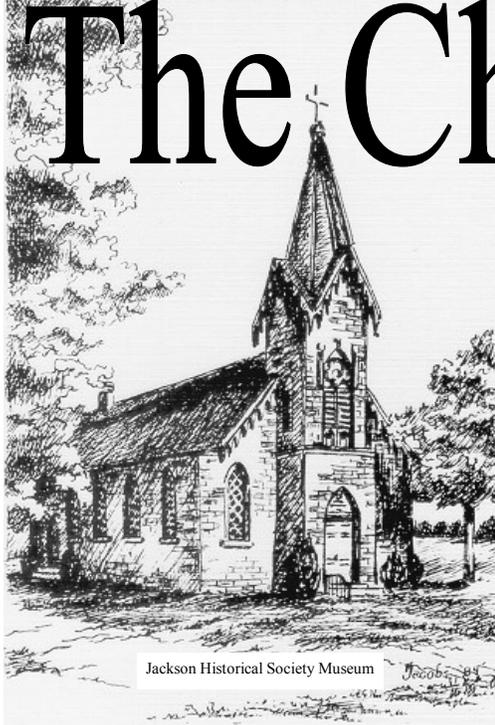


The Church Mouse



Jackson Historical Society Museum

Volume 19 Issue 1 Jackson Historical Society March 2014

THE INDIANS OF WASHINGTON COUNTY

The Indian population of Washington County was mentioned in reports of the Jesuit Fathers LaSalle and Hennepin. On a journey in the year 1679, they and their companions while travelling on Lake Michigan, were compelled by rough weather to land at the mouth of Sauk Creek. There they found a village of Pottawatomie Indians who were living peacefully, having entered a peace treaty with the tribes of the Sacs (Sauks Ozaukies) and the Foxes. The three tribes freely mingled with each other. They all belonged to the Algonquin nation. One hundred and fifty years later, in the 1830's, the Pottawatomie Tribe was found virtually in the same place in which the missionaries had first met them. But a change was coming.

The first settlers in Washington County noticed how the Pottawