THUNDER IN THE PARK
WAUKON, IA
JUNE 12-14, 2015
CIVIL WAR RE-ENACTMENT

FAMILY-FRIENDLY EVENT

For More Information Call 563-568-4110
Guidelines for the safety and enjoyment of visitors

Organizers of the third annual “Thunder in the Park” Civil War reenactment event welcome visitors to enjoy what this weekend event has to offer, but want to advise those attending about some guidelines for safety that need to be followed. It is suggested that the public bring blankets or chairs to sit on during the battle scenarios and wear “good walking shoes,” as the event will be using most of the Waukon City Park for Friday night, June 12 through Sunday, June 14.

A limited number of earplugs will be available for spectators during the battle scenarios. The only vehicle traffic allowed inside during the event will be for emergency management services and events support. RV campers will be able to get to the RV area in the City Park, but the loop around the family aquatic center will be open for drop-off and pick-up only - no parking will be allowed along that loop.

Members of the public are encouraged to visit the camps and ask questions of those participating in the reenactment, but are not allowed to go into any reenactors tent or pick up any weapons or other equipment, unless at the expressed invitation of the owner.

For the safety of the public during the actual battle scenarios, the following guidelines are also offered:

- No member of the public will be allowed on the battlefield during the scenarios, until the troops have assembled and cleared their weapons and an “all clear” has been given.
- No member of the public will be allowed in the camps during battles without authorization from respective commanders.
- No member of the public of any age will be allowed to climb on the artillery pieces.
- No member of the public will be allowed to smoke or have open flame within 25 yards of an artillery piece.

Not all weapons will be live fire, however. Those scenarios with live fire will be identified in advance by the reenactors and the “all clear” will be given. This has been to ensure the safety of the public, reenactors and vehicles.

The third annual “Thunder in the Park” Civil War reenactment is a family fun-filled weekend, while presenting a bit of American history of the Civil War and Allamakee County’s role in it. The event is free to the public and all are welcome to attend (free-will donations will be accepted and applied to expenses for future events). The “Thunder in the Park” event will actually kick off Friday night, June 12 with a performance of “In The Lincoln Parlor” written by Jessica Michna and performed by Lance Mack as President Abraham Lincoln and Jessica Michna as Mary Todd Lincoln. The event will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the north pavilion shelter of Waukon City Park.

Over the weekend, the “Thunder” will be produced by the cannons on the battlefield, as battles of the Civil War are replayed for today’s observers. There will be educational and entertaining programs scheduled to give one a taste of life in that time. There will be opportunities to watch military drills and learn about how the soldiers lived during the war. The reenactors will be happy to answer any questions you may have about their uniforms, clothing, weapons or equipment and explain the tactics that were used during the time.

Some events, such as the kids games, blacksmithing demonstrations, and Civil War era weapons displays and demonstrations will be ongoing all day Saturday and Sunday. Other events include a Civil War era fashion show and “Women in the Civil War” presented by Carolyn Richards. Did you know that during the Civil War, women disguised themselves as men, and fought side-by-side with men on both sides of the war? Also, don’t miss “Professor Chalmers Bodkin-Childs Amazing Patent Medicines And Magic Show” presented by Faire Wynds Entertainment.

Saturday night, plan to attend the dance with music by Western Home Strings Band and caller Tim Jenkins, who will walk everybody through the different reels of the era. Then experience the sights and sounds of a cannon night fire exercise. For more information call the Waukon Chamber of Commerce at 563-568-4110 or check the Facebook page for “Allamakee County Thunder in the Park”.

Welcome to Waukon!
Enjoy the
Re-enactment!

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Civil War era Fashion Show

"Thunder In The Park" will once again this year include a fashion show and a discussion on women in the Civil War, both presented by Carolyn Richards of rural Hazel Green, WI Saturday and Sunday mornings, June 13 and 14 in the southeast corner of the Waukon City Park. Richards has been participating in reenactments for 23 years.

