



Press Release

Event: 15th Gathering on Theatiki

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Organization:

Habitants Du Theatiki

P.O. Box 545

Bourbonnais, IL 60914

Event: 15th Gathering on Theatiki

Date: July 17-18, 2004

Location: Davis Creek Annex to the Kankakee River State Park

Bourbonnais, IL

Kankakee County

Website: <http://www.theatiki.org>

The aromatic smells of delicious foods and the thundering boom of canons are fixing to fill the air at this year's 15th annual gathering on the Theatiki in Bourbonnais, Illinois.

The Gathering is more than an old time crafts fair, it pays tribute to Illinois' rich frontier history. Historical re-enactors and skilled craftspeople from across the Midwest representing French, British, and Native American gather to demonstrate the skills and lifestyles of early residents of the Great Lakes area.

Visitors to the two-day event view military camps and Native American lodges, crafts demonstrations and trade blankets and booths with period food and drinks. Bagpipes, fifes and drums join voices to lift hearts and stir imaginations with authentic 18th Century music. Some tunes are still known; others are new to guests but set feet tapping with their beat.

The people and the activities give a general picture of the area from about 1730 to the 1770s included are colorful sights, tantalizing smells, fabulous tastes and stirring music. There is something for every person, every age at this year's Gathering on the Theatiki.

Native, Civilian, and Military re-enactors set up camps using materials and techniques of the 18th century, and authentically uniformed troops engage in mock battles and tactical demonstrations each day. Although the battles do not portray any particular battle, they do depict how a typical battle of those times between French and British troops and their Indian allies might have looked.

This year's event is again sponsored in part by The Habitants du Theatiki and The Exchange Club of Kankakee County. Mark your calendar for Saturday, July 17, 2004 and Sunday, July 18, 2004. Located on the beautiful Kankakee river State Park Davis Creek Annex, Bourbonnais, Illinois.

For more information call 815-932-4515 or visit the website at <http://www.theatiki.org>.

Dear Fellow Living Historians:

The Habitants du Theatiki are proud to welcome you in joining us as we commemorate **the 250th Anniversary of the French and Indian War** at the **15th Gathering on the Theatiki**. This year the Gathering will take place on July 17th and 18th 2004 at the Davis Creek Annex to the Kankakee River State Park, Bourbonnais, Illinois.

Our purpose for hosting the Gathering on the Theatiki is to produce a quality living history event focused on the lifeways of the people around the time of the French and Indian War 1754-1763. It enables us to show visitors the daily lives of the Voyageur, French and British Military Units, Natives, Scots, Merchants,

Craftspeople and the women and children who traveled with them. The event sees thousands of visitors every year as they experience the history that we all enjoy portraying.

In recognition of the 250th Anniversary of the beginning of the war, we have created **Special Battle Scenarios** through out the weekend to highlight authentic skirmish style warfare including: interactive woodswalk, taking of captives, the Parlee, running the gauntlet and some open field combat. To obtain battle scenarios in advance or to contact battle chairman, Roy Zimmerman email him at Shamakwa@earthlink.net.

One of the most well received events, we feel, is the **After-hours Potluck Dinner** for Participants. The Habitants provide the meat and bread. We ask that you bring side dishes to share. **IT IS VERY IMPORTANT** that if you are attending the potluck dinner that you let us know the number in your group. Volunteers for the Dinner are always appreciated. Remember to include on the registration, the number of adults and children attending the Dinner.

Craftspeople are asked to send a short description and history of your craft, what makes it unique, your techniques/equipment, etc. Blanket Traders, Merchants and Food Vendors need to submit the name of your establishment, the goods you will be selling, etc. Any group or individuals that has a unique skill or portrayal please include this with your registration. We would like to add these to the program, space allowing. Contact Merchant Registration Chairman: Leroy Mann 815-937-9822 or email greenarrow454@aol.com.

To help us continue the pursuit of excellence in authenticity, please read the enclosed event guidelines. You must complete the registration form and sign the Liability release and return to us no later than June 1st, 2004.

Visit our website at www.theatiki.org for updates and corrections. The website also provides an online registration form that you may copy and submit via US Mail. If

About Les Habitants

Les Habitants du Theatiki is a social and educational organization formed to share information, knowledge, and experiences of the Fur Trade Era, by sponsoring events such as The Gathering on the Theatiki and other activities which interpret and dramatize this period.

Les Habitants received its name in 1996, but the organization developed out of the associations of members who have participated in various historical re-enactment activities in the years before 1980.

Our activities fall into three main categories: First, we sponsor presentations, displays, and "living history" events on fur trade subjects for the benefit of the public. Second, Les Habitants sponsor [The Theatiki Fife and Drum Corps](#). The Corps performs at numerous historical events as well as parades, civic ceremonies and events. In the third area of activity, Les Habitants advocates the preservation of our fur trade heritage and actively recruits interested parties into the world of "living history". Another way members experience this period is in the act of recreating and sharing information of the various crafts and skills of the time.

Statement of Purpose

1. Les Habitants du Theatiki, Inc is an Organization formed to promote general understanding and appreciation of the period known as the Fur Trade Era; with a special emphasis on the events and activities which took place in the Great Lakes region during the 17th, 18th, and early 19th centuries.
2. Les Habitants is interested in authenticity, and its dramatizations for the public attempt to re-create the conditions and situations of

the past as closely as they are presently understood by historical scholars.

3. Les Habitants desires to expand efforts to conserve and preserve surviving cultural and material artifacts of the Fur Trade Era.

4. Les Habitants is also a social organization, whose friendly exchanges perpetuate the feeling of comradery and goodwill toward all.

If you have any questions, please visit our website.