

JONATHAN CLARK HOUSE MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

Spring | May 2024

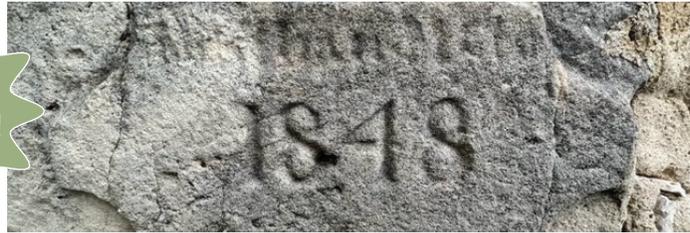
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Friends of Jonathan Clark House
P. O. Box 634
Mequon, WI 53092
262-618-2051
jchmuseum@gmail.com
www.jonathanclarkhouse.org



176
YEARS!



WE BRING HISTORY TO LIFE

at the Corner of Bonniwell & Cedarburg Roads in Mequon
.....

Greetings from the Friends of Jonathan Clark House Board of Directors and Staff! We are excited to announce our summer event schedule and look forward to seeing you at the museum for family fun with museum tours, 4-H animals, challenging yard games and a chance to meet fellow history enthusiasts. In addition to our scheduled events we are open for tours by appointment, including special tours for local scout troops. Please contact us if you would like to volunteer for any of our events.

Tom Daub
Board President

Matthew Seiberlich
Young Historian Ambassador

OUR MISSION

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



2024 JCH BOARD OF DIRECTORS



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Tom Daub, President
- Margaret Bussone, Vice President
- Shaw Bridges, Treasurer
- Tammie Strause, Secretary
- Bob Blazich, Board Member
- Mary Ellen Sampe, Board Member
- Brady Seiberlich, Board Member
- Terry Schoessow, Board Member

We are proud of our 2024 Friends of Jonathan Clark House Board of Directors. Seated L to R: Margaret Bussone, Vice President, Tammie Strause, Secretary, Mary Ellen Sampe, Board Member. Standing L to R: Shaw Bridges, Treasurer, Tom Daub, President, Brady Seiberlich Board Member, Terry Schoessow, Board Member. Unavailable for the photo: Bob Blazich, Board Member.

.....

2024 VOLUNTEER STAFF

- Dr. Nina Look, Director & Co-Curator
- Fred Derr, Preservation Manager & Co-Curator
- Anne Bridges, Assistant Director/ Special Projects
- Jean Hill, Photographer
- Ed Foster, Assistant Photographer
- Reed Perkins, Historian & Graphic Design
- Matthew Seiberlich, JCH Young Historian Ambassador

Save the Dates!

JCH 2024 Summer Events

Pie on the Patio - Wednesday,
June 12, 5:00 - 7:00
(see page 7 for details)

Heritage Day - Saturday,
June 15, 12:00 - 3:00
(see page 8 for details)

Open house - Saturday,
July 13, 9:00 - 12:00

Open House - Saturday,
August 10, 9:00 - 12:00



**Thank you
to our
dedicated
staff!**

**We are Recruiting Volunteers –
Young Historians and Adults**

*Volunteer Opportunities are always available.
Send us an email describing your special
talent to jchmuseum@gmail.com
Subject: I would like to help preserve history!*

Hands-on History at the Jonathan Clark House



*Take a hands-on tour
of the museum and
step back into 1848!*

*Contact Nina at
jchmuseum@gmail.com to
set up a tour time that
works for your schedule.*

*Tours are funded with a
generous grant from the
Mequon Thiensville
Optimist Club.*



