

# JONATHAN CLARK HOUSE MUSEUM NEWSLETTER



Fall-Winter | November 2024

## Talking About Wisconsin History...and Jonathan Clark

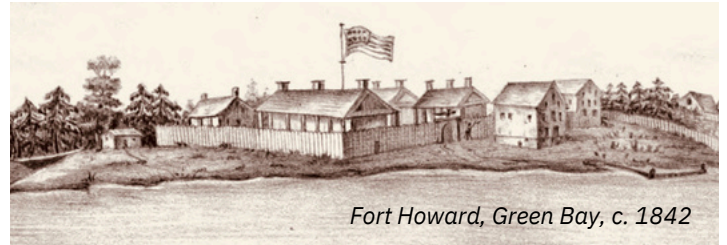
News from Clark House Historian Reed Perkins

Over the last year or so I've been giving illustrated historical presentations on topics related to the research I do for the Jonathan Clark House. This September, I got to talk about some very interesting topics, to some very enthusiastic and attentive audiences.



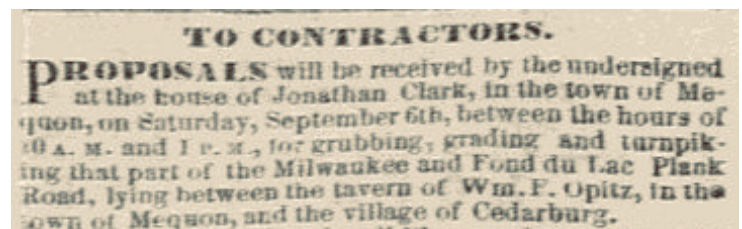
JCH Historian Reed Perkins at WSDAR, Oshkosh, 2024

The first of these events was my September 13, 2024, after-dinner presentation at the Fall Workshop of the Wisconsin Society, Daughters of the American Revolution (WSDAR). My topic was "Building the Military Road, Wisconsin Territory's First Federal Road." Clark House visitors may remember that Jonathan Clark first arrived in Wisconsin in October, 1833, as a new recruit to the U.S. Army's 5th infantry regiment, stationed at Fort Howard (Green Bay). JMC served his three-year enlistment at Ft. Howard, and spent much of the summer and fall of 1835 and 1836 building the eastern portion of the territory's "Old Military Road" from Ft. Howard



toward the south end of Lake Winnebago and then, ultimately, to Ft. Winnebago (Portage) and Ft. Crawford (Prairie du Chien).

My talk incorporated some of the 1830s and '40s U.S. Army and road-building information that I've discussed on my Clark House Historian blog, plus new primary source materials, all enhanced by period maps, photographs and illustrations. By the end of the presentation I was able to connect JMC—and our museum—to the era of Wisconsin's earliest white settlement and the subsequent burst of federal and civilian road-building activity, in which our Jonathan Clark played an active and important role. And in the process, I introduced the Jonathan Clark House Museum to 150 new history-loving friends from the WSDAR.



JCH and Cedarburg Plank Road bidding, Sept. 2, 1851

If you'd like to know more about JMC's—and the army's—work on early Wisconsin roads, I'll be giving a revised version of this presentation at 1:00 p.m., Sunday, April 6, 2025, at Mequon City Hall, co-sponsored by the Friends of the Jonathan Clark House and the Mequon-Thiensville Historical Society. I hope to see you there!



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Fred Derr, Preservation Manager  
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Reed Perkins, Historian &  
Media/Web Design

Matthew Seiberlich, JCH Young  
Historian Ambassador

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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[262-618-2051](tel:262-618-2051)

[jchmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:jchmuseum@gmail.com)

## Upcoming Events – Save the Dates!



It's autumn at the Jonathan Clark House. Our colorful leaves are falling, and our outdoor activities have been put away for the year.



Preparations are now being made for our winter events. Save the dates, we hope to see you there!

### Ongoing, until December 31, 2024

Our annual **Friends of the Jonathan Clark House Year-End Fund Drive** is underway! Please show your support for the museum and its mission to "to collect, preserve and share the history of the Jonathan Clark House and the early settlers of Mequon and Thiensville." Donors to the 2024 Fund Drive become 2025 voting members of the Friends of the JCH. For details, see pages 4-5 of this newsletter or visit the [Donate](#) page of our website.

### Sunday, November 10, 1:00 p.m.

Annual meeting of the **Mequon-Thiensville Historical Society**, including an **1860 Mequon map exhibit** presented by JCH co-curator Fred Derr. For more information, see page 6 of this newsletter or visit <https://mthistoricalsociety.org/events/>

**Thanksgiving, November 28, 9:00 a.m.** Junior Woman's Club of Mequon-Thiensville **Turkey Trot**. For details, visit [juniorsmt.org](http://juniorsmt.org)

### Mon. & Tues, December 2 & 3, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Our **Holiday Lights** celebration at the Jonathan Clark House. Space is limited, so please RSVP by Nov. 26 to [jchmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:jchmuseum@gmail.com) with your name, choice of date, and names of your guests.

