

# Jonathan Clark House Museum

## NEWSLETTER

Fall-Winter November 2025



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Jonathan M. Clark House  
— 1848 —

# In Memoriam



## *Remembering Jonathan Clark's great-granddaughter, Elizabeth Hickman*

*Elizabeth Hickman was Jonathan and Mary Clark's 2nd great-granddaughter. Elizabeth "Liz" Hickman, was a direct descendant of the Clark family. Liz went to school at the University of Wisconsin, and obtained a degree in Education.*

*After teaching Geology in the Lab at UW Oshkosh she sailed to New Zealand, and taught Science in Wellington, and then to Australia where she taught Geology in Melbourne.*

*After teaching in Australia, Liz moved back to the U.S. where she met her husband Bob.*

*After traveling for her career, she settled back in Madison, Wisconsin and raised her family. Liz is fondly remembered for her love of traveling, her family, geneology and celebrating life.*

*Liz valued her time visiting the Clark house with her family, immersing herself in the 175 years of heritage and history. Liz will be missed here at the Jonathan Clark House and we are grateful for her time spent with us.*

## 2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*Tom Daub, President*

*Brady Seiberlich, Vice President*

*Nicole Buerosse, Secretary*

*Bill Kroyer, Board Member*

*Christopher Osborne, Board Member*

*Randy Trumbull-Holper, Board Member*

*Kurt Zellman, Board Member*

## 2025 JCH STAFF

*Dr. Nina Look, Executive Director*

*Nicole Buerosse, Assistant Director*

*Fred Derr, Preservation Manager*

*Margaret Bussone, Education Director*

*Anne Bridges, Special Projects*

*Reed Perkins, Historian*

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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# JONATHAN CLARK HOUSE COMPLETES SUCCESSFUL PRESERVATION PROJECT

This summer, after many years of searching for an experienced contractor, the Jonathan Clark House Museum was able to procure the talents of Brookwater Creations Contracting Group, owned by Anna and Jeff Burns. The all encompassing preservation project included the restoration and preservation of the exterior fascia, eaves, mortar repair, period appropriate hand crafted gutters and hand hewn windows, as well as window repair and replacement to increase uniformity and historic interpretation.



**“ Preserving historic and old buildings matter; if we do not continue to preserve these buildings our local history will be lost.**

*—Anna Burns, Contractor BrookWater Creations*

”

In the spring of 2025 then intern Nicole Buerosse, Fred Derr and Nina Look sat down to discuss the lengthy process ahead of creating a Strategic Preservation Plan for the Clark House. Discussion revolved around a must have list as well as planning for the future list; Research commenced and about historically accurate processes as well as utilizing building materials that would have been used in 1848.

*Featured in the Photographs above, the before and after of the upper Cornice, needing restoration and after, you can see the dramatic difference . Preservation Projects like this are essential for the Museums longevity, and without our generous donors and sponsors work like this would not be possible.*

# YOUNG HISTORIANS INTERVIEWS

By Kate Zellman

*Kate Zellman, the Jonathan Clark House Young Historian Ambassador, spent some time talking with and interviewing the Clark House Young Historians. She posed the question “What does volunteering at the Clark House Museum mean to you and why is it important?” The interview responses are featured below.*



*Lilli Buerosse, age 8, talks about how she “just wants to help out and be kind to people... because if we were not here, there would be no one to help out.”*

*Lilli Buerosse*

*Age 8*

*Lilli’s a 2<sup>nd</sup> Grader at EastBrook*

*Academy*

*“Volunteering at the JCH has given me so many times to learn and become more immersed in the culture.” The Jonathan Clark house also has helped me learn more responsibility that is in volunteering.*

*Kate Zellmann Class of HHS ‘28*

*Age 15*



*"The events are great, and I like doing things like that, and giving a better experience for people that come here." If you are not volunteering then there will be no fun things going on around, but if you volunteer, then there will be many fun things that you can do like set up fun activities, and set up snacks and drinks." "I think that it is fun to come and do all the behind the scenes volunteering.*

*Emerson is 12, and a 7th Grader at Steffen Middle School*



*"I enjoy helping our neighbors doing something that they love." "There are not many places like this around the U.S that are still working. And if this is stopped and people don't come here and enjoy this, it will be forgotten. I like helping the people and making them smile.*

*Age 13*

*Kolby Zellmann Class of HHS '30*



*Laura Gattoni, graduating class of HHS '30, speaks about what she enjoys about the house and why she chooses to volunteer. "Because you are preserving the memory." I like the Jonathan Clark house because I get to dress up.*

*Age 13*

*Laura Gattoni Class of HHS '30*



# *A Season of Celebration and Ceremony!*

**The Jonathan Clark House Museum marks the momentous occasion finalization of the Preservation Project with a Rope Cutting Ceremony!**



This summer and fall were a bustling time at the Jonathan Clark House Museum, with two heritage days, Pie on the Patio, and exterior preservation/restorative work being completed. A celebratory commemoration marked a momentous occasion.

On a breezy and warm Saturday in September, the Jonathan Clark House hosted a Rope Cutting Ceremony to celebrate the long-awaited completion of the Museum Preservation Projects. Culminating many years of planning, fundraising for the Jonathan Clark House's exterior, including gutters, windows, and masonry, was completed.

