

Inside this edition:

- **New Exhibit**

An explanation & update of our Spring 2023 Exhibit

- **Airport Thoughts**

Reflections from our French Summer Intern

- **Virtual Programming**

FCA partners with HEC TV on educational videos

- **Curatorial News**

New Items in the FCA curatorial collection

- **Calendar of Events**

Special events & festivals for 2023

- **Messages** from our Executive Director & FCA President

New Exhibit, Spring 2023

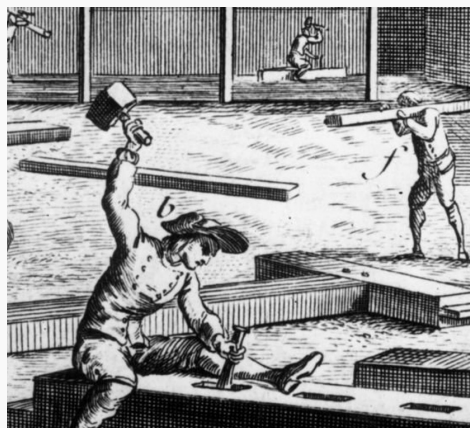
We at French Colonial America (FCA) are preparing a new special exhibit that will open in April of 2023 at our exhibits facility, The Centre for French Colonial Life, in Ste. Genevieve Missouri. This exhibit will be in place until December 2025.

The Centre for French Colonial Life is designed to accommodate at least two special themed exhibits at once. These exhibits change in alternate years, permitting us to address different subjects in depth and to maintain interest and encourage attendance for the institution. In early 2023, we plan to uninstall "Augmenting the Evidence", and open a new special exhibit titled "To Shelter and Sustain: *Building on the Creole frontier for housing, food, and water*".

This exhibit will highlight the distinctive construction methods of structures utilized by settlers of primarily French descent to provide their families and communities with housing, food, and water. These settlers were the people of Upper Louisiana and the "Pays d'Illinois" (*Illinois Country*) who collectively became known as "Créoles".

The purpose of the exhibit is to demonstrate how and why construction techniques and building styles in colonial-era Upper Louisiana were unique, differing not just from what was used in other colonial contexts, but also from what was used in the French homeland where they originated.

This unique architectural heritage is a major element in what gives Ste. Genevieve its distinctive physical character and strong sense of community identity. Team members, including Assistant Curator, Pete Davis, Staff Historian Jim Gass, and Executive Director Geoff Giglierano are working at present on the planning, researching, and writing text panels for the new exhibit.



Builder's, 18th Century France,
Diderot's Encyclopédie



Louise Hérán, our summer intern from the Ecole du Louvre

This summer we were very pleased to host an intern who was provided to us through the Education Program of the French Heritage Society in Paris, France. The student, Louise Hérán, came to us during the summer, and upon completion of her time with us, provided the following commentary:

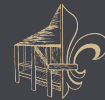
"I am a 24-year-old French girl, recently graduated from the Ecole du Louvre in Paris, with a Master's degree in Historical and Cultural Interpretation. I arrived at the beginning of June 2022 for a 2-month internship at the Centre for French Colonial Life, in Saint Genevieve, Missouri.

I am writing these words at the airport, waiting to catch my plane back to France, my head full of memories. I can sincerely say that my internship at the Centre for French Colonial Life has been an amazing experience. As a very nice man said to me one day, "Life is a series of experiments." Well, this has been a great experiment. The team of the Centre has been incredibly warm and friendly with me from day one, doing everything they could to put me at ease. I have learned a lot working with my colleagues during my internship. They have been very patient teaching me how to do the tours of the beautiful historic houses that are opened to the public, helping me gain enough confidence to do some tours in English. They are living proof that it is possible to be interesting and friendly at the same time when giving a tour.

The team also trusted me with other tasks. For instance, I wrote a panel for the next exhibit about the different meanings of the word "creole", led hands-on activities with children at the Linden House, and I wrote and recorded a French audio tour. We also shot a video of me leading a tour of the Louis Bolduc House in French. When we shot that video, at first, I was very shy in front of the camera. (continued on next page)



Louise polishes pewter
items, tends to the kitchen
garden, and dusts
windows, all at the
Bolduc House



Louise Hérán cont.

But the crew were very supportive and helped me to relax, so much so that in the end we managed to shoot that video the way we wanted. The staff have also been very open to new ideas or suggestions that I might have. They have considered me as an adult and a professional, rather than a student or an intern, which is something I feel very grateful for.

The Centre itself is very interesting. I am French, yet I learned so much about my own country's history, and so much about the United-States history (and pre-history) too. I am proud to say that French people share a common heritage with the Americans.

In a nutshell, I feel very grateful that I got the chance to work alongside such supportive, hardworking, and interesting people. I can never thank enough French Colonial America and the staff at the Centre for the opportunity they have given me to come and work there."

