Foundation. We are excited to have this wonderful building in which to tell the story of Chester and Mary Call and the settling of the upper Portneuf Valley and Chesterfield by the original Mormon pioneers. Loren Smith has spearheaded this project and has supervised an able crew who disassembled the building at its location just east of the Townsite and has now put all the pieces back together into an impressive structure. The Chester Call house is located on the northwest corner of the block just kitty corner to and southeast of the Meetinghouse. The Call family has been very much involved in this process and the Chesterfield Foundation is grateful to them for their generous financial support. Work will continue during the summer of 2011. Take a look as you drive by this Memorial Day and plan to tour the house in 2012.

CHESTERFIELD TOWNSITE BOOKS

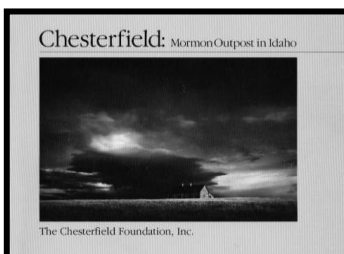
All proceeds from book sales go to the Chesterfield Foundation for operations & restorations



Historic Chesterfield Cookbook

For the cook who savors unusual and interesting recipes, from the old and the new, ethnic or Dutch oven, or pioneer household remedies, the Chesterfield Foundation's cookbook Recipes and Remembrances is a real find. Just turning the pages makes for a pleasant read through Idaho history. Cookbooks may be ordered by mailing a check for \$25 (\$20 for the cookbook and \$5 for postage and handling) to Pearl Mickelsen, 2002 Lund Road, Bancroft, ID 83217. (208) 648-7329

CHESTERFIELD: Mormon Outpost in Idaho



This book tells the story of an 1880 - 1920 Mormon ghost town located on the Oregon Trail in Southeast Idaho through photographs and histories of the old buildings and the pioneer families who lived there. Chesterfield never became more than a village struggling on the edge of survival. It is the story of the rural, agricultural life of a community whose deep faith helped them endure the hardships of the frontier. Restoration of the Historic Townsite began in the 1980's and is an on-going project by the Chesterfield Foundation.

CHESTERFIELD: Mormon Outpost in Idaho may be ordered by mailing a check for \$30 (\$25 for the book and \$5 for postage and handling) to Chesterfield Foundation, Inc., P.O. Box 2, Bancroft, ID 83217.

For questions call us at (208) 648-7177

info@chesterfieldfoundation.org

2011 CONCERT SERIES AT THE AMUSEMENT HALL

This summer the Chesterfield Foundation will again be hosting several free concerts for your entertainment. The concerts will be held in the restored Amusement Hall at the Historic Townsite. These concerts are open to the public and will begin promptly at 7:00 p.m. Along with the concerts, the restored buildings and homes in the Townsite will be open from 10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. for tours. This is a great time to bring the family, enjoy a tour, have a picnic, shop at the vintage log store and enjoy free entertainment followed by free refreshments! We have some great entertainment scheduled this year and hope that you will circle these dates on your calendar and plan to join us. There is no cost to attend the concerts. Memberships to the Chesterfield Foundation are available and donations for the operation/maintenance & restoration projects are always welcome.

SATURDAY JUNE 18th

7:00 PM

LAYCE WHITWORTH



Layce Whitworth was born in Pocatello, Idaho and has lived there all his life. He grew up around rodeo and ranching. Layce has been recording in Nashville for several years and has a new album called "The Hill Behind the House". "I love to connect with my audiences and have them relate to me and the music that I sing, when the magic happens between me and the audience there is a special bond between us. There is nothing like the thrill of recording a new song that you are excited about and when it all comes together and you get that sound you just love, it is really a great rush."

SATURDAY JULY 9th

7:00 PM

PORTNEUF GAP



"A chance meeting and a shared passion for entertaining, playing and singing brought us together. We are the 'Portneuf Gap' band and make our home in Southeast Idaho. Our music is played from the heart and we hope that by sharing it with others, they too will discover the charm and beauty of this original American music known as 'Bluegrass'." The band consists of Jim (Jake) Jacobson, Randy Hackworth, Max Gregory, and Kevin Smith. Randy hails from Eastern Kentucky where his bluegrass roots run deep. Randy's sweet Kentucky drawl and skilled guitar picking make him the perfect choice to sing lead. Jake is a multi-talented musician playing banjo and mandolin. He adds still another dimension of sound as lead vocalist. Max plays the bass. He can not only sing lead, but he can sing any harmony part that is needed to get that bluegrass sound. Kevin is a guitar player who recently took up the fiddle to help round out the band. Kevin's first love is bluegrass. He sings lead and baritone.

SATURDAY AUGUST 20th

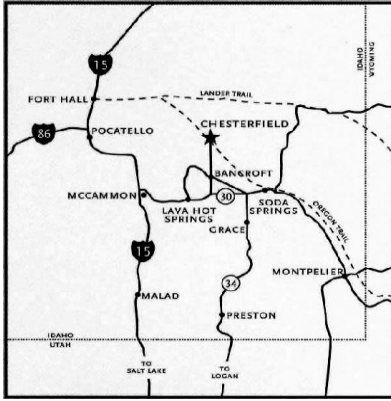
7:00 PM

VINCE & MINDI



Chesterfield is one of Vince & Mindi's favorite spots to perform. They have performed here on three previous occasions. Vince plays the fiddle, mandolin and guitar. Mindi plays the guitar and sings the lead. She has a real quick wit. They have been featured in two Outdoor Idaho television specials and performed at the 2008 Cowboy Poetry gathering in Elko, Nevada. They also frequently appear in Jackson Hole, Wyoming.

For information contact: Pearl Mickelsen (208) 648-7329 lamontemickelsen@gmail.com



Directions to the Chesterfield Townsite

Chesterfield is 20 miles northeast of Lava Hot Springs. Travel to Bancroft and then drive 11 miles north. Follow the Historic Markers.

The Chesterfield Townsite will be open
 Memorial Day, May 30, - Labor Day, September 5, 2011
 Monday - Saturday 10am - 6pm

For more information see our website www.chesterfieldfoundation.org
 To schedule tours & visits: 208-648-7177 / info@chesterfieldfoundation.org

MEMBERSHIP AND DONATIONS

All of the restoration and maintenance work done on the Chesterfield Townsite is funded through donations. Your membership and donations are greatly appreciated and make it possible for Chesterfield to look forward to sharing our pioneer heritage with generations to come and to stand as a monument of the spirit of the west through the next 100 years! With your donation, you will know the contented feeling of bringing history to life and being a part of restoring and operating this historic ghost town.

Below is a tear-off form. Please return it with your membership check and contribute to other specific projects as you are able.

Thank you! You are an important part of the Chesterfield family!

----- Cut Line -----

Thank you for supporting the Chesterfield Foundation
 Your generosity is greatly appreciated and helps fund vital restoration projects
 (All donations are tax deductible)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

2011 Membership: \$ _____
 (\$20.00)

Restoration Fund: \$ _____
 (If you desire, specify a building)

Maintenance Fund: \$ _____

Endowment Fund: \$ _____

Total enclosed: \$ _____