

The Jonathan Clark House *Museum* **NEWSLETTER**

Summer is winding down at the Clark House in true Wisconsin fashion, with the beauty of greenery, wildflowers abounding, and the ever-present unpredictability of the weather. I wonder if the Clarks sat back in awe and wondered what Mother Nature would do next! The Clark house has had a busy summer season, with events and ways to get involved at the Museum. You can read about them and upcoming events in this edition.



Pie and Ice Cream on the Patio; A Summer Favorite at the Museum!

Summer

would not be complete without the Clark House Museum's Annual Pie and Ice Cream on the Patio. The Jonathan Clark House Museum owes much to its incredible team of volunteers who serve front and center and behind the scenes in every facet.

The Clark House celebrated its wonderful volunteers with delectable pie from Outpost, Cedar Crest Ice Cream from Glaze, and local wine!



The evening was hallmarked by live piano music, and guests were able to test their knowledge of Wisconsin with two rounds of Trivia. Teams were assembled, and questions were created by Clark Museum staff and board members.



Heritage Days- A trip to Yesteryear



Volunteers and Guests enjoy a demonstration about historic tools.



The Clark House Young Historians help harvesting the summer crop!

Heritage Days brought history to life on the Museum grounds. Visitors enjoyed historical yard games, while 4H members introduced guests to their chickens. Our Young Historians volunteered and helped harvest vegetables. Guests savored fresh milk, cookies, lemonade, and cheese.

Demonstrations included butter churning, laundry, and the use of historical tools, with tours of the Clark House. George and Char Bonniwell attended and donated George's book, "1000 Years of Bonniwells." The Bonniwells are related to the Jonathan Clark family. Visitors, new and old, enjoyed the beautiful summer day and engaging activities at the Museum!



RECENT ACCESSIONS



The Jonathan Clark House Museum has recently acquired three new artifacts for display. The artifact to the left is a each of these artifacts is available for sponsorship. The artifact on the left is an **Ash Hay Fork**, which was widely used in the time when the Jonathan Clark House was an active farm and homestead.

The three-tined design has been used since medieval times and was typically made of oak or other hardwoods. The prongs were intentionally charred to make bending of the wood easier. Eventually, wooden prongs were combined with metal and were replaced by full metal tunings, as it increased strength and durability. Remnants of the charring are visible on the artifact, as is the hand-hewn craftsmanship. **Sponsorship level 100.00**

SHAKER BROOM

The **Shaker Broom** was derived and perfected from an original invention by Levi Dickinson in 1797. Dickinson utilized Sorghum or Broom Corn for the brooms' bristles.

This design and new material revolutionized the broom industry in New England, and sales spread across the United States. Prized for its durability and flat shape is still utilized in cleaning today. **Sponsorship Level 75.00**



SALT GLAZE STONEWARE



Salt Glaze Stoneware was fairly common in the 1800's, originally credited to the English and German Immigrants in the Ohio River Valley. This style was very popular in the Midwest, featuring a glaze utilizing salt to achieve the speckled and sponge like apperance.

A jug like this would have been likely used by the Clarks for storing grain, milk, and dry goods. After the mid 1850's other styles of glazing became more prevalent for storage stoneware, such as blue slip, floral, and leaf pattern motifs. **Sponsorship Level 75.00**





Upcoming Preservation Project at the Clark House



Our Latest Project

This multi-phase preservation project will restore, repair, and re-chink the historic log shed to ensure its structural integrity for generations to come.

Plans also include the One-Story Section, preservation and restoration of the roof section, and the reinterpretation of the far back room as a Summer kitchen — offering visitors a glimpse into daily domestic life as part of the Museum tour.

We have partnered with Contractor Jake Bender to begin Phase 1 of the Clark House restoration and preservation project. Jake previously worked on the exterior preservation project at the Clark House.

We look forward to Jake getting this next preservation project completed and assisting in the Jonathan Clark House Museum's Historic Preservation Project.



