

JONATHAN CLARK HOUSE MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

Term: Fall | November 2023

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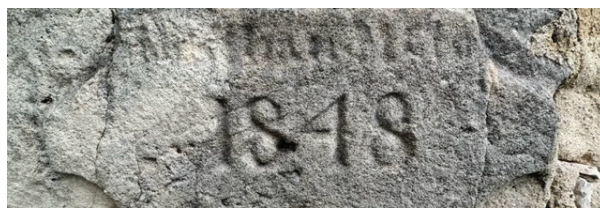
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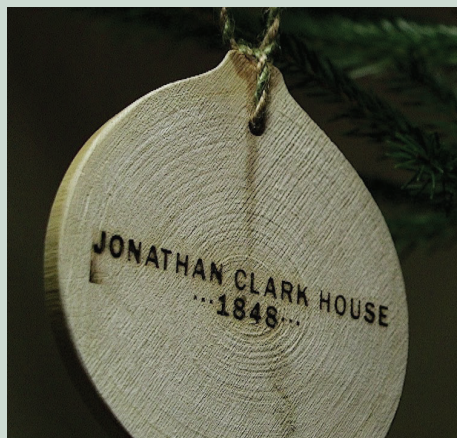
175
YEARS!



CELEBRATING 175 YEARS of the Clark House and Wisconsin's Statehood

CONGRATULATIONS to the team at the Jonathan Clark House Museum from descendants of Jonathan Clark, on the 175th anniversary of the house and the State of Wisconsin! One wonders where we would have been had Jonathan Clark not carved the 1848 date to 'mark' his house forever. We feel so fortunate to have a touchstone like the Clark house to draw back together strands of the family who have dispersed over the last 175 years. It is through our interest in the Jonathan Clark House Museum that we have found our cousin Reed Perkins, who fortuitously moved to Wisconsin with his family in 2015, the same year members of our own immediate family began to return to Wisconsin. While his Turck branch married into the Clark family (lucky for us!), he has taken up the important position of the official 'house' historian, and has certainly spurred us on. We are working on a list of known living descendants, looking for clues regarding Jonathan's birth, and investigating how DNA can help in our search to discover details of Jonathan's birth. Stay tuned!

story continued on Page 3.



OUR MISSION

Collect, preserve and share the history of the Jonathan Clark House and the early settlers of Mequon and Thiensville.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Linda Chay, President
- Tom Gifford, Vice President
- Scott Ballering, Treasurer
- Margaret Bussone, Education Director
- Judy Button, Board Member
- Gary Heckendorf, Board Member
- Brady Seiberlich, Board Member
- Patrick Steele, Ph.D., Board Member
- Joel Willems, Board Member

2023 FRIENDS OF JONATHAN CLARK HOUSE VOLUNTEER STAFF

- Anne Bridges, Special Projects
- Shaw Bridges, Advisor
- Frederick Derr,
Preservation Manager & Co-Curator
- Henry Hille, Information Technology
- Jean Hill, Photographer
- Nina Look, Ph.D. Director &
Co-Curator
- Reed Perkins, Historian
- Matthew Seiberlich,
JCH Young Historian Ambassador



Gary Heckendorf to Re-Join the JCH Board of Directors

Many of you will recall that Gary Heckendorf was a member of our Board and served as President of the Board. JCH President Linda Chay and the Board of Directors are pleased to announce that they have voted to appoint Gary to the position vacated by Kirsten Reinhardt. Gary is Vice President of Commercial Lending at Forte Bank in Hartford. He is a history-buff who lives on the land that was his family's Wisconsin farm dating back to the 1840s.

Welcome Gary, and thanks for stepping back in to support our mission!

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2023 Grants to Date

We thank the following generous local service organizations. We can all show our appreciation by supporting their fundraising activities that, in turn, support JCH.

Do you know the interesting history of the Woman's Club of Mequon? If not, google them and you will find an enlightening article from Fay Walker, Vice President of the Mequon Thiensville Historical Society.

- Mequon Thiensville Community Foundation
- Mequon Thiensville Sunrise Rotary
- Mequon Women's Club
- Thiensville Mequon Rotary Foundation
- Thiensville Mequon Lions Club

September and October Donors

- Judy and Jim Button
- Fred Derr and Nina Look
- Ellen Hickey
- Elizabeth & Bob Hickman
- Claire Kelly
- Clair Krause
- Connie Pukaite
- Friends of the Chalet: Linda, Bob, David and Staff

CELEBRATING 175 YEARS OF JCH

Continued story from the cover...