French Colonial History Virtual Interpretation Pilot Project

We are pleased to announce the completion of a collaboration between FCA and HEC TV, which was funded by a generous grant from the Missouri Humanities Council. The French Colonial History Virtual Interpretation Pilot Project involved production by HEC of an initial series of three educational videos with content related to Missouri's unique French Colonial era history. These historic "first-person" presentations were developed and executed by FCA living history staff. They are being made available online by HEC to augment learning materials for schools, homeschooling groups, and families. The videos are available on the Educate Today website which averages between 2,500 to 3,500 visitors per month. Our three videos may be found by following these links:

- <https://educate.today/edvideos/french-colonial-living-history-on-the-frontier-meet-samuel-the-englishman>
- <https://educate.today/edvideos/french-colonial-living-history-on-the-frontier-meet-jean-baptiste-maurice-dit-chatillon>
- <https://educate.today/edvideos/french-colonial-living-history-on-the-frontier-meet-joffrey-boyer>

The first-person scholars and key HEC staff involved were:

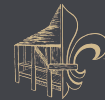
- Kristy Houle, HEC Educational Opportunities Coordinator
- Tim Gore, HEC Director of Educational Initiatives
- Gary Scheel, FCA Living History Staff Interpreter
- Mark Diamond, FCA Living History Staff Interpreter
- Geoff Giglierano, FCA Director



*Mark Diamond
as Samuel
the Englishman*



*Gary Scheel as
Jean Baptiste
the Carpenter*



Update from the Curatorial Lab



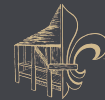
*Newly purchased Spanish
Musket, available to see at the
Centre for French Colonial Life*

Just because a structure might be deemed historic or period-significant does not guarantee that it will remain in the same location; such is the case for three homes in St. Louis County. For years the Tappemeyer House (c.1880), Clester Cabin (c.1800), and the Hackman Log Cabin (c. early 1800s), have been owned by the city of Creve Coeur. However, these houses were recently acquired by the St. Louis County Parks system to be relocated to Faust Park, which includes a village of "rehomed" historic and period buildings. Through the liquidation of these homes and their historic collections, we were able to acquire multiple pieces to add to our own collection. Most of the artifacts are iron cookery, though some are wooden items including a milking stool, rake, and a serving spoon. Having been in storage for so long, some of the pieces were in poor condition, but it was certainly nothing our lab could not fix.

All the items are fine examples of a typical early-19th century American settlement and it's not hard to picture these being used by a Missouri frontier family in preparing meals, storing perishable foodstuffs, or working the land. The Centre for French Colonial Life is happy to add these items to the collection and exhibit displays.

There was a time when firearms were practically works of art; the engraving and meticulous care that went into each piece was truly something to behold. As masters of their craft, European gunsmiths produced high quality muskets, pistols, and shotguns for the landed gentry. Earlier this year, such a piece was purchased by FCA President, Tandy Thompson, and lent to the Centre for use in the Battle of Fort San Carlos exhibit. A friend of ours at the National Firearms Museum identified it as likely being made in Mexico City during the late-18th century. The Spanish fowling piece has a walnut stock and sports a wooden trigger guard and barrel engraved with faded gold. It is the perfect representation of the type of hunting piece a Spanish "man of means" would have had during that time. It also would have served as a status symbol, as well as a useful tool, much like hunting swords. Visitors can see this beautiful rifle seven days a week at the Centre.

Peter Davis
Asst. Curator



Director's Message: So, this is what it's like living in "interesting times"

Yes, it was an "interesting" year. Covid and related public health issues were somewhat less of a concern, but high gas prices and very hot weather during the summer seems to have held the numbers down somewhat. Fortunately, in June we benefitted from additional numbers generated by community-based events, the French Heritage Festival and the Honey Festival, as well as the "Pay What You Wish" programming at the Linden House. As in 2021, our hands-on programs on weekdays were completely booked. In sum, we are on track to be slightly ahead of last year's attendance numbers with just over 15,000 visitors as the expected total for 2022. Next year's challenge will be to increase visitation even more, and to do so, we are working on ways of offering more small and medium-sized special events and finding ways to increase the effectiveness of our marketing to specialized school groups, such as language and art classes, as well as groups of life-long learners.

At the same time, we also are embarking on a reappraisal and reinvention of our approach to internships and working with students as staff and volunteers in ways that can expand our resources, but at reasonable cost. We are particularly excited about what this initiative could mean for the organization and the community. It also fits in with our vision of thinking about our campus as a laboratory in the future of museums.

The environment for museums and cultural sites is very different from what it was even just three years ago, let alone ten or twenty years ago. To adapt and experiment is vital, and yes, we very much plan to do that. Life is, indeed, very interesting.