CLARK HOUSE SHED
RESTORATION SIDE

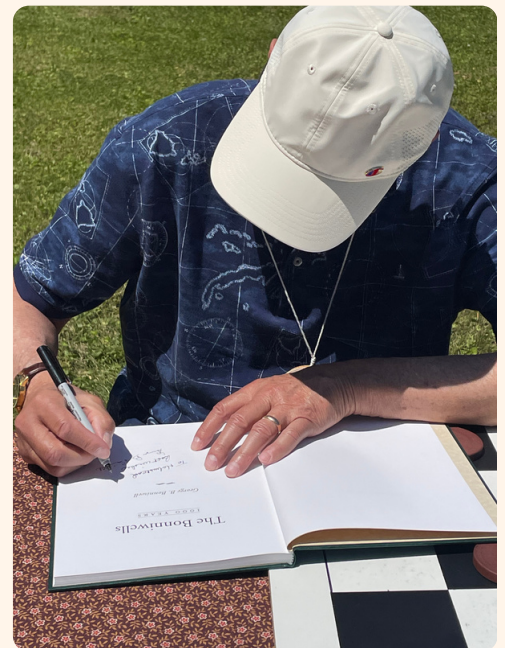




An Evening with Bonniwell's

The Jonathan Clark House Museum hosted a special evening gathering for board members, volunteers, and museum supporters to meet George and Char Bonniwell, who are related to the Jonathan Clark family. George generously donated another set of books — "A Thousand Years of the Bonniwells" — which traces the Bonniwell family from their early days in France to the role they played in helping shape Mequon alongside the Jonathan and Mary Clark family.

George also graciously offered personalized book signings for anyone who wished to receive one. Light hors d'oeuvres, appetizers, wine, and drinks were served throughout the evening. The Jonathan Clark House Museum extends its heartfelt gratitude to George and Char Bonniwell for their generous support and dedication over the years.



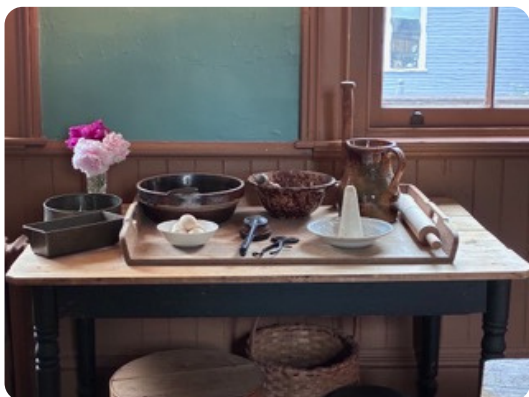
Thank you all who attended this wonderful event!

Beaconsfield House Museum



I had the privilege in July of visiting Prince Edward Island, or Epekwitk as it is known to the Mi'kmaq. I had the opportunity to visit several Historic House Museums and Historic Landmarks, such as the Beaconsfield House Museum. Built by a wealthy shipbuilder, James Peake, in 1870 for his new bride, no expense was spared, including running water and flushable toilets. However, due to the expansion of the rail system, the shipbuilding industry crumbled, and the Peakes had to give up their stately home. After the last owner passed away, it was designated as a House Museum in 1973.

Noting the similarities and differences between Prince Edward Island and Wisconsin, it was exciting to discover that beyond Maritime industries such as Shipbuilding and Fishing, the highly profitable Fox Farms were as prevalent in PEI as they were in Wisconsin. Not only did these fox farms produce highly desirable furs, but they produced Silver Fox Furs. In the early 1900's a breeding pair of silver foxes could sell for as much as \$20,000. I spoke with Beaconsfield House Museum Director Matthew McRae, and he shared the area's history with me. On behalf of the Jonathan Clark House Museum, the book Bright with Silver was gifted to the Beaconsfield House Museum Director for further reading and research.-Nicole Buerosse



RECENT DONATIONS

Anonymous Trust-Preservation Budget
Bob & Jan Blazich-Operations Budget
Shaw & Anne Bridges-Operations Budget
Fred Derr & Nina Look-Memorial to Suzie Geidel Hadler Egelhoff
Carolyn Lawrence- Honorarium to Margaret Bussone
Mequon Thiensville Sunrise Rotary-Programming for Youth
Peter & Donna Steffen-Operations Budget
The Stilt House- Operations Budget
Tammie Strause/The Pink Llama Gallery-Bonniwell Reception
Bill & Adele Walsh-Operations Budget

A look Ahead at the Museum



Although the Summer weather is warm and wonderful, fall at the Clark House is right around the corner! We hope you will join us to celebrate the season's change as we host the Museum Book Club, help us kick off our Annual Fund this fall, and join us for our Pumpkin Painting Extravaganza at our October open house!

Upcoming Events

- ★ BOOK CLUB
SEPTMEBER 16 10:00AM
- ★ ANNUAL FUND
OCTOBER 15
- ★ OPEN HOUSE
OCTOBER 17 1-3PM
- ★ HOLIDAY LIGHTS AND
TRADITIONS DECEMBER
1ST AND 2ND



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