...and at the Trinity-Freistadt Historical Society Village

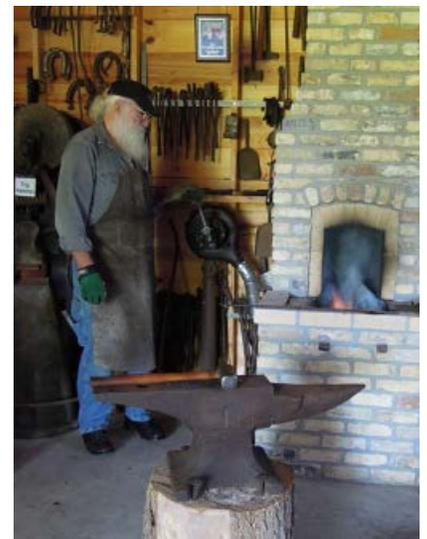


*Thursday, July 4
12:00 - 4:00 pm
Parade, food and tours of
the village grounds*

*Sunday, August 18
11:00 - 3:00 pm
TFHS Ice Cream Social*

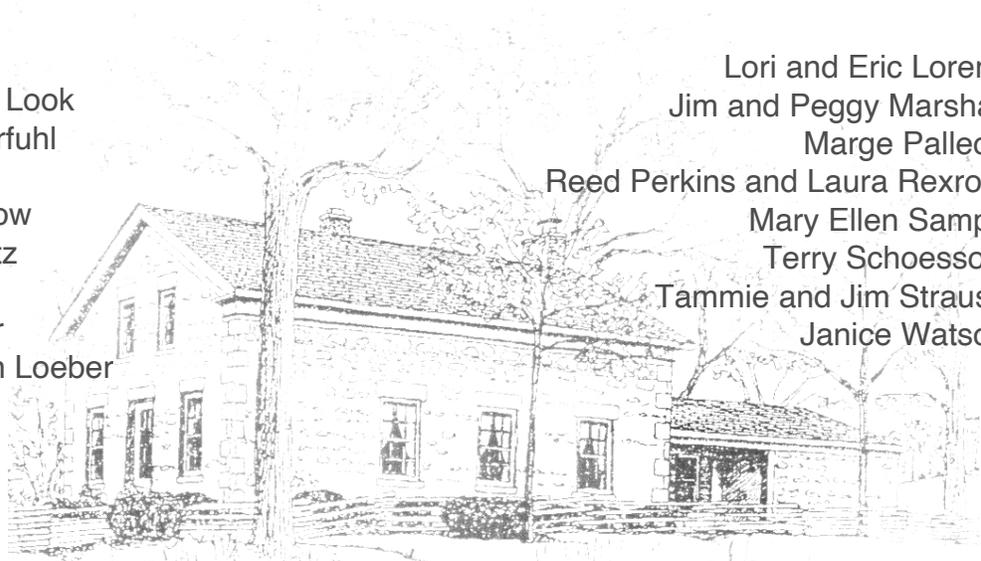
*While at the Village for these events, stop in at the
Blacksmith Shop for a demonstration by JCH
Museum Preservation Manager Fred Derr*

*For more information contact Terry Schoessow
tschoessow@trinityfreistadt.com*



Recent Donations and Artifact Sponsorships - Thank You!

Sam Cutler
Fred Derr and Nina Look
Al and Char Dobberfuhl
Tom Frank
Curt and Mary Gielow
Pat and Ron Heinritz
Jean Hill
Kim and Ann Harter
Dona Look and Ken Loeber



Lori and Eric Lorenz
Jim and Peggy Marshall
Marge Palleon
Reed Perkins and Laura Rexroth
Mary Ellen Sampe
Terry Schoessow
Tammie and Jim Strause
Janice Watson

We Appreciate our In-Kind Donors

Reed Perkins - Clark House Historian
Fred Derr and Nina Look
Foxtown Brewing
The Cheel and Daily Taco

Mequon Thiensville Historical Society
The Pink Llama Gallery
Trinity Freistadt Historical Society
JCH Young Hlstorians

Thank you to our Event Volunteers, Docents, Greeters & Education Team Members!

They are in it for the fun of teaching children—and adults—about the lives of our early settlers.