Her introduction for reenactments came about in a rather unique way. One day her grandmother gave her the “thumb guard” that her great-great-grandfather had used while serving in the artillery during the Civil War. Each cannon used in that era had a vent hole on the rear of the cannon that must be sealed up to prevent air from flowing through the barrel while it’s being loaded or the powder in the cannon could explode. The easiest way to seal the hole would be to cover it with one’s thumb, but that method would be painful, because the cannon barrel gets hot.

The thumb guard, made of leather padding, was created to protect the thumb when it was placed over the vent hole. When she received the thumb guard, Richards wondered what it was for, so she went to a reenactment to learn about it. While she was investigating the thumb guard, her husband and son got drafted to serve on the cannon crew during the battle reenactment. “That did it,” she said, “we have been going to reenactments ever since.”

For six years, Richards participated in reenactments by wearing hoop dresses and other attire of Civil War era. “Then, 15 years ago,” she said, “I bought a cannon, a 12-pound Mountain Howitzer. Then I wanted to get into the battle to play with my cannon. I started to research women in the Civil War and I learned about the unique women who served in that war. Many women disguised as men served on the front lines, in both the North and in the South. They served as infantry soldiers, Calvary, artillery and all areas of the war. Other women called ‘Vivandiers’ wore special types of uniforms and served on the front lines, mostly in medical areas. I decided to become a Vivandier, but not in medical. It’s a hoot playing with a cannon!”

The fashion show will tell the story of not only women’s attire of the year but also of the soldiers, as well as telling the story of women who served on the front lines.

This year we are excited to welcome Jim Edrington as a new participant in the 2015 “Thunder in the Park” event. Come and learn about some of the tools of the blacksmith trade. Jim started blacksmithing in 1979 in high school shop. After graduating from the Midwest School of Horseshoeing, he demonstrated blacksmithing from 1982 to 1986 at Living History Farms in Urbandale in that 1870 town replica. Jim returns to blacksmithing after serving 21 years in the military. He considers himself a practical blacksmith making tools for around the farm, house and camp.
Spend an evening “In the Lincoln Parlor” to kick off “Thunder In The Park”

While each of them will offer their own performances throughout this year’s “Thunder in the Park” event, both Lance Mack and Jessica Michna will combine their efforts Friday, June 12 to provide an evening of entertainment with “In the Lincoln Parlor.” Beginning at 6:30 p.m., interested parties can spend the evening conversing with President Abraham Lincoln and First Lady Mary Todd Lincoln in their 1865 executive mansion. That evening event will take place at the north pavilion shelter in Waukon City Park.

President Abraham Lincoln as portrayed by Lance Mack

Through his nearly mirror-like portrayal, Lance Mack will seemingly bring President Abraham Lincoln back to life for those attending the event this weekend. Adorned in President Lincoln’s signature stovepipe hat and black frock coat, Mack’s stunning physical likeness to the 16th president of the United States only serves to add to his presentation. His tall, lanky body and his natural black beard are just part of his overall Lincoln near carbon copy appearance that initially drew the attention of Mack’s family and friends and soon became a basis for him to pursue his portrayal of the former president. See the event schedule printed elsewhere in this section for specific times of Mack’s portrayals.

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Michna to portray Civil War pair

The “Thunder in the Park” program includes performances by Jessica Michna as Mary Todd Lincoln Saturday, June 13 and Cordelia Harvey Sunday, June 14. Michna has become widely known for her riveting portrayals of first ladies and other historical women of the ages, as well as her fictitious characters.

Michna has entertained groups throughout America including guests from as far away as New Zealand, Japan and Brazil. Audiences ranging from young children to senior citizens have been equally enthralled. She has appeared before historical societies, schools, libraries, living history museums, senior centers, churches and has entertained guests at parties and weddings. Michna’s performances are compelling and emotionally entralling. Audiences laugh along with her humorous anecdotes and also share in her tears as she relates how the horrors of war have impacted families. She has a powerful effect on the audience. Once they have seen one of her characters they can’t wait to see the next one.

