Welcome to the first issue of *The Boonesfield Village Intelligencer*. This will be a quarterly publication that we believe will provide our volunteers and supporters with news, information, and updates concerning the Site. The Boone Home and Boonesfield Village are undergoing changes that will take the Site and programs to the next level.

The masthead carries a title that might bear an explanation. *Intelligencer* was a name used for several newspapers during the late 18th and early 19th centuries. This title was commonly used like our more modern *Tribune, Dispatch, Times, Gazette*, or *Daily*. In fact, George Sibley (who with his wife Mary Easton Sibley founded Lindenwood University) subscribed to the *National Intelligencer*, possibly the premier newspaper of that time. Therefore, it was felt that *Intelligencer* would be an appropriate title for this quarterly periodical.

This newsletter will make every effort to meet the standard of quality established by its namesake. Articles, suggestions, comments, and questions are welcome. Please contact GManus@lindenwood.edu or call 636.798.2005.

With the new Volunteer Training Program and the expansion of the academic courses being offered at the Boone Campus, there will be increased opportunities to receive hands-on training and/or University credit hours in many of the period skills and trades. Currently underway is a *Gunsmithing* course where students are crafting their own period correct firearms. Future courses being proposed are *Blacksmithing, Silversmithing*, and *Period Pottery*. Volunteers will be eligible to attend basic training sessions in several of the skills and lifeways that were common during the Boone period.

These training sessions will be offered according to interest and program needs. The intention is to match training with specific areas of interest among the volunteers corps. At the same time, volunteers with special skills will be able to share them with their peers. Eventually, an apprenticeship style program will be in place where Lindenwood students and younger volunteers can spend time with those who are accomplished in their “trade” learning by doing. Please share this information with anyone you might know that would be interested.
Currently the faculty and staff are working on the **General Management Plan** which will formalize the daily operations and all aspects of the site’s programs and development goals. This will be a major document when finished and will include the following sub-plans: **Interpretation Plan, Operations Plan, Natural Resource Management Plan, Cultural Resource Management Plan, Academic and Curriculum Plan, Marketing Plan, Exhibits Plan, and Collections Plan.** All of this planning will facilitate the Boone Campus’s efforts to meet and exceed the mandates and expectations of Lindenwood University, our supporters, our public and the highest levels of professionalism.

The mission of the Boone Home and Boonesfield Village is to preserve and protect the historic structures, collection, and natural resources that comprise the facility; to interpret the early American *Frontier Experience* in Missouri as exemplified by the Boone family and their contemporaries; and provide a center for fully integrated learning on all education levels from elementary through the University level.

This mission statement will be the cornerstone that guides the development of the interpretation, all of the special events, and all educational programs. A highly defined mission statement provides the focus necessary to properly develop a facility and attain the highest standards of professionalism in management and programming.

The programming possibilities at the Boone Home and Boonesfield Village are amazing. Volunteers are going to be indispensable to the accomplishment of the plans and goals being set. A formal and highly focused volunteer program is being designed with ongoing training, a manual for every volunteer, well defined responsibilities and benefits, and monthly meetings. The goal is to give the volunteers the tools and training they need to maximize their experience and personal satisfaction from the time they so generously donate.

I guess at this point I should introduce myself. My name is Grady Manus and I am the Chief of Interpretation at the Boone Campus. I have been involved in first person and living history interpretation for nearly thirty years and am a member of the National Association for Interpretation, and the Association of Missouri Interpreters. I am also a Certified Interpretive Trainer and am working on certification as an Interpretive Planner.

My professional career began at Fort Osage Historic Site, Jackson County, Missouri. While there, I portrayed George Sibley. After leaving government service at Fort Osage Mr. Sibley, with his wife Mary Easton Sibley, established Lindenwood University. I also spent five years at the Nathan Boone Homestead State Historic Site in Ash Grove, Missouri. It is good to be back home with Mr. Sibley and Nathan Boone.

Grady Manus, Chief of Interpretation
Mark Your Calendars!

March 29 & 30
OREGON TRAIL DAYS
This is an interactive event that depicts the great migration. Visit with families that are headed to The Promised Land called Oregon. Find out what it took to leave your home to cross a great “wilderness” for the promise of a new and better life.

April 5 & 6
CIVIL WAR: RAID ON BOONESFIELD VILLAGE
The war struck small towns across the state and citizens were caught in the middle. This event depicts the drama of this conflict of “brother against brother.”

April 26 & 27
1861 A COMMUNITY PREPARES FOR WAR
The year is 1861 and shots have been fired on Fort Sumter. The nation is now at war. America’s army was small and the call went out to all communities for volunteers to take up arms. In Missouri, the question of supporting the Union or the newly formed Confederacy was not as easily answered as in other areas of the country. This conflict from the first shot spilled over into the lives of everyone. Citizens of this quiet community are being called on to leave their families and march into the service. Visitors will have the chance to speak with men and women making difficult decisions and fearing the worst.

May 3
FIBER ARTS & SPRING PLANTING FESTIVAL
It’s Spring and as the season is welcomed in, cabins get cleaned, gardens are planted, and Boonesfield residents “turn out” after the cold winter hibernation. The event will focus on the various fiber arts and “Spring” activities.