We draw inspiration and enthusiasm for our research from the amazing efforts of the staff and volunteers who work hard to preserve the Clark House and share this period of Mequon's history. We ask Nina and Fred to pat themselves on their backs, and celebrate the many others in Mequon and beyond who have made the museum such a success. For descendants like us who were raised on stories about the Clark house or were able to visit and catch a glimpse of the outside of the house in its pre-museum days, it is thrilling to see the Jonathan Clark House as a living, growing, museum and active part of the Mequon community. Thank you all for ensuring that the first 175 years of the Jonathan Clark House are just the beginning; we look forward to continuing to be a part of the Clark House community and to continue learning along with you.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Hickman, Jonathan and Mary's 2nd great granddaughter

Ellen Hickman, Jonathan and Mary's 3rd great granddaughter



Hickman/Clark Family -

TOP ROW: Elizabeth,
Bob and Ellen Hickman

Meet your JCH Board Vice President Tom Gifford

An exclusive interview by JCH Young Historian Kolby Zellmann



Have you ever been on the hot seat? Chased by the paparazzi? Pursued by wild, ravenous dogs? That was me recently at the Jonathan Clark House.

Meet 11-year old Kolby Zellmann. He's one of our top Young Historians.

HOWEVER, behind his charming, intelligent, entertaining facade lurks a probing, vicious, scoundrelly, interviewer. He interrogated me for this article and I was sweating!

.....

How long have you been with the Jonathan Clark House?

Oh sure, he starts with a softball to make me feel secure. "I met Nina, Fred, and the house early in 2020 through our board president, Linda Chay. After Covid, I became more active with volunteering, then on the board, and eventually VP on the board."

What does the house mean to you? Why do you do what you do?

Uh oh. He's getting deeper and I took the bait and bared my soul..."I'm interested in this house because I think history is emotional. It can be for everyone because everybody has a family history. For example, my grandpa came over on a boat from Poland with nothing but a dime in his pocket when he landed. His name is at Ellis Island. There's a personal connection, a bond if you will. You look at your family and what people went through and sacrificed. You can look at our little area here, southeastern WI, or frankly our nation and see our history and appreciate it."

Why is the house mission important?

Oh boy, it's the WHY question! ..."We collect, preserve, and share this house's history. When we host groups and share this history, it's interesting, fun, humbling, and emotional. The more people we tell about it, the better."

What's the first thing you tell people about the house?

Shoot! This is his "docent method" probe. ..."The first thing I tell people when I give a tour is there are two roads of high interest for me with this JCH experience...the family and the property. Those two things are very interesting and fascinating, again what people went through back then. Many times, there are personal connections for tourists with a story from the house or something physical like the staircase. People get connections. It's cool."

Meet your JCH Board Vice President Tom Gifford

An exclusive interview by JCH Young Historian Kolby Zellmann



Continued interview...

When you're showing someone around the house, what's the coolest part that you really get excited about?

Now he's just playing with my emotions...“I'm smiling because it's kind of a joke at this point. I like those spoons. Every time I give a tour, I pass them out and say feel these, tap them together. I ask people what they're made of and a lot of people don't know. I didn't know. They're so strong. I feel like they'd last forever. That's like a joke with us now. Tom loves his spoons. It's just a fun thing for me.” You'll have to take a tour to learn about the spoons.

What do you want the JCH to become and evolve into?

These goal questions can be tricky...“I really want to share the story with as many people as we can. To do that, we're talking about building a heritage center, another building, where we can host bigger events with education, awareness, appreciation, and fun. Get the bathrooms and the office out of here...they weren't in the house in the 1850's. Also preserve and maintain the actual house itself.”

What one word sums up the Jonathan Clark House?

Sure, of course, naturally he saves the toughest one for last...“This is such a hard question for everyone. There are so many words I could throw out right now. Some are very emotional, but I think my number one word is VALUABLE. I think everything about this house, this property, this story, is valuable and shouldn't be forgotten. I think we should share it.”

FEWF!!! Kolby did a great job and was fair, but at one point while he was smiling, I swear I could see some fangs. I limped away exhausted, but will live to tour another day.

Cheers to you, Kolby Zellmann!

