

Friends of Jonathan Clark House Museum 2020 Annual Report

Our mission is to collect, preserve and share the history
of the Jonathan Clark House and the early settlers of Mequon-Thiensville



Executive Director Nina Look
and Board President Gary Heckendorf

Dear Friends –

We have had a most unusual year but have found successes in many new avenues and met new friends along the way. Although we will not hold an annual meeting, we hope this report will give you a good overview of 2020. We look forward to seeing you in 2021!

It is a pleasure to serve as your JCH Board Vice President. My project this past year has been JCH public relations. I am planning a promotional/educational video that will be funded in part by Port Washington State Bank. I am currently recruiting additional sponsors. If you would like to get involved, drop me a note at jchmuseum@gmail.com.



Board Vice President Linda Chay



Treasurer Diana Hetzel, on right with JCH volunteer Carol Stephenson

Our year-end fund drive was a success. We finished 2020 with \$16,400 in expenses and \$53,500 in income. We have \$158,000 left on our property mortgage. Please contact me at the address below if you would like to see more details on our finances. We are very grateful to our 2020 donors for their financial support and trust in our endeavors. jchmuseum@gmail.com



Education Director Margaret Bussone with
JCH Friend Jim Marshall of Spectrum
Investment Advisors

Have you seen our new educational outreach program posters and bookmarks? The “Become a Young Historian” project is a Jonathan Clark House collaboration with the Mequon Thiensville Historical Society and the Trinity Freistadt Historical Society. Posters are displayed and bookmarks are available at area schools, municipal offices and the Weyenberg Library. You can get your copy by sending a note to me at jchmuseum@gmail.com

I am an architect with a deep regard for historic preservation. As my fellow Board of Directors and I have looked at the delicate nature of the 1848 Clark House, we have decided to develop a Heritage Center that will expand our mission to the community. A draft of my plan is available from Nina. Let her know if you have an interest in getting involved in Center naming rights and fundraising.



Board Member Justin Racinowski



Board Member Dr. Patrick Steele
with his former student, Miss Wisconsin

As you may recall, we had only two events in 2020. The first was the annual meeting sponsored by Herbst Oil, TRU Heating and Cooling and the Village BP and hosted by Jim Marshall at Spectrum Investment Advisors. Perhaps I met you at the meeting. Our second event was my fabulous presentation on the history of Wisconsin baseball, hosted by Concordia University Wisconsin.

We appreciate the support we get from area businesses, service clubs and the Mequon Community Foundation. We are proud members of the Mequon Thiensville Chamber of Commerce and the Cedarburg Chamber of Commerce. Financial support and volunteer talents are critical to our organization's success. Let us know if you would like to serve as a volunteer.



Board Member Dan Umhoefer and JCH Friend Pastor Dale Erickson



Assistant Director Anne Bridges with fellow tour docent Mike Runde

As our organization has grown in the past eight years, we have learned so much about the role the Clark, Turck and Bonniwell families played in the development of our community. We are pleased to pass on this knowledge to others. Our tour docents and I look forward to 2021 interactive tours. Did you know that we customize each tour according to our audience?

In March, I co-curated the Clausing Octagon Barn exhibit at the Cedarburg History Museum with CHM Director Steve Daily. Partners in this project were Al Dobberfuhr of the Trinity Freistadt Historical Society, Nina Look of JCH, Jane Butz and Allen Buchholz of the Ozaukee County Historical Society and, of course, Ozzie Clausing. The pandemic restrictions came out the week after our opening!

JCH Preservation Manager, Fred Derr



Clausing Octagon Barn Exhibit project representatives with Fred Derr in the back row on the left



IT Advisor Shaw Bridges with his two-favorite people, his wife Anne and Santa Claus

We made big strides with our computer system in 2020. Thanks to one of our members, Henry Hile, and to Fromm Family Foods and their IT expert Bryan Villwock, we were able to tap into the neighboring Leaf Land Landscape Design site internet. This has provided us with a faster and more reliable service to support all of Nina's hard work. I enjoy being the behind-the-scenes tech support staff.

It has been a productive year at "Clark House Historian", with 100 new posts drawing over 4,000 visits from more than 540 online readers. We've made contact with several descendants of early settlers and examined dozens of early maps, books, photographs and news articles. Look for my posts on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at jchmhistorian.com Come see what's new in Clark House history!