### Tuesday, January 7, 2025, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

The **annual meeting** and celebration of the Friends of the Jonathan Clark House, where members elect the JCH 2025 Board of Directors, and receive and approve the 2024 annual report and financial statement.





## Harvest Time on the Farm!

Some of our JCH Young Historians and JCH adult volunteers gathered at the Jonathan Clark House on September 8 to harvest this year's potato crop. Well done, and lots of fun for all!



## 2024 Farm Clean Up



On Saturday, October 5th, JCH Museum co-curator Fred Derr (left) was joined by members of Mequon's Scouts BSA Troop 865 and adult volunteers Brady Seiberlich, Steve Rodberg and Ed Foster for a clean up of the museum's outdoor spaces.

And while the JCH farm property no longer comprises 160 acres, there was still plenty of wood to split and stack, and other fall yardwork to attend to. Our thanks to the scouts and adult volunteers for their help!

## Congratulations to HHS Seniors Julian and Matthew

Our Education Team extends congratulations to JCH Young Historian Julien Broughton and JCH Young Historian Ambassador Matthew Sieberlich who were among the ten Homestead High School students selected as National Scholarship semifinalists. Of the 1.3 million juniors who took the PSAT (Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test) last year, fewer than one per cent have received

this recognition and qualify to compete for the National Merit scholarships to be given out next spring. We're proud of you. Good luck to you both!

—Margaret Bussone  
JCH Education Coordinator



**HOMESTEAD**  
HIGH SCHOOL



# JONATHAN CLARK HOUSE MUSEUM

## 2024 Year-End Fund Drive



*This is your opportunity to support  
a vibrant cultural asset and  
vital educational resource in our community!*



Jonathan M. Clark House  
-1848-

**Our Mission: to collect, preserve and share the  
history of the Jonathan Clark House and the  
early settlers of Mequon and Thiensville.**





## *Our dynamic community impact in 2024:*

- Offered customized interactive museum tours
  - Provided youth leadership opportunities through our Young Historian Program
  - Completed significant historic preservation projects
    - Presented "Heritage Days" and "Pie on the Patio" family fun
    - Extended important collaborations with other community organizations

*Your contribution today will be an investment for future generations.  
A donation of any amount will include your 2025 JCH membership.*

*There are several ways to donate:*

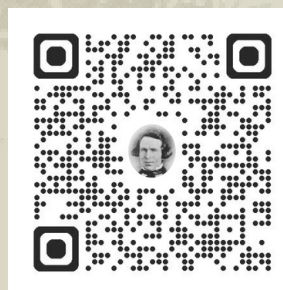
Mail a check to:  
Friends of Jonathan Clark House  
P. O. Box 634  
Mequon, WI 53092

Or visit our website:  
<https://jonathanclarkhouse.com/donate>

For more information contact us at: [jchmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:jchmuseum@gmail.com)



Or use this QR code:





## Recent Donations – Thank You!

Contributions to the Friends of the Jonathan Clark House received between July 31 and September 30, 2024. For a complete list of our 2024 supporters see the [Thank You to Our Donors](#) page at our website.

### Donors

Barbara Boesch Johnson  
John and Mimi Rosing

### Grants & Business Sponsorships

Creekside Valley Farm  
Letters and Signs/Cary Schoessow  
Mequon Copy Master  
Pink Llama Gallery/Tammie Strause



### Join us!

You can make a difference with a donation to the Friends of the Jonathan Clark House.

[Visit our website](#) for more information and to make a donation online or by U.S. Mail

## ~ ~ ~ Sponsor a Piece of History ~ ~ ~

Whether on behalf of yourself or someone special, you can sponsor one of our Jonathan Clark House artifacts as a holiday gift! Visit the [Support Us > JCH Artifact Project](#) section of our website and you will see a list of artifacts that are available for sponsorship. Artifact sponsorships range from \$15 to \$500. Our most recent artifact sponsorship is the cast iron caldron generously sponsored by Ed and Lavern Foster. Below are a sample of the artifacts available for sponsorship: stoneware storage/canning jar, \$125; woolen shawls, \$35 each; hand-forged iron rack for cooking tools, \$50.



For more information on how to donate an artifact, contact Nina Look for details: [jchmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:jchmuseum@gmail.com) or [262-618-2051](tel:262-618-2051).

## MTHS, Maps & JCH – November 10, 2024



Mark your calendar for the Mequon Thiensville Historical Society's annual meeting on Sunday, November 10, 2024, at the [Mequon Nature Preserve](#). Exhibits and the short business meeting begin at 1:00 p.m. and the program begins at 1:30. The exhibits include a special, very early, Mequon map presented by JCH co-curator Fred Derr (more on that, next page). For more details, visit <https://mthistoricalsociety.org/events/>

### Returning the Land to its Roots

Program presenters will be Kristin Thiel, Executive Director of Mequon Nature Preserve, and Christine Nuernberg, former City of Mequon Mayor and MNP Champion. They will trace the time from when European settlers first came to the area, to the development of family farms, and to the implementation of a 150- year land restoration program that re-establishes wetlands, prairies, forests. You will hear about the end of a farming community and the emergence of a unique outdoor educational setting where students of all ages are learning and conducting research on how to restore the land to a time prior to the European Settlement.