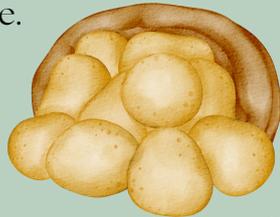
Special guests such as Dr. Sandy Custer, the last owner and dentist of the Jonathan Clark House, and representatives from the Mequon-Thiensville Chamber of Commerce as well as the Mequon Thiensville Community Foundation attended to mark the occasion. The Clark Houses' very own Young Historians not only cut the rope, but, with the assistance of Fred Derr, also made the rope. The celebration was well attended, with volunteers past and present, board members, and generous community supporters. The beautiful event was celebrated with cold cider, coffee generously donated by *Collectivo Coffee*, and delicious carrot cake from *Outpost Foods*.



# Celebrating Heritage and History at the Clark House



The Jonathan Clark House Museum hosted its annual Potato Harvesting Event, reflecting on the Clark House's past as a working farm. The Potato Harvesting event was well attended by guests and community members alike. The Museums younger guests especially enjoyed digging up the potatoes and suggested recipes were shared for root vegetable.



Planting and harvesting practices were discussed and showcased by Fred Derr, Preservation Manager showing how plantings were done in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. As potato recipes were a fairly new addition to the settlers fare, dishes such as boiled potatos, and mashed potatos with milk or cream and salt and pepper were influenced by Irish Immigrants, the Clark family would have likely served one of these dishes at dinner.

Each guest was able to take home what they harvested, with the Museums youngest guests having the most success in their potato yields. 19<sup>th</sup> century yard games were played by all, and adults had the opportunity to try their hand at hoop games, checkers and pin and ball knock down games too!



The Jonathan Clark House Museum celebrated its Heritage Days this summer; bathed in warm summer sun the museum celebrated its rich history and provided an immersive experience for community members and guests alike.

The Heritage Days Celebrations were spread out over two days and provided a beautiful walk back in time; complete with adorable farm animals such as calves, chickens, kittens, goats and ducks. No farmstead gathering would be complete without snacks, Museum guests were treated to fresh bread, herbed butter, chocolate milk and cheese.

One can almost imagine the Clark family enjoying an afternoon of summer bliss after a long days work.



# FALL OPEN HOUSE AT THE CLARK HOUSE

*October,*

At the Jonathan Clark House Museum, saw the leaves falling and a cold crispness in the air. Beautiful fall colors of red, ochre and burnt orange filled the grounds. The Jonathan Clark House hosted an Open House on October 18<sup>th</sup>, old Friends and new faces stopped in for a sip of Fresh Cider and a tour of the museum.

Some of the young historians showcased their artistic talents, and painted lovely mini pumpkins donated by CedarCreek Valley Farms. Some of our older guests, felt encouraged by the beautiful pumpkins and joined in! It was a beautiful time to be had by all, and many new people were enthralled and excited to learn about the Clark House and tour the grounds!



# The Jonathan Clark House Museum to be featured at the Weyenburg Library



**The Jonathan Clark House Museum**, will be featured for the Month of November at the Weyenburg Library, located in Mequon. This display will run for the month November and will focus on “Experiencing” the Jonathan Clark House museum. Each artifact and piece in the display will be curated to reflect why the Jonathan Clark House is so meaningful and will allow the viewer to immerse themselves in the history and heritage of the Clark family and their storied Homestead. Please stop by the library for a view!





YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED  
TO  
**HOLIDAY LIGHTS AND  
TRADITIONS**

AT THE JONATHAN CLARK  
HOUSE MUSEUM

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A BEAUTIFUL EVENING OF LIVE MUSIC,  
FESTIVE REFRESHMENTS, AND ENJOY THE BEAUTY OF THE  
CLARK HOUSE TRIMMED FOR THE HOLIDAYS

DECEMBER

TUESDAY	2&3	5:00-
WEDNESDAY		7:00PM

*RSVP NOVEMBER 28*

At the Corner of  
Bonniwell and Cedarburg  
Roads, Mequon, Wi

*Thank You*



# Save The Date

*You are Cordially Invited to the  
Jonathan Clark House Annual  
Meeting!*

Please join us for a beautiful evening reflecting on the Clark House Museum's impactful year, as we highlight the successes of 2025 and approach a new season at the Museum made possible by our generous partnerships, donors, and volunteers!

*January*

SPECTRUM  
INVESTMENTS  
7:00 P.M.

*13th*

6329 W MEQUON  
RD. MEQUON,  
53092

*thank you*



# Upcoming Events



**WEDS** 01/14

## Jonathan Clark House Museum Book Club

Please Join us for our second Book Club Meeting at the Clark House, we will be reading "Studying Wisconsin; The Life of Increase Lapham". Check the Clark House Website for more information.

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**SAT** 11/12

## Snow Flake Making Event

Are you a Girl Scout or Girl Scout troop interested in a fun craft event that can also earn you a badge? Please Join us at the Clark Museum for a historical snowflake-making event. Details provided via Website.

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