Jane Boesch
Anne Bridges
Margaret Bussone
Ed Foster



LaVerne Foster
Tom Frank
Beverly Hess
Bernita Hile
Henry Hile



Bill Kroyer
Nancy Perez
Katie Bonniwell Rodberg
Steve Rodberg

Mary Ellen Sampe
Alice Schilleman
Terry Schoessow
Carol Stephenson
Kurt Zellmann

Thank you to our supporters!

Recent Grants and Sponsorships

Mequon Thiensville Community Foundation
Mequon Thiensville Optimist Club
Mequon Thiensville Sunrise Rotary
Thiensville Mequon Rotary Foundation
Spectrum Investment Advisors

Pieper Power Foundation
WILO-Scott Pump
Cliff Bergin & Associates
Auer Steel and Carrier
Foxtown Brewing



Mequon Thiensville Optimist Club Grant Supports JCH Youth Programming

L to R: JCH Board Member Brady Seiberlich, Optimist Club President Tom Frank, Optimist Club Member and JCH Board President Tom Daub



Friends of Jonathan Clark House Membership

Dues are per calendar year, January 1 to December 31.

Memberships: \$20 Individual — \$40 Family — \$100 Business or organization.

Payment options: Cash, Check, or PayPal through the website

Dues may be paid as early as September 1 of the previous year for the next year.

JCH Year-end fund drive donations made in the fall include membership for the next year.



- Email jchmuseum@gmail.com
- Visit www.jonathanclarkhouse.com
- Like us on Facebook @JonathanClarkHouseMuseum

Memorial to JCH Friend Jerry Osborne

Each generation learns from the behavior of their parents. These behaviors – how they spend their time, what they talk about and what they value – teach the next generation what is truly important. Jerry Osborne loved and valued history. Our family trips often involved visiting historical sites – from Plymouth to Lexington and Concord and Independence Hall and then the Lincoln house in Springfield, IL, Gettysburg and Arlington, VA. These sites are a journey of hardship and sacrifice, from the bleak early days of the colonists from England through the desperate struggle to maintain a precarious union. For Dad, this connection with the past brought deep meaning by reminding us of who we are as Americans and the sacrifices that were needed to make America what it is. In addition to the sites where great events happened, Dad just loved the connection with history. Our house was filled with antiques – some of which were passed down in the family, some of which were purchased. The furniture and tools from the past were a constant reminder of the hard work and struggles that our forefathers endured to settle America.

For Jerry Osborne, the Jonathan Clark House was that same tangible connection with the past. A place where you can visit and for a moment, forget about the cars rushing by on their way to a store, and think about the sweat and the toil and the hardship that is required to make this country great. Dad would be very pleased to know that his work continues to help preserve this reminder to future generations of the value and the meaning of hard work and sacrifice.

— Christopher Osborne, Mequon, WI



Jerry at JCH "Pie on the Patio"

Pantry pine dry sink sponsored by the Osborne family in memory of Jerry



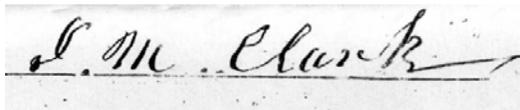
Meet JCH Historian Reed Perkins



How do you transform a former farmhouse and dentist's office into a historical site that will "collect, preserve, and tell the stories" of its original residents and their community? The Jonathan Clark House has our own historian, Reed Perkins, to help us discover and document the stories of the Jonathan and Mary (Turck) Clark family and their early Mequon relatives and neighbors. We asked Reed to tell us a bit about himself and his work as Clark House Historian.

How did you get involved with the Jonathan Clark House?

I had been researching Clark, Turck and other Mequon families and their stories since 2006, and knew that I had a great-great-great aunt named Mary Turck and she had married someone named Jonathan Clark. Then in mid-2012, Clark family descendant Liz Hickman contacted me and told me more about the Clark family and the pending sale of the 1848 house to a group of local history lovers. It wasn't long before I began to share my research with (and became a charter member of) the Friends of the Jonathan Clark House. And I've been the volunteer JCH historian ever since.