Historian Reed Perkins (with Nina) and his wife Dr. Laura Rexroth



JCH Photographer Jean Hill with "Caroline Clark" and "Jonathan Clark"

I am a volunteer photographer for area non-profit organizations such as the Mequon Thiensville Chamber of Commerce and the Jonathan Clark House Museum. The reason I most enjoy being the JCH photographer is because of its mission to share the history of our community with young people. My role is to express the mission through my photographs.

The Jonathan Clark House is about educating and entertaining people of all ages. That's why I love the museum and why I volunteer and truly believe in the amazing institution that it is. I have learned, taught and enjoyed so much in my three years of volunteering at the museum. I will continue to volunteer with my mentor Margaret Bussone as we teach and entertain the people of our community.



Young Historian Matthew Seiberlich
"Jonathan Clark"



Young Historian Spencer Holloway
"Peter Turck"

To understand where the future will take us, we need to first understand how the past got us here. I am dedicated to the historical research of Peter Turck who helped shape our state government and developed the local economy. He and his family helped move the territory into the founding of a state. I look forward to meeting other JCH young historians. My mentors are Reed, Fred and Nina.

It is important for us to learn about and understand our heritage. We owe a certain respect to those who came before us and shaped our world. The Clark House is a historical resource with tangible and visual exhibits that peak one's interests and invest one's mind into the learning of said heritage. The museum is vital to our community's understanding of its past, and perhaps a glimpse into its future.



Young Historian Silas Toppe with his
mentor Al Dobberfuhr

The Clark House is a good example of a pioneer house where people of all ages visit, learn and enjoy. It is better to see and experience history rather than just reading or hearing about it. It is fun and exciting! I have learned how to be an old timey pioneer, and I like making new friends. If you know someone who would like to join me at Museum events, give Nina a call. My mentor Carol Stephenson and I will give them a personal tour.



Young Historian Clara Klimczak
"Laura Clark"



Young Historian Cooper Ressel

I enjoy helping out at the Jonathan Clark House. Everyone I've met there is great. I have helped with event set-up and break-down, seasonal yard work and educational demonstrations. I look forward to the 2021 Heritage Days where I can again demonstrate the rope maker with my mentor Fred Derr.

The Parlour and Jonathan 's Office have been re-plastered and painted. Our crew as pictured are Ron Kirshling of the Mitered Edge, JCH Perservation Manager Fred Derr and painter Phil Goodson of Philip Merrill Interiors. Not pictured is plasterer Paul Weyker of Premiere Plastering. These two projects were generously funded by the Mequon Community Foundation.



2020 Board of Directors

Gary Heckendorf, President

Jackson, Vice President/Commercial Banker, Forte Bank-Hartford

Margaret Bussone, Secretary and Education Director

Mequon, Retired, Foreign Language Faculty, Mequon Thiensville School District

Diana Hetzel, Treasurer

Mequon, Retired, DH Bookkeeping

Linda Chay, Board Member

Cedarburg, Vice President/Mortgage Lending, Port Washington State Bank

Justin Racinowski, Board Member

Fox Point, Principal, Racinowski Design

Pam Ruschman, Board Member

Mequon, Artist

Alexis Ruzell, Communications

Mequon, Realtor, Realty Executives Integrity

Patrick Steele, Ph.D., Board Member

Jackson, Associate Professor, History, Concordia University Wisconsin

Dan Umhoefer, Board Member

Mequon, Owner, Village BP/Herbst Oil/TRU Heating and Cooling,

2020 Volunteer Staff Members

Nina Look, Ph.D. Executive Director

Mequon, Retired, Vice President, Milwaukee Area Technical College

Anne Bridges, Assistant Director – Special Projects

Mequon, Retired, Financial Analyst

Frederick Derr, Preservation Manager and Furnishings Curator

Mequon, Metalsmith, Historic Preservationist

Shaw Bridges, Information Technology

Mequon, Retired, Financial Analyst

Reed Perkins, Historian (Turck Family descendent)

Kenosha, Musician

Jean Hill, Photographer

Cedarburg, Retired, Ozaukee Economic Development



Parlour and Jonathan's Office Re-Plastered and Painted



Fred Derr, his niece Dr. Rachael Miller and Dr. Nina Look at a "Pie on the Patio" event

Staffing Announcement

Watch for details in 2021, as the JCH Board of Directors announces the establishment of a half-time paid Executive Director position that will begin in September. This is a big step for our organization as our goal is to raise funds for an endowment for the staffing budget. Preservation Manager Fred Derr and Executive Director Nina Look have volunteered at the museum since it started in 2012 and have plans to continue to serve as volunteer caretakers/curators.

