

Jonathan Clark House

O c t o b e r 2 0 2 1

What's New?

Meet Your New Executive Director
Dana Hansen!

Potato Harvest Fun and More!

Making an Impact: New Strides in
K-12 Education

Community Cultivation: New
Programs and Partnerships on the
Horizon

Donorship: Your Support Helps us
Grow



Help Me Welcome *Dana Hansen* **JCH Executive Director**

*October Newsletter - Message from
Board President Gary Heckendorf*

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to announce that we recruited an extraordinary candidate for our Executive Director position. In just a few weeks **Dana Hansen** has made a positive impact on our

organization. Her education and experience in the field of History and Museum Studies are a perfect fit for the Jonathan Clark House Museum. Our board members are excited to work with Dana as we meet our mission to collect, preserve, and share the history of our community.

Gary Heckendorf, Board President



Where I have been, and where I want to go...

I began my career in museums as an undergraduate student at UW-Parkside where I fed my passion for History, and discovered a Museum Studies Graduate Program a short distance away in Milwaukee. During my time at UW-Milwaukee as a Public History/Museum Studies graduate student I discovered my love of living history, and desire to be involved in a community driven organization, all of which I endeavored to be a part of upon my graduation in the Spring of 2017. Soon after graduation I found a temporary home in the form of a pilot project at Brew City MKE, a site of the Milwaukee County Historical Society (MCHS), as their Site Manager. My time here allowed me to show my love and respect for the city, and the greater Milwaukee area, it's history, and in particular it's brewing history as it relates to the current craft brewing world and economy. I also continue to engage

Get to Know Me

Your New Executive Director Speaks!



the fun side of history by giving historical bike tours for the MCHS and Pabst Mansion.

In my free time I nourish my love of Wisconsin and beyond by immersing myself in its natural beauty from the seat of my bicycle and kayak as much as possible, and by continuing to reside in beautiful Bay View with my partner Travis Wilson and 3 furry children.

I am beyond excited to continue my journey immersed in local, living history here with you all in Mequon/Thiensville and beyond at the Jonathan Clark House. With such a strong foundation lovingly built, walls supported, restored, and reinforced through steadfast leadership and care, this organization has become a symbol of fun and source of education deep down in the roots of this community. I endeavor to join hands with all who care about the Jonathan Clark House Museum to lead it into its next chapter where it's history, and our local history will be a beacon of importance to us all.

Introducing a New JCH Newsletter Feature...

~Today In 1848~



Negotiated on October 18, 1848, **The Treaty of Lake Poygan** was signed at Lake Poygan, near Winneconne, WI. This Treaty arranged for the sale of 4,500,000 acres (18,000 km²) of Menominee Native Americans lands in Wisconsin to the government of the United States for \$350,000 plus 600,000 acres (2,400 km²) in Crow Wing Country, Minnesota, west of the upper Mississippi River, to which the Menominee were asked to move.

Most provisions of the treaty were not carried out, as in 1852 Chief Oshkosh persuaded President Millard Fillmore to permit the tribe to remain on its Wolf River lands in

Wisconsin. Some 2,500 Menominee had refused to relocate west to Minnesota. The Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin is federally recognized.

OLD FARMER'S ALMANAC -Report-

Did you know that records of the weather only began in 1849 because of a now famous WI scientist, **Increase Lapham?** Lapham became one of the state's most notable scientists and naturalists, officially surveying much of the southern half of Wisconsin for the first time, cataloging American Indian effigy mounds, and founding the United States Weather Bureau. His true pioneering work in the field began in 1849, when he started providing official weather reports to the Smithsonian Institute. Lapham established a weather observation post in Milwaukee at his home (though since demolished, the home

stood near to the present-day Fiserv Forum). Lapham saw an opportunity to help Wisconsin farmers: if he could get information from weather observation stations around the country, he could reasonably predict the weather that would be coming towards Wisconsin, and thus Wisconsinites could prepare themselves for the weather ahead.

Could we then suppose, that our very own JC and his family farm benefited from this great innovation?

Interested in learning more?

Check out local Author **Paul Hayes** and his book *Studying Wisconsin: The Life of Increase Lapham, Early Chronicler of Plants, Rocks, Rivers, Mounds, and All Things Wisconsin*

Potato Harvest Fun and More: JCH Continues to Provide Fun and Educational Events for Your Community!



Young Historian Corner

Hear From Augie Zellman, A Young Historian Volunteer



What was the most fun about the potato harvest? I liked the surprise about it. When you're digging you're expecting to get some small potatoes but then you find a huge one next to some tiny ones, there were all shapes. It's like a treasure hunt. And I liked the science of it. It was planted in a straight row but one end that didn't get as much sun had smaller potatoes while the sunnier side had larger potatoes.

Why do you like volunteering at the Clark House?