Tribute to Board Member Kirsten Reinhardt

We regret that Kirsten has resigned from the JCH Board, but understand that family always comes first. Her impact on our organization will be seen for years to come. She developed the Bonniwell Road Neighborhood fund development project, gave advice and financial support to our outdoor lighting project and the Spectrum TV project. In addition, she restored a top hat on its way to the garbage bin and donated it to JCH. And, she worked with a hardy team of volunteers to clear brush who energetically hauled it to the Mequon Brush Site. *Thank you, Kirsten!*



Kirsten and her Brush Crew



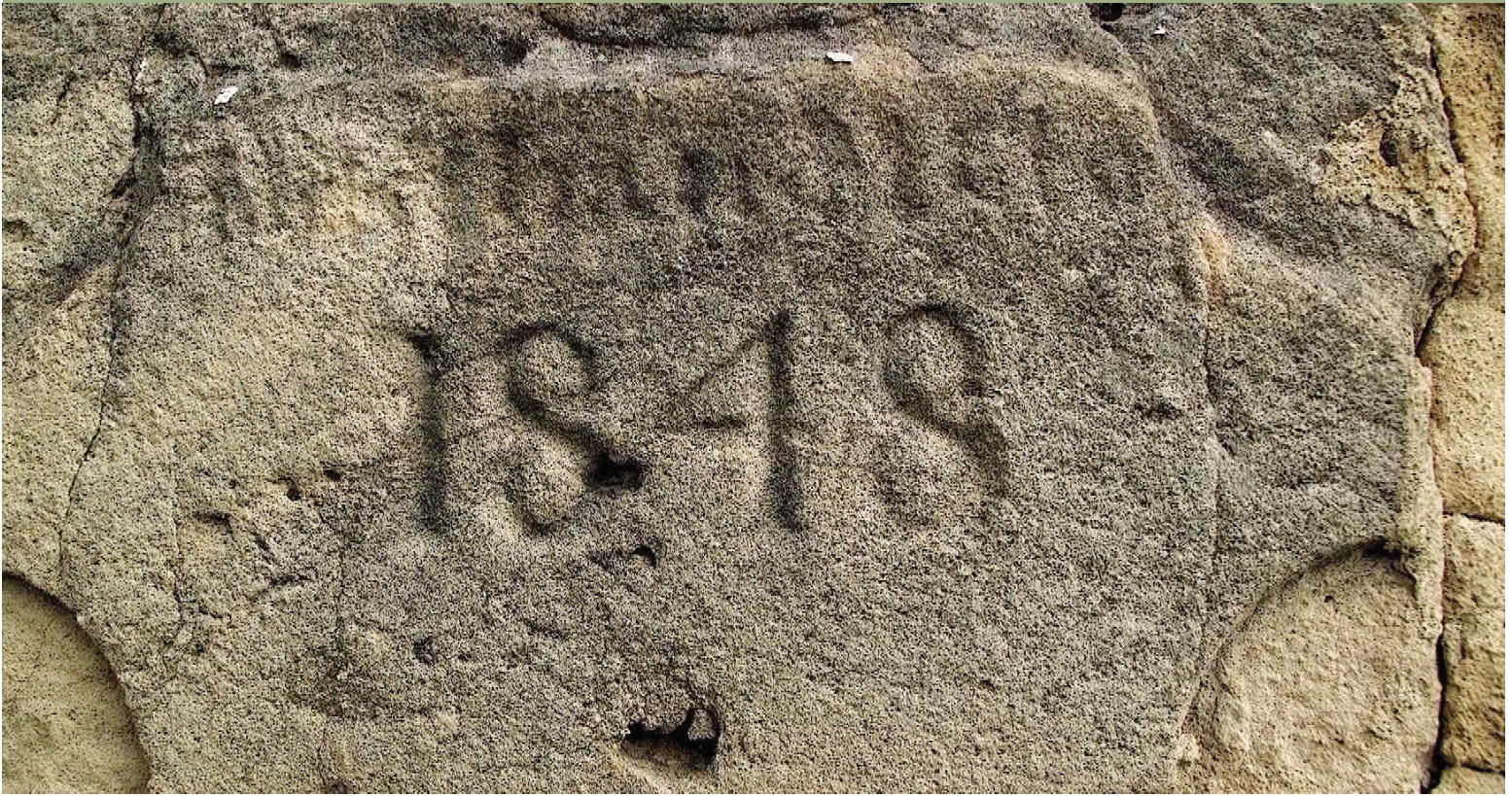
Jonathan's Top Hat



The JCH annual meeting is a celebration of our successes and excitement for the future year. The meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 9, 2024 from 5:00 to 7:00pm and hosted by Jim Marshall. The meeting will be held at the Spectrum Investment Advisors Cafe on Mequon Road.

Congratulations to the Ernst Family of Creekside Valley Farm on a successful 2023 Pumpkin Season and, thank you for your support of JCH!





The Board & Friends of Jonathan Clark House would like to thank you
for your continued support as we celebrate

**THE 175TH BIRTHDAY OF THE
JONATHAN CLARK HOUSE MUSEUM!**

The Jonathan Clark House Museum joins the State of Wisconsin in celebrating 175 years!
Did you know we are preserving the only historic house museum in Mequon Thiensville?
Your support will help the Jonathan Clark House carry on Wisconsin's history!