We need your financial support

Your generous endowment donation could include naming rights such as the "ABC Family Endowment". Contact Board President Gary Heckendorf at JCH to discuss this exciting opportunity.

jchmuseum@gmail.com

2020 Business and Organization Donors

Bank First – Fund development budget

Chevron Matching Grant with Bob Hickman - Operating budget

Concordia University Wisconsin – Events budget

Culver's – Education budget

Fromm Family Foods – Technology budget

Mid State Insurance – Year End Fund Drive

The Mitered Edge/Ron Kirschling – Preservation budget

Port Washington State Bank – Marketing budget

Racinowski Architecture + Design – Design services

Village BP and Herbst Oil – Operations and Programming budget

Weyker Premiere Plastering – Preservation budget



2020 Honorariums

Margaret Bussone from Carolyn Lawrence

Sandy and Jean Custer from David and Gael Romoser

Bock Family from Fred Derr and Nina Look

Pam Ruschman from Lynn and Paul Rix

Margaret Bussone and Jeanne Holper from Sue and Jack Kessler

2020 Memorials

Kendra Bock from an anonymous friend

Jim Coutts from Margaret Bussone

Marion Hatzinger from Nancy Perez

David Horsefield from Joan Horsefield

Tom and John Doyle from Mary Lou Corrigan Luff

Rita Gagainis from Susan and Vilnis Gagainis

Beth and Otie Marquardt from Susan and Vilnis Gagainis

Jon Safran from

Fred Derr & Nina Look, Jean & Jim Hill, Andrea & Matthew Richmond, Dawn Safran

Sheri Boesch from Barbara Boesch Johnson

Karen Daub from Tom Daub

John Marita from Margaret Bussone

Jerry McGinnis from Barbara McGinnis

Peg Uihlein from Fred Derr and Nina Look

2020 Miscellaneous Donations

Anne and Shaw Bridges

Steve Klimczak

Dr. Patrick Steele

Suzanne and John Kessler

Liz and Bob Hickman

Tom Frank

Al Lustig and Janice Watson

Pat and Ron Heinritz

Jenny Hansen

Sam Cutler

Harold Schnell

Gary Heckendorf

2020 Artifact Sponsors

Jane Boesch - pewter beaker

Bernita & Henry Hile – cast iron kettle

Margaret Bussone – yoke & brass kettle

Fred Derr & Nina Look - mid 19th century book

Barbara McGinnis – pie plate & stoneware crock

Sandra & Jerry Osborne - girls cotton prairie dress

Sunrise Rotary of Mequon Thiensville - rope maker

Andrea & Matthew Richmond – lift top library desk

Jean & Jim Hill – pie plate

Tom Daub – mid 19th century book

Beverly Hess – woolen shawl & pewter beaker

Thank you to our Artifact Project Underwriters:



Here are three of the artifacts that are still available for sponsorship



Mid-19th Century Pine Dry Sink
\$1,300



Hired Man's Shaving Mirror
\$300



Clothes Washing Demo
\$200

Society of 1848 Members through 2020

Founder Level \$25,000+

Cindy and David Bock
Frederick and Kendra Bock
Frederick Derr and Dr. Nina Look
Barbara and Jerry McGinnis, Sr.
Mequon Community Foundation
Sommer Family Foundation

Preservationist Level \$10,000+

Spectrum Investment Advisors - Jim Marshall
Fromm Family Foods -Tom and Kathy Nieman
Anne and Shaw Bridges

Historian Level \$5,000+

Dr. Gregory and Jean Custer
Tammie and Jim Strause/The Pink Llama Gallery
Pieper Power, Inc. /Ideal Mechanical
Richmond Investment Services – Andrea and Matthew Richmond