I think it's fun because you get to feel like you are in the 1840's and it's interesting to me. There is so much at the museum, so much that you can learn about that makes history fun.

K-12 Educational Programming at JCH: Emphasis on Fun and Curriculum Growth



The JCH Education Team recently hosted “Circle Homeschool Co-op” students ages 8 to 11.

The students visited the **Jonathan Clark House** and had hands-on learning experiences exploring the life of our early settlers. Their second stop was a tour, and more immersive fun, at the **Trinity Freistadt Historic Village**.

Guided by JCH volunteers **Carol Stephenson** and **Mary Ellen Sampe**, the students learned about 19th century life in southeastern Wisconsin: why and how the settlers arrived here, the kind of houses they built, food they produced, tools they made, crops they planted, animals they raised, and herbs they used. The young visitors each made an old-style rope on the JCH ropemaker. They also learned to measure an acre in rods with a surveyor’s rope just as Jonathan would have done with his surveyor’s chain. Another fun activity was calculating the height of a tree from its shadow.

When the students visited the **Trinity Freistadt Historic Village**, they toured twelve 19th century settler’s buildings including a log cabin and a bake oven. JCH Preservation Manager **Fred Derr** demonstrated in the blacksmith shop, and **Terry Schoessow** and **Al Dobberfuhl** explained how Mequon’s earliest residents lived. Other volunteers helped the children wash with a tub, washboard, and wringer—a popular activity with our 21st century children. And fortunately, Wisconsin weather gave the students one of its most beautiful days for outdoor learning and fun!

If you have a group of burgeoning Young Historians who would like a hands-on tour, contact me at jchmuseum@gmail.com

Margaret Bussone, Education Director



Professional Partnerships Breathe New Life Into JCH

Over the last few months, the Jonathan Clark House Museum has partnered with local history enthusiast **Tom Gifford**, owner of **Gifford Video**, to create professional content for a number of videos. This project was generously funded by **Port Washington State Bank**.

This project meets our “People-Centered” objective, to help visitors feel connected to the museum before even entering our doors. Other objectives are to provide additional information that may not be touched on during a tour and to keep people engaged with our history and ongoing activities.

We want the viewer to know how to get involved through membership, volunteering and financial support. We look forward to sharing these new videos with you “Video Lovers” on our website, social media and in giving campaigns.

Linda Chay, JCH Board Vice President

***Don't forget to Follow us on Facebook/Instagram/YouTube to see this video and more**

We Couldn't Do It With Out YOU



The Jonathan Clark House serves it's community and continues to grow almost entirely in thanks to local donations, partnerships, sponsors, and your financial support. We reach more people at events, provide increased access to our museum, and increase visibility and interest of our historic house due to the generosity and care of others.

A special **Thank You** to **Frederick Bock**, and **Patrick Steele** for their generous financial support; to **Matthew Seiberlich**, of the Boy Scout Troop 865, for building and donating our new bike racks; to **Kirsten J Reinhardt** for donating a beaver fur hat from the Janesville Family Collection (now located in JC's Parlour!); the **Cedarburg Toy Company**, the **Pink Llama Gallery**, and the **Stilt House** for Gift Card donations for our table at the CHM Grand Re-Opening Event; and **Creekside Valley Farm** for helping us beautify the JCH grounds in the Fall spirit.

***Turn the page to see how YOU can support JCH now and in the New Year!**

Jonathan Clark House 2021 Year End Appeal

Dear Valued Friend of the Jonathan Clark House Museum,

Is your community, heritage, and history here in Wisconsin important to you? If so, we invite you to support the **Jonathan Clark House Museum** to collect, preserve and share your local history. Your generous contribution will serve as an investment to help preserve this important home, and to continue and expand our unique, enriching, and *always* fun programming and events provided for all ages. Additionally, your **Gift of History** will also grant you **Special Benefits** to look forward to throughout the next year!

Gift of History Special Benefits include:

- ❖ Donations at any level will grant a group private tour of the Jonathan Clark House.
- ❖ Donations of \$100 or more will grant you free entry to one event of your choice in 2022.
- ❖ Donations of \$500 or more will earn an invitation to a private Cheese and Wine Pairing, carefully curated for you by our Preservation Manager Fred Derr.
- ❖ Donations of \$1,000 or more include all of the fun above, **AND** entry to all new 2022 **ticketed** events, and to our popular annual "Heritage Days" and "Pie on the Patio"!

Easy donations via PayPal are also available on our website at <https://jonathanclarkhouse.com/support-our-cause>, or mail a personal check to

P. O. Box 634, Mequon, WI 53092 .

Thank you so much for your consideration in joining us in "**Bringing History to Life**".

Sincerely,

Dana Hansen, Executive Director

Nina Look, Ph.D., Assistant Director