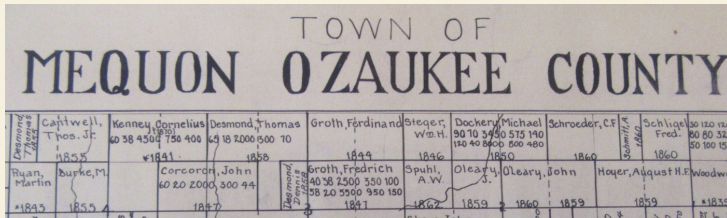
MEQUON *Nature Preserve*





# “Rolling Land, Swamps and Second Rate Timber...”

## New Historic Maps in the JCH Collection

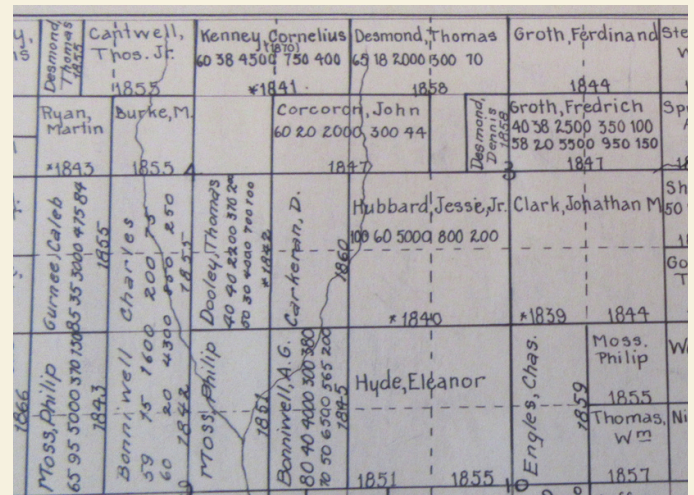


JCH co-curators Fred Derr and Nina Look recently took a trip to the Wisconsin Historical Society Archives in Madison where the staff uncovered a collection of township maps that had been created in the 1920s and used to write the book *Four Wisconsin Counties: Prairie and Forest*. The book, published in 1927, is an account of Kenosha, Racine, Milwaukee and Ozauchee Counties from the time before white settlement until the 1920s, with an emphasis on the first decades of settlement circa 1830-1860.

The author was Joseph Schafer, superintendent of the Wisconsin Historical Society. *Four Wisconsin Counties* was Volume II of a multi-volume project that Schafer devised and called *The Wisconsin Domesday Book*, modeled after the epic 11th-century first census of England and Wales, the *Domesday Book*. Fred and Nina were excited to learn that Volume I of Schafer's project consisted of a folder of historic township plat maps.

Through Fred and Nina's efforts JCH has acquired the *Wisconsin Domesday Book's* reconstructed 1860 plat maps for Mequon Township and Cedarburg Township that show who owned (or occupied) which properties in these towns circa 1860. In addition, they purchased a map of the Wisconsin Military Road. The title of the undated map is "Map of the Route of the Military Road from Fort Crawford to Fort Howard via Fort Winnebago."

One of the most intriguing features on the plat maps is a study of 1860 township farms and farmers. A side bar along the maps is a collection of notes on the nature of the land itself in 1860, such as *rolling land*, *swamps* and *second rate timber*.



Map, *Town of Mequon, Ozauchee County*, showing land ownership c. 1860, detail of sections 3, 4 and parts of sections 9 and 10. The Jonathan M. Clark farm is located in SE quarter of sec. 3.

Volume II of the Wisconsin Domesday Book project, *Four Wisconsin Counties: Prairie and Forest* itself is an intensive early study of this region of Wisconsin. A copy of the book is in the JCH library and is available to read at the museum. Contact Fred to schedule a viewing of the maps for your personal study of 1860.

The goal is to have the maps framed and on display in the JCH Library. A \$500 grant from the Pink Llama Gallery in Cedarburg is a welcome sponsorship and investment in the continued research about our early settlers. Thank you, Tammie Strause!





# JONATHAN CLARK HOUSE MUSEUM



## 2024 Holiday Lights



**Monday & Tuesday, December 2 & 3, 5:00 - 7:00 pm**

**At the corner of Bonniwell & Cedarburg Roads, Mequon, WI**

**Step back into an 1848 country house  
filled with memories and friendship**

**Gather with friends old and new  
to celebrate peace and good will**

**A fresh tabletop tree graces  
the parlour, its boughs laden  
with hand-made ornaments  
reminiscent of 1848**

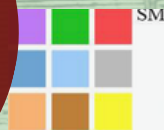
**Bask in the warm glow of candle light**

**Enjoy relaxing holiday music  
and festive refreshments**

**Plenty of  
parking for  
your sleigh (or  
automobile!)**

**Sponsored  
by Jim Marshall  
@Spectrum  
Investment  
Advisors**

**Space is limited!  
Please RSVP by  
November 26 to  
[jchmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:jchmuseum@gmail.com)  
with your name, choice  
of date and names of  
your guests.**



**SPECTRUM**

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