Settler Level \$2,500+

Antiquarian Society of Wisconsin
Bob and Jan Blazich
George and Char Bonniwell
Gary and Sandy Videkovich Brown
Sam Cutler
First Priority Printing – Rob Strzelczek
Steve French
Curt and Mary Gielow
Kim and Ann Harter
Elizabeth and Robert Hickman
Hunt Family Foundation
Junior Woman's Club of MT
David and Camille Kundert
Mequon Thiensville Sunrise Rotary
Mequon Woman's club
Nancy Perez
Pieper Foundation
Joyce Rosenberg
Pam and Kelly Ruschman
Harold & Joan Schnell
Steve and Cindy Shallock

2020 Grant Awards

Junior Woman's Club of Mequon Thiensville – Programming budget

Mequon Community Foundation – Parlour and Jonathan's office plaster-painting project

Mequon Woman's Club – General fund

Optimist Club of Mequon Thiensville – Stairway painting project

Pieper Electric Inc. & Ideal Manufacturing – Well pump replacement and Operating budget

Sunrise Rotary of Mequon Thiensville – Rope maker and supplies

Thiensville Mequon Rotary Club – Tour docent guidebooks



2020 Year-End Drive Report

**We thank the following donors for their support of our mission and our year-end fund drive.
We are pleased to accept donations and sponsorships throughout the year.**

Sam and Jessica Azinger
Cindy and David Bock
Frederick Bock
Jane Boesch
George and Char Bonniwell
Carly Borchardt
Brook and Liz Brown
Margaret Bussone
Drs. Peggy and Ed Callahan
Kathlyn and Christopher Callen
Dr. Gregory and Jean Custer
Jesse and Barkha Daily
Tom Daub
Fred Derr and Dr. Nina Look
Pat and Don Engelbert
Dale and Mary Erickson
William Foshag
Kay Freyer
Susan and Vilnis Gagainis
Jamie and Karen Geschke
Curt and Mary Gielow
Kristen and Mike Gies
Dr. Kevin and Eileen Goniou
Roger and Paulette Gronwick
Ann and Jon Hammes
Patty Harkensee
Kim and Ann Harter
Philia and Paul Hayes

Dr. Karl and Carol Hertz
Beverly Hess
Diana Hetzel
Bernita and Henry Hile
Janice and Clay Hill
Jean and Jim Hill
Sharon and Gordon Hinrichs
Michael and Corinne Holloway
Rob and Dawn Holyoke
Joan Horsefield
David Jackson
Jeff and Amy Johns
Barbara Boesch Johnson
Jean and Dave Johnson
Will and Katherine Jones
Rob Kos and Dawn Schubert
David and Camille Kundert
Ladky Associates
Leaf Land Landscape/Jim & Shirley Walczak
Mike and Jane Leske
Mary Lou Corrigan Luff
Jim Marshall/Spectrum Investment Advisors
Barbara McGinnis
Judy and Joe McGinty
Mid State Insurance
Melissa Nimke
Sandra and Jerry Osborne
Sandra and Jim Pape

Nancy Perez
Brigitte and Gerald Phillips
Ellie and Randy Pipkorn
Connie Pukaite
Lynn and Paul Rix
David and Gael Romoser
Mimi and John Rosing
Mike Runde
Alexis and Vadim Ruzell
Dawn Safran
Mary Ellen Sampe
Mary and Bowne Sayner
Alice and Bob Schilleman
Diane Schlitz

Warren and Alice Seifert
Minna Smith
Stan Smith
Carol Stephenson
Tammie and Jim Strause
Alden and Gus Taylor
Norene and John Thiel
Mike Uihlein
Julie and Michael Walz
Jack and Nancy Wiese
John and Stacey Wirth
William and Camille Woodward
Rachel Muchin and Patrick Young
Suzanne and Kurt Zellmann

Become a Young Historian Right here in your own backyard!



**Check out our “Become a Young Historian” project
on our website www.jonathanclarkhouse.org**



**2020 Annual Report developed by Executive Director Dr. Nina Look
January 8, 2021**

**Friends of Jonathan Clark House
P.O. Box 634, Mequon, WI 53092
jchmuseum@gmail.com 262-618-2051
www.jonathanclarkhouse.org**