Your donation will specifically be supporting the dynamic educational programs & volunteer
program for young & old. Your contributions will also help maintain this historic home.

To donate & become a Friend, complete & return the enclosed pledge form along
with your check to Friends of Jonathan Clark House. Donations via PayPal are
also on our website <https://jonathanclarkhouse.com/support-our-cause>

Thank you for investing in the preservation of our community's signature
landmark which will live on for generations to come.



175 YEARS *of preserving Wisconsin history!*

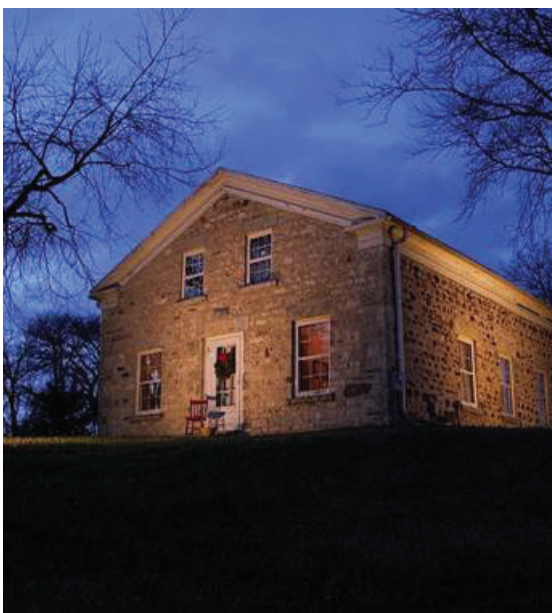
Email Jchmuseum@gmail.com

Visit www.jonathanclarkhouse.com

Like us on Facebook @JonathanClarkHouseMuseum

We are located on the corner of Cedarburg and Bonniwell Roads in Mequon.

Tours are available by appointment. Contact 262-618-2051 to set up a tour.



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Collect, preserve and share the history of the Jonathan Clark House and the early settlers of Mequon and Thiensville.

FRIENDS OF JCH

Nomination for Board Membership

The Friends of Jonathan Clark House are accepting nominations for two board positions, each with three-year terms, starting January 2024. Please note that two current members, Tom Gifford and Joel Willems have terms expiring in 2024 and would like to be nominated for new three-year terms. Nominations are due November 15, 2023.

Requirements for nomination

- The Nominator must be a Friend/member of the Friends of Jonathan Clark House on the date that the nomination is made.
- The Nominator must ask the nominee to review the list of board member expectations and ask if she/he will accept the nomination.
- The Nominee must be 18 years of age or older on January 1, 2024.
- Self-nominations are allowed.
- The form below is due in the museum office on November 15, 2023.

Expectations for participation as an active Board of Directors Member

1. Participate in Friends of Jonathan Clark House Board of Director meetings, (There are at least four each year as specified in the By-Laws) and other meetings as scheduled when they apply to your position.
2. Serve a three-year term
3. Give personal time, talents, and treasure in one or more of the following:
 - a.) Serving on a board committee, i. e., Fund Development
 - b.) Reviewing the Board meeting packet prior to meetings
 - c.) Touring the museum and keeping current
 - d.) Attending museum events, when possible
 - e.) Volunteering in a fund development effort
 - f.) Consulting in an expert capacity
 - g.) Making a financial donation to the Friends organization
5. Serve as an ambassador for the Friends organization by bringing awareness of the organization to the community
6. Participate in the annual evaluations of the organization, the Board of Directors, and the staff

Friends of Jonathan Clark Board of Directors – Nomination Form

Date _____

Nominator name and address _____

Nominee name, address and telephone (E-mail address is optional)

Has the nominee consented to be on the ballot?

— Yes — No (if no, the nomination will not be accepted)

Return this form to: Nominating Committee, jchmuseum@gmail.com

or Nominating Committee, JCH Museum, P. O. Box 634, Mequon, WI 53092

Due date: November 15, 2023

Three Sisters - Agricultural Crops of Indigenous People

by Fred Derr, JCH Preservation Manager



The Three Sisters are the three main agricultural crops of various Indigenous peoples of North America: squash, maize ("corn"), and climbing beans. Through the technique known as companion planting, the maize and beans are planted together in mounds formed by hilling soil around the base of the plants; squash is typically planted between the mounds. The cornstalk serves as a trellis for climbing beans, the beans fix nitrogen in their root nodules and stabilize the maize in high winds, and the wide leaves of the squash plant shade the ground, keeping the soil moist and helping prevent the establishment of weeds.