Signature of Jonathan M. Clark, from his U.S. naturalization Declaration of Intent, March 10, 1848.

What does the Historian do?

You need more than a building to be a museum, and the Clark house in 2012 was empty. We had no furniture or personal artifacts from the Clarks' era, and very little in the way of documents or photographs of the family. In subsequent years Nina Look, Fred Derr, and many other JCH Friends and donors have done an outstanding job of documenting and restoring the house and filling it with historically appropriate furniture and household objects.

My job has been to rediscover and flesh-out the history of the Clark family, their relatives and early neighbors. That history is complicated, and very much a work in progress. We've learned much in the last dozen years. I've also spent a fair amount of time separating undocumented local lore from the actual facts, and I've made a point of citing and publishing sources for future reference.

What are you working on now?

We still have many unanswered questions. The big one is: who were Jonathan Clark's parents and siblings and where did they come from? Also, what kind of house did the Clark family live in before our 1848 stone house was built? Did son Henry Clark really serve in the Civil War? What became of daughter Laura Clark after her divorce in 1886? What caused daughter Josie's sudden death in 1877? And we have photographs of only a few members of the family; I'd love to have at least one photo of each Clark family member, as well as their spouses, children, and their Turck and other relatives.

Where can we learn more?

Come visit my Clark House Historian blog! That's where I post the latest stories, documents and pictures from my research. I try and put up new material 2-3 times a week. Right now, I'm wrapping up a series on early road construction in Wisconsin. Next, I'll be back on the trail of Jonathan Clark's kin in Lower Canada.

You can find the blog at <https://jchmhistorian.com/> or point your phone's camera at this QR code:



Lolo 'wut#

at the **Jonathan Clark House Museum**
“Pie on the Patio” Celebration and Auction
Wednesday, June 12, 2024, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Plan to bring a family member, friend, or colleague
Send your RSVP by Wed. June 5, to jchmuseum@gmail.com



Outpost pies! Tested by our JCH Young Historians

This is a special event for JCH Friends and Donors. Not a JCH donor?

Visit our Donate page at jonathanclarkhouse.com

or scan this QR code:



Thank you! to our event sponsors for • *Interactive Museum Tours* • *Yard games*
• *Lively Auction* • *Refreshing Beverages* • *Musical Entertainment*

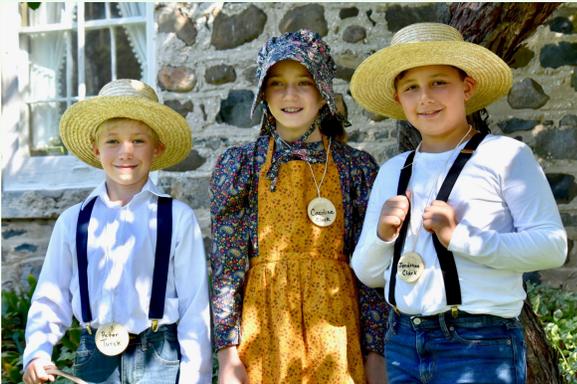


HERITAGE DAY

at the
JONATHAN CLARK HOUSE MUSEUM

corner of Bonniwell & Cedarburg Roads, Mequon, WI

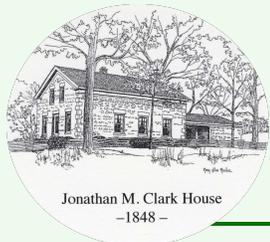
Saturday, June 15, 2024
12:00 - 3:00 p.m.



Family Fun • Farm Animals



Dairy Treats • House Tours



For more information
contact Nina Look at
jchmuseum@gmail.com

We appreciate the support of our event sponsors!

Ozaukee County Dairy Promotion Committee
Mequon Thiensville Optimist Club
Thiensville Mequon Rotary Foundation

Thiensville Mequon Lions Club
Sunrise Rotary of Mequon Thiensville
Lindenwood 4-H Club