Michna is always open to questions after the program. Besides presenting “In The Lincoln Parlor,” she will also present the following two other programs during the “Thunder In The Park” weekend:

Mary Todd Lincoln
“Preserve the Union”
Mary recalls her early years in education in Lexington, KY. She tells of her move to Springfield, IL, where she would meet and marry the young prairie lawyer who would eventually become the 16th president of the United States. Mary introduces the audience to life in Washington, regaling her listeners with stories about her boys, including her biggest boy, President Lincoln. In this time of national strife, the Lincolns would suffer personal tragedies, including that fateful day in April of 1865.

Cordelia Harvey
“Angel in a Gray Bonnet”
Cordelia Perrine Harvey came to Wisconsin as a young school mistress. She would meet and marry Lewis Harvey, who would rise to the governorship of Wisconsin. Cordelia’s life unraveled when she was widowed after less than three months in the Governor’s mansion. Her husband’s tragic drowning, while he was traveling to check on the welfare of Wisconsin’s soldiers fighting in the Civil War, left Cordelia rudderless and without purpose. She would set aside her grief to be the healing angel of a nation wracked by civil war.

Throughout the Civil War, she traveled to military hospitals in the South, working to improve the care of wounded Wisconsin soldiers, and in the process improve care on a national basis. She traveled to Washington and convinced President Lincoln to establish convalescent hospitals in Wisconsin for the injured soldiers suffering from heat and the humidity of the South. She came to be known to the soldiers as the Wisconsin Angel.

Veterans Memorial Hospital is proud to announce that it has again been named a GUARDIAN OF EXCELLENCE AWARD WINNER by Press Ganey Associates, Inc. The Guardian of Excellence Award recognizes top-performing facilities that consistently achieved the 95th percentile, or top 5% of hospitals nationwide, of performance in Emergency Services. This is the fifth year in a row the hospital has been recognized for its high emergency services satisfaction scores.

The Doctor is IN for the Weekend

WEEKEND CLINIC

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Ever did the “Virginia Reel”?  

Tim Jenkins, our dance caller, got his start in 1973 at a fiddle festival in North Carolina. He was inspired by the people of the Appalachian Mountains and by their generosity, cultural music and dance. Tim says his interest in American History was sparked by the brilliance of his seventh grade teacher, Miss Fleming. She fueled his enthusiasm, especially to learn about this country’s Civil War. 

Originally from the western side of Mississippi, he moved to Wisconsin where he was asked to call and play for Civil War reenactments, bringing his love of music and history together. Tim says he very much appreciates these events on several levels as they involve the generations in the family with learning not only our nation’s history, but camp skills, related arts and crafts, as well as the music and dance of that era. 

Tim runs his business “Dances/Tunes Un-Incorporated” from the hills of Wisconsin and he can be reached at teawithtim@yahoo.com. Tim says, “I’m honored to be part of this year’s Waukon reenactment”. 

The “Western Home Strings Band” is a group of musicians that have been playing for old-fashioned barn dances, weddings and other social gatherings in northeast Iowa for the past 10 years. They hold community dances every other month in Decorah.

NEW! 

Apples through the Ages 

Dan Bussey is the orchard manager at Seed Savers Exchange in Decorah. He is also an apple historian who has spent over 30 years researching more than 17,000 apple varieties grown in North America since the 1600s. Dan’s own personal orchard features more than 250 varieties. 

Today, the average consumer can name a handful of apple varieties such as Red Delicious, Fuji and Granny Smith, which are typically used for fresh eating. Many historic apples were suited to specific purposes like baking, cider, or prized for their storage and keeping qualities. 