Geoff Giglierano
FCA Executive Director



Giglierano at "Night of the Werewolf", posing with two attendees after he helped the Milice capture and shoot the loup garou, causing it to return to its human form



**French Colonial
America**

Les NOUVELLES



**December
2022**

President's Message: Thank you, truly

It is at this time of year, beginning with the feast of Thanksgiving, that we take a moment to pay tribute to those who have helped us. This year, we want to especially recognize: David T. Orthwein for his kind donation that supports both the building and the Hands-on History programs at the Linden House; an anonymous donor for their kind, unwavering support that allows us keep the doors open; to the Piper and Gleason families, to Christy James, to Polly Jones, to Liz Roth, to the Foyer-Kemper Foundation, for their kind donations and to our board members who willingly donate their time and energies. Special recognition goes to our front-line staff for the manner in which you have treated our guests with kindness, as they tell us. In good spirit, you share your love of this site and its stories about these historic families and their impact on us today.

To our donors, please know that your support is what allows us to continue offering events (like Allée Allumée, Guignolée watch party, Nuit de Loup Garou, Pecanapalooza, among others), perform the critical historical preservation work of maintaining these unique buildings and artifacts, offer our sell-out educational programs (for homeschool kids, school field trips, and even in-school presentations), host internships (for graduate, undergraduate as well as high school students), as well as pay the utilities and cut the grass. Thank you!

Tandy Thompson
FCA President

French Colonial America Membership Form

Your membership helps fund historic house tours, educational programs, regularly rotating exhibits, hands-on activities, special events & festivals and architectural preservation.

All members receive discounted house tours & a discount in our gift shop; Commandant & Père level members receive advance ticket purchase opportunities for our *Night of the Werewolf!* event

FCA is a 501(c)3 public charity. All donations are deductible as allowed by the IRS.

Membership Levels:

Habitant (Individual)	\$30	Famille (Family)	\$50
Marchand (Merchant)	\$100	Fermier (Farmer)	\$500
Commandant (A civil Leader)	\$1,000	Père (Priest)	\$2,000

Commandant & Père level members may opt to make donations in quarterly installments; circle Yes/No below to receive donation invoices to the email you list on this form

Name: _____ **Member Level:** _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____ **Emailed Payments:** Yes No

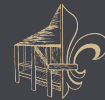
Email: _____ **Phone:** _____

Make checks payable to "French Colonial America" and mail to 198 Market Street, Ste. Genevieve, MO 63670



French Colonial
America

Calendar OF EVENTS



2023
Calendar Year

March:

- **3/25-26: Spring Militia Encampment & Training** – Are you interested in becoming a member of the Ste. Genevieve Milice? Then this is the event for you! Not only will they be setting up an encampment in our living history yard, but they will be conducting training on basic encampment skills like tent care & set up, fire starting, musket cleaning, and more! For more information, Contact Doug Nickelson at Dnickelson78@yahoo.com
- **3/28: The Hands-On History House Re-Opens** – Closed group field trips (requires pre-registration) will resume on Tuesdays & Thursdays for morning & afternoon sessions. Call (573) 880-4123 to book.
- **3/31: Weekends at the Hands-On History House; Fridays from 1-7pm & Saturdays from 11am-4pm** – This program offers visitors the experience to enjoy the house's activities on Friday and interact with living history interpreters on Saturday and runs through Nov 4

April:

- **TBD: Exhibit Opening** – Celebrate with us as we open our newest temporary exhibit, "To Shelter & Sustain: Building on the Creole Frontier for housing, food, and water".

June:

- **6/10: Annual Ste. Genevieve French Heritage Festival** – Join us for this town-wide event and enjoy live music, specialty foods, special living history demonstrations, and other festive events.
- **6/24: Honey Festival + Market** – Harold's Famous Bee Co. spearheads this event, featuring educational beekeeping demonstrations & displays, craft & food vendors, & special activities in Downtown Ste. Gen.

October:

- **10/7-8: Fall Militia Encampment** – The Ste. Genevieve Militia, as well as other area's militia, set up an encampment in the Bolduc & LeMeilleur yards. Special Activities include gunsmithing, rope making, horn making, children's games and more!
- **10/21: Night of the Werewolf, 7-9 pm** – An evening filled with lantern tours of the Bolduc House, werewolf stories & folklore around the campfire, family-friendly games & activities, s'mores & cider, and militia-led hunts for werewolves prowling the village! The cost is TBD

November:

- **11/4: Pecanapalooza** – This all-day event TRULY has it all: live country & folk music, food & craft vendors, children's games, craft beer, pecan baking contests, military living history timeline & historic vehicle display and food drive for local food pantries. Don't miss this event!
- **11/24: Allée Allumée, 6-8pm** – Tour guides lead you through a lit path as children from colonial Ste. Genevieve bring gifts to a manger scene. Live music, cookies & cocoa, and a visit to Pere Noel round out this seasonal event.

December:

- **12/1, 12/8, & 12/15: Allée Allumée, 6-8pm** – See Description Above