

Michilimackinac at Work: Labor and Trades September 8-9

MACKINAW CITY — Michilimackinac was a hardworking community in the 18th century, and the staff of Colonial Michilimackinac is ready to demonstrate exactly that on September 8 and 9.

Voyageurs, blacksmiths, laundresses, clerks and soldiers all plied their trades at the fort, employing both skilled and unskilled labor. Join the interpretive staff of Colonial Michilimackinac as they demonstrate a variety of tasks that made up the world of work at Michilimackinac in the 18th century.

“Our guests will experience a wide range of skilled work that the historic residents of Michilimackinac performed to make the community function,” said Craig Wilson, museum historian and head of interpretation at Colonial Michilimackinac. “We’re excited to share this interesting aspect of our history with our visitors.”

In 1715 French soldiers constructed Fort Michilimackinac, and the British took control in 1761. This fortified community became the great fur trade center of the Northwest until its relocation to nearby Mackinac Island in 1781. It was here where fur traders and Indians rendezvoused, French and British officers organized war parties and explorers began their journeys into the vast western unknown. The fort site was set aside as a park when the Village of Mackinaw City was platted, and was transferred to the State of Michigan in 1909 to form Michigan’s second state park. Professional archaeology began at the site in 1959, and reconstruction of the fort began in 1960.

All programs taking place inside Colonial Michilimackinac are included with regular admission to the fort (\$12/adults, \$7/child (5-12)). Pictures can be provided upon request. More information can be found online at mackinacparks.com.

Mackinac State Historic Parks, a family of living history museums and parks in northern Michigan’s Straits of Mackinac, is an agency within the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Its sites—which are accredited by the American Alliance of Museums—include Fort Mackinac, Historic Downtown Mackinac, The Richard and Jane Manoogian Mackinac Art Museum, and Mackinac Island State Park on Mackinac Island, and Colonial Michilimackinac, Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse, and Historic Mill Creek Discovery Park in Mackinaw City. Mackinac State Historic Parks is governed by the Mackinac Island State Park Commission, established in 1895 to protect, preserve and present the parks’ rich historic and natural resources for the education and recreation of future generations. Visitor information is available at (231) 436-4100 or on the web at www.mackinacparks.com.

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