

FEAST of the HUNTERS' MOON

Welcome mon ami to the 50th Annual Feast of the Hunters' Moon!

Join us as we step back into history at this year's Feast of the Hunters' Moon. The Feast is an authentic portrayal of an event that likely took place in the 1700s at Ouiatenon.

Almost three hundred years ago, when the French outpost of Fort Ouiatenon was located in the center of a vast hunting, fishing and trapping region of New France, the voyageurs returned from Canada each fall with a new supply of merchandise for trading. The arrival of their canoes was welcomed by the soldiers garrisoned at the fort and by the Indians, who brought furs, game, baskets and leather goods to barter. It was the time of the Hunters' Moon—when hunting was good, the harvest was in and the voyageurs had returned from the North.

The Feast began in the 1950s as an activity of the membership of the Tippecanoe County Historical Association. It used a theme of Indian history of the area and a meal of common food was eaten in the blockhouse around the fire. In 1968 the Feast was opened to the public. In 1969 it became a two-day event and the activities expanded to include craft demonstrations, singing, dancing and trading.

Participants in the Feast are here from across the continent—Florida, New England, Kentucky and Canada—to join in this classic re-enactment of a gathering of French and Indians.

Sights, sounds and smells of a day gone by greet you. The sound of a ringing anvil assails the ears, and in the background you can hear the rhythmic splash of canoe paddles as a brigade of voyageurs moves down the Wabash. The crack of muzzle loaders lends an authentic sound, as do the intermingling strains of dulcimers and fiddles blending with the tootling of fifes and the beat of drums.

Costumed craftspeople demonstrate the traditional arts of basket making, blacksmithing, spinning, weaving and soap making. These craftspeople use natural materials to hand-make contemporary products. Traders spread their blankets and offer authentic reproductions of 18th century trade items. Merchants offer for sale reproductions of apparel and accoutrements of the time period.

When hunger strikes, and it does so often in the crisp fall days of the Hunters' Moon, you can feast on buffalo burgers, Indian fry bread, pork chops, buffalo stew, cider and other taste tempting 18th century dishes.

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Mark your calendars!

2018 Feast
October 6 & 7, 2018

The Feast of the Hunters' Moon is presented by the Tippecanoe County Historical Association in cooperation with the Tippecanoe County Park and Recreation Department and Visit Lafayette-West Lafayette.

