

Kalamazoo Living History Show™ Celebrates Its 40th Anniversary

March 21-22, 2015

By Leslie Martin Conwell, CEO

This year will see the Kalamazoo Living History Show™ celebrate 40 years as being the largest indoor living history event east of the Mississippi! The show has remained strong because of the wonderful reputation it enjoys due to the quality and professionalism of our vendors and program personnel, the beautiful, expansive Kalamazoo County Expo Center venue, and the enthusiasm and support of our visitors. We wish to thank everyone for being such a huge part of our success over the many years.

Plans for our 40th annual show are well under way. More than 10,000 historical re-enactors, historians, collectors and the general public from the United States and Canada are expected to attend. The juried, nationally recognized show is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, March 21-22, 2015, at the Kalamazoo County Expo Center, Kalamazoo County Fairgrounds, 2900 Lake Street, Kalamazoo, Michigan. The show attracts over 270 of the finest artisans and vendors of pre-1890 living history supplies and related crafts from throughout the United States and Canada. Other highlights include children's activities, Native American dancing and singing, and many artisans who will demonstrate their crafts.

The 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. Those interested in being a vendor at the show are invited to contact kalamazoolivinghistoryshow@gmail.com for an application.

Theme of the 40th Annual Kalamazoo Living History Show™ Announced: “Rangers Lead the Way- the American Ranger Tradition

The 2015 Kalamazoo Living History Show™ will pay tribute to the American Ranger. The Ranger concept goes back to our country's earliest days, when special units of hardy frontiersmen were raised to “range out” and gather intelligence and take the war to the enemy. Today, Rogers' Rangers from the French and Indian War are probably the best known early Ranger unit, but there were many others who bravely and successfully carried out similar missions. As the United States grew, Rangers led the way, carrying out special missions, exploring the frontiers, and keeping law and order in times of war and peace.

The featured speaker will be **Lieutenant Colonel Danny Davis, Ph.D.**, a retired U.S. Army Airborne, Ranger, and Special Forces officer. Representing the **U.S. Army Ranger Memorial Foundation**, Lieutenant Colonel Davis will tell the story of many of these often forgotten heroes from our nation's past, from the American Revolution up to 1890. This includes the U.S. Mounted Rangers of the 1830's, the Texas Rangers, and Mosby's Partisan Rangers during the War Between the States.

Also giving presentations will be **Tim and Terry Todish** of Jaeger's Battalion, Rogers' Rangers. Terry's topic will be “wilderness Warriors of the French and Indian War,” exploring the similarities and differences of the clothing, weapons, and other accoutrements of the opposing irregular forces (Rangers, French partisans, and Native Americans) during the colonial period. Terry is a freelance writer, historian, consultant, and proprietor of Poor Richard's Books for History Lovers. Tim will give a Michigan-based talk on “Major Robert Rogers at Michilimackinac.” Tim is a respected historian, consultant, and author of several books on early American history, including “The Annotated and Illustrated Journals of Major Robert Rogers.” He has worked as a consultant on numerous historical documentaries, and was an advisor and reenactor extra on Michael Mann's hit film, “The Last of the Mohicans.”

Native American Drumming and Dance a Highlight of the Show

Members of the Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Potawatomi Indians, the **Bush Native American Drum and Dance** tell the story of their People through their outstanding drumming, singing, and dancing. Also featured will be **SouthEastern WaterSpider Drum**. These groups perform at many powwows, and their music and dance are eloquent representations of vibrant cultures.

For more 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, www.KalamazooShow.com.