June 14
LOUISIANA PURCHASE DAY
The transfer of Louisiana from France to the young United States was celebrated, debated, and fought over. It also ultimately established the reality of a nation that reached “from sea to shining sea.”
LINDENWOOD UNIVERSITY

July 4
INDEPENDENCE DAY
CELEBRATION

During the times of the Boone family here on the Femme Osage, Independence Day was the American holiday. Roll up all of our holidays into one big day … and you might have the same excitement as a good old-fashioned Fourth of July!

September 20 & 21
PIioneer DAYS

A pre-1840s Folkways Festival and Encampment. Artisans, music, historic encampment, and good food make this a glorious day in the beautiful Femme Osage Valley. Step into the past to experience life on the early Missouri frontier and learn about the Boone legacy.

October 25
HALLOWEEN:
GHOST FROM THE PAST

Halloween has always been a favorite for children of all ages. Storytellers populate Boonesfield Village and share tales of ghosts, ghouls, goblins, and all of those unexplained things that go bump in the night. This event is designed as a kids friendly program but does offer true stories of experiences that are hard to explain.

December 5 & 6 and 12 & 13
ANNUAL CANDLELIGHT TOUR

Usher in the holiday season with a visit to the Boone Home & Boonesfield Village. Each building is decorated in 19th century fashion and is illuminated with thousands of candles bonfires and starlight. Period music will echo through the valley offering a simpler, more delightful holiday experience.

Preparations are being made for the 2009 Calendar of Events. Initial planning has begun on an 1812 Militia Muster. A Children’s Day is also being considered that will focus on early American games and toys. Any suggestions for events or activities are most welcome. If you are interested in volunteering at any of these events please call: 636.798.2005.
Interpretation

Interpretation is as old as mankind. The profession began formalization in the United States with Enos Mills and his work in the Rocky Mountains. Mills was a naturalist of the highest order and proposed the need for trained “guides” that could help visitors connect at deeper levels to the natural wonders they encountered. These connections would be the result of presenting the stories behind the wonders. The goal would be to lead visitors to discover the full wonder of what they encountered. This was the beginning.

In the 1950’s the National Park Service hired a writer to tour the parks and evaluate the programs and suggest how they might be improved. As a result, Freeman Tilden produced the writings that professionalized interpretation. Tilden established the principles that define interpretation. He presents six principles that must be followed for interpretation to be effective. He also provides a very succinct definition, “Interpretation is the revelation of a larger truth that lies behind any statement of fact.”

The National Association for Interpretation (an international organization that promote the profession) developed the definition as, “A communication process that forgives emotional and intellectual connections between the interests of the audience and the inherent meanings in the resource.” Due in a large part to urbanization and the attending isolation that has developed since World War I, people are separated from their natural surroundings and the material culture of their past. An interpreter helps people bridge the gap between themselves and these unfamiliar components of their world, helping to provide a sense of place and identity.

Tilden’s fourth principle states, “The chief aim of interpretation is not instruction but provocation.” Provocative thinking is a process that leads deeper and deeper giving rise to a broadening of perspective. The process leads to a realization of interconnectedness. Seemingly random or unconnected pieces are brought together in a whole. It is much like fractilization. If you ever have a chance to watch frost forming on a window … what an amazing and beautiful process. Good interpretation creates the same sort of outward spread … an intellectual condensation.

Making people think, ponder, examine, and question. The National Park Service has adopted the following mantra, “Through interpretation, understanding; through understanding, appreciation; through appreciation, protection.” Jacques Cousteau simply states, “In the final analysis, people only protect what they love.” Interpretation is the most powerful tool available for the preservation, conservation, and protection of our cultural and natural resources.

Interpretation provokes. It causes self-examination. The desired result is stewardship of our resources. But there is a certain aspect of interpretation that is often overlooked. The only route to true social healing is through open, honest, and direct dialog. The interpretation of cultural resources fosters this type of open dialog. Interpreters are subject to the same type of oath administered in court, “to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.” This is not redundant. The truth is the statement of simple fact. The whole truth mandates that all perspectives are presented. Nothing but the truth means unvarnished, unembellished, and unadorned. When a people can approach issues openly and truthfully the necessary result should be understanding, reconciliation, and healing. Interpretation is of the utmost importance to our future … for it is the way in which we preserve our past. Our past defines who we are and who we will become.
Call For Volunteers!

We are asking for updated information for the Boonesfield Village Volunteer database. This information will be used to notify everyone about training, events, and for newsletter distribution. Share this request with anyone you know that would be interested in the Volunteer Program. Please take time to send us the following either by return mail or by email.

GManus@lindenwood.edu

NAME: ________________________________
ADDRESS: ___________________________________________________________
CITY: _______________ STATE: ______ ZIP: _____________
PHONE: (day)_________________________ (evening)______________________
EMAIL: _____________________________________________________________
AVAILABILITY:(days of week and time of day available)____________________

SKILLS AND SPECIAL INTERESTS: ____________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________