

KALAMAZOO LIVING HISTORY SHOW™
MEDIA RELEASE

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2/28/13

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The Kalamazoo Living History Show™ Announces a Program on the History of American Colonial Footwear Presented by American Colonial Footwear Expert Mr. Brett Walker

Frontier Footwear: Form, Function, or Fashion?

Mr. Brett Walker will be presenting a fascinating program on the history of American Colonial footwear on Saturday, March 16th, scheduled for 11:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. at the Kalamazoo Living History Show™ at the Kalamazoo County Expo Center, 2900 Lake Street, Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Since 2001, Brett Walker has been researching & reproducing historical footwear, ca. 1680-1780. He has had the wonderful opportunity to apprentice first under Cliff Pequet, and more recently under D.A. Saguto, arguably the foremost shoemaker-historian on the subject of American colonial footwear. His experience in the re-enactment community includes working for a number of prominent Living History museums in America.

As an avid historian of his art, Mr. Walker is involved in ongoing research to uncover the “art & mysterie” of The Gentle Craft, and he is frequently called upon to speak on the subject of 18th-Century footwear. Recently, he was awarded a special research grant and other research funding to do extensive studies of French and British footwear, ca. 1730-1780, including historic sites from New England, to Michilimackinac and Detroit, to Québec City, and extending even as far as Fort Anne National Historic Site and the Fortress of Louisbourg in Nova Scotia. [The preliminary results of this research were given in 2011 to the annual meeting of the Honourable Company of Cordwainers.]

His work is not merely theoretical or academic, though. As a formally-trained shoemaker, Mr. Walker’s handiwork appears in major living history museums, and has been featured in a major movie production. In 2008, he was named as one of *Early American Life* magazine’s top 100 craftsmen in the United States. Both as a practical artisan and as a historian, Mr. Walker’s passion is to see living history devotees everywhere possess an ever-increasing knowledge of the footwear of our forbearers.

Mr. Walker speaks at 11:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. on March 16. Admission to the program is free with paid gate admission.

The 38th annual Kalamazoo Living History Show™ is open to the general public Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Sunday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Admission is \$7.00 for a single day adult pass; \$10.00 for a weekend adult pass. Children 12 years of age and under admitted free when accompanied by a parent.

Contact Information

For information about the Kalamazoo Living History Show™, contact Leslie Martin Conwell, P.O. Box 2214, West Lafayette, IN 47996, telephone 765.563.6792, kalamazoolivinghistoryshow@gmail.com, or visit our website at: www.KalamazooShow.com.