Dan’s research has even led to the rediscovery of several apple varieties once thought to be “lost,” some of which were grown locally in northeast Iowa. Learn where and how these rediscovered varieties were originally developed and hear about Dan’s adventures on the trail of these historic varieties.
Friday, June 12, 2015 Activities

TIME | EVENT ACTIVITY | LOCATION
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6:30-8pm | “In The Lincoln Parlor” Performance | North Park Shelter (East of Pool)
by Lance Mack & Jessica Michna

Saturday, June 13, 2015 Activities

TIME | EVENT ACTIVITY | LOCATION
--- | --- | ---
8:30-9am | Officer’s Call | Waukon City Park
9am | Park Opens to Public | Waukon City Park
9:30am-2:30pm | Camps are Open to Visit | Event Area “C”
10-11am | Medicine Show | Event Area “E”
10am-3pm | Kid’s Games/Reenactment Skits | Event Area “E”
10-11am | Unit Drills | Battlefield & Camp Areas
10am-3pm | Weapons Demo | Event Area “B”
10am-3pm | Blacksmithing Demo | Event Area “B”
10-11am | Women in the Civil War/Fashion Show | Event Area “A”
11-11:30am | ‘Appliances Through the Ages’ Dan Bussey | Event Area “A”
11:45am-12:15pm | Speech by President Lincoln | Event Area “A”
12:30-1:30pm | Mary Todd Lincoln | Event Area “A”
1:45-2:15pm | Speech by President Lincoln | Event Area “A”
2-3pm | Medicine Show | Event Area “C”
3-4pm | Civil War Battle | Battlefield
4:30-5pm | Speech by President Lincoln | Event Area “A”
4:30-5:30pm | Kid’s Games/Reenactment Skits | Event Area “E”
4:30-7pm | Weapons Demo | Event Area “B”
6-7pm | Medicine Show | Event Area “C”
8-9pm | Dance-Western Home Strings Band | Pond Area
9-9:30pm | Cannon Night Fire | Pond Area
9:30-10:30pm | Dance with Grand March | Shelter by Ball Diamond
10:30pm | Park Closed to Public | Waukon City Park
Sunday, June 14, 2015 Activities

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<td>9:30-10:30am</td>
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<td>9:30-10:30am</td>
<td>Women of the Civil War &amp; Fashion Show</td>
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<td>10am-1pm</td>
<td>Kid’s Games/Reenactment Skits</td>
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<td>10:30-11:30am</td>
<td>Unit Drills/Spectator Drills</td>
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<td>10am-1pm</td>
<td>Weapons Demo</td>
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<td>10am-1pm</td>
<td>Blacksmithing Demo</td>
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<td>Cordelia Harvey</td>
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<td>Speech by President Lincoln</td>
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<td>Civil War Battle</td>
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<td>Weapons Demo</td>
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<td>Camps are Open to Visit</td>
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<td>4pm</td>
<td>Park Closed to Public</td>
<td>Waukon City Park</td>
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“Medicine and Magic Show”

Don’t miss out on Professor Chalmers Bodkin-Childs Amazing Patent Medicine And Magic Show during “Thunder in the Park”!

“Step up, step up! Right this way to the medicine show! A time to be amazed, to be amused and have all your cares, worries, aches and pains disappear! The medicine show has come to your town!”

And so the call goes out. Something so unique to America and Canada - combine the quack doctors of the old world with the circus of the new, and look out! The medicine show was born!

“No need to worry, we aren’t going to try to solve your problems with some scurrilous medicine! Certainly not! Ours is totally above board! Why, if you use our medicine, your husbands will be smarter! Wives will be prettier! Children will be quieter! Mules will be stronger! Cows will be contenter! Chickens will be... well, chickeyer!

The medicine shows of the past were made up of a lot of families, and this one is no exception. Based upon an actual medicine show of the early 1800s, Faire Wynds has tried to bring you a fresh look at entertainments of the past. Because most of the show was devoted to the free entertainments, that is what we focus on, as well. Magic, juggling, feats of strength and dexterity, fire eating and escapeology - just a good dose of the Professor’s good wit will keep just about any ill at bay! “And remember, if it ain’t Professor Chalmers Bodkin-Childs Amazing Patent Medicine, it’s something else!”

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