



the exception of clothing on the “flat-landers”, as we call visitors, you will think you walked back into the 1830’s. The camps are all set up, the fires are burning, and smoke is wafting thought the whole camp accompanied by wonderful aromas. Black powder rifles are leaning against gun racks, and possibles bags and tomahawks are hanging from the lodge poles. You’ll likely hear gunshots in the distance where shooting contests are taking place.

One of the two primary annual events that the Kickapoo Trace Muzzleloaders promote is Fun Day, which is always conducted the last Saturday of April at the KTM property located at 16490 Cracklin Drive off Highway O south of Dixon, MO. This event is open to the public of all ages at no cost. Visitors are encouraged to shoot black powder rifles, throw tomahawks, start fires with flint and steel, and taste goodies made in a dutch oven. All equipment is provided by the KTM. Hotdogs, chips and water is also provided free of charge. You will feel like you have stepped back into the 1830’s.

The second major event supported by KTM is the annual Old Settler’s Day event which is held the last weekend of July at the Waynesville, MO City Park. The Kickapoo Trace Muzzleloaders have been a part of the Old Settler’s Days activities since its inception even though the club’s activities have been modified recently due to safety concerns by the current organizers. The camps are still set up, the fires are burning, and wood smoke and cooking aromas make it seem like the 1830’s.

If you don’t get a chance to attend one of the two major rendezvous events, you can visit us at any of our monthly meetings/shoots. We meet once a month, on the first Sunday of every month, with the exception of holidays. Following the monthly meetings, we hold a competition shoot with black powder rifles. It’s a competition mainly for bragging rights till the following month. Visitors are welcome to shoot member owned guns or bring their own to learn more about proper techniques for safety with black powder shooting. Visitors are also welcome to share a meal with us at our meetings and ask any of the members for more information about any of the mountain man skills. The meetings usually start with a pot-luck lunch at noon, followed by a short Club meeting at 1:00 p.m., which is then followed by shooting.

The Kickapoo Trace Muzzleloaders have a strong sense of commitment to the community and the young people of the Dixon, St. Robert, and Waynesville area. We participate in local events such as sports shows, Christmas On The Square, the Waynesville Christmas Parade, Sprouts In The Park and various scouting events, including Eagle Scout projects. We like to focus on helping the youth of our area better understand the very early history of our country, primarily from the aspect of frontier life. We will set up in Frisco Park during Dixon Cow Days Sept. 20-21, 2019

Anyone interested in joining or learning more about the Kickapoo Trace Muzzleloaders organization can follow the Kickapoo Trace Muzzleloaders on Facebook or email us at kickapootracemuzzleloaders@gmail.com.

AMISH COMMUNITY THRIVES IN DIXON

by Connie Erisman



The Amish sell produce and baked items to residents of Dixon and the surrounding community. Photo by Connie Erisman

It is believed that the first two Amish families moved to Dixon in 1980. The two matriarchs Joseph Eicher and Maylen Yoder’s families still reside here. It is estimated that there now are approximately 18 families nestled along the secluded countryside on the outskirts of Dixon. Each family averaging anywhere between 5 and 10 children. One family has 16 children. They all remain self sufficient. They are known to locals as being very hard working, soft spoken, kind individuals.

It is a common occurrence in Dixon to see a horse and buggy tied, (parked) along the uptown streets or at a local grocery store. In recent years Missouri has been deemed to have the fourth-highest Amish population growth in the country, with 41 settlements and more than 10,000 Amish living in the state.

Researchers say Missouri is attractive to the Amish because of available and reasonably priced farmland, as well as the rural atmosphere that assures them of cherished privacy.

You will find trades such as a sawmill, butcher shop, handmade furniture and storage buildings from Eicher Manufacturing, cabinet maker, Irvin Bontroger among other various occupations. 40 plus children attend the Amish school.

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No act of kindness, no matter
how small, is ever wasted.
— Aesop