Indigenous peoples throughout North America cultivated different varieties of the Three Sisters, adapted to varying local environments. European records from the sixteenth century describe highly productive Indigenous agriculture based on cultivation of the Three Sisters throughout what are now the Eastern United States and Canada. These crops were valuable because they were used for both food and trade.

CEDARBURG HISTORY MUSEUM'S WINTER EXHIBIT Snow Day! Let's Go Coasting! by Lauren Goecks

Coasting, or sledding as it is more commonly known, has been and continues to be a favorite winter activity of Cedarburg's residents, young and old. Cedarburg boasts several sledding hills from which to choose. Back in the early automobile days, Bridge Road was occasionally closed so the children could sled down that steep hill as well. Today, the most popular might be the one at the top of Spring Street in Legion Memorial Park.

Years ago sleds were made of wood and typically came in two types: push and pull. If the sled had holes at the front of the body for a rope, it's a pull-type sled (used to pull the sled back up the hill). If the sled had a horizontal bar on the back of the body then it is a push-type sled (the bar is for another person to push the sled and rider down the hill).

One of the first mass-produced sleds was made by the Paris Manufacturing Company in the mid-1800s. The Yankee Clippers had upturned runners made for riding downhill face-first whereas the Cutters had longer bodies and were meant for riding while sitting upright. Neither had any sort of steering mechanism. That would finally appear with the Flexible Flyer patented in 1889 by Samuel Leeds Allen. The design took off when he marketed sleds to toy stores. View many of these sled designs at our "*Magic of a Cedarburg Snowfall*" exhibit open through the end of January.



YOU'RE INVITED

HOLIDAY LIGHTS

AT THE JONATHAN CLARK HOUSE

Celebrating 175 years of the 1848
Historic Jonathan Clark House!

12.05.23
and
12.06.23

or email us a date & time to schedule
a tour that works best for you!

5-7PM

The museum will be trimmed for the holidays reflecting an 1848 family home. Invite a family member or colleague and choose from one of our festive nights! **Space is limited.**

PLEASE RSVP

Please RSVP by
Wednesday, November 28.

Thank you to our event sponsor





FRIENDS OF JONATHAN CLARK HOUSE

SCOUT EDUCATION PROGRAM

We Bring History to Life On the corner of Bonniwell and Cedarburg Roads in Mequon

PROGRAM INTRODUCTION FROM MATTHEW SEIBERLICH

My name is Matthew Seiberlich, and I am an Eagle Scout and Junior Assistant Scoutmaster for Troop 865. I am also the Jonathan Clark House Museum Young Historian Ambassador. I am reaching out about an opportunity for area scout troops.

The Jonathan Clark House is a unique architectural and historical treasure that is being preserved for use by the Mequon-Thiensville community and beyond. The house was built in 1848 and was home to Jonathan and Mary Clark, their eight children, and two hired men. It was not only their home but also served as a community meeting place during a time when early white settlers such as Clark, his father-in-law Peter Turck and neighbor William Bonniwell were developing the government of the township. The Friends of Jonathan Clark House is a 501c3 organization with volunteers who provide fascinating historic events and awesome tours to be enjoyed by the whole family!

The JCH is offering scheduled tours to troops in the area. There is no fee for the tours since the program has been underwritten by a local civic organization. The museum is on the National Register for Historic Places, and thus a tour would satisfy requirement 7a of the Eagle-required Citizenship in the Nation Merit Badge.

If you are interested or would like more information, email me at matthewjseiberlich@gmail.com, and we can talk details, and possibly plan a tour date!

Yours in scouting,
Matthew Seiberlich

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-  PHONE: 262-618-2051
-  EMAIL: jchmuseum@gmail.com
-  WEBSITE: www.jonathanclarkhouse.org

Where would you like to take a selfie at the Museum?

.....



Scouts have always been known for heavy lifting. Take your photo and show off your muscle with one of our artifacts such as this hand-carved wooden yolk



This eager young visitor as well as a curious gentleman from Newcastle Place enjoyed learning about Jonathan's office and the interesting artifacts on his desk. They both look comfortable in Jonathn's chair!

THANK YOU

MAKE A DONATION TO THE JONATHAN CLARK HOUSE



SCAN ME

- ✉ Email Jchmuseum@gmail.com
- 🌐 Visit www.jonathanclarkhouse.org
- 📌 Like us on Facebook @JonathanClarkHouseMuseum

WHERE TO FIND US

We are located on the corner of Cedarburg and Bonniwell Roads.

Tours are available by appointment. Contact 262-618-2051 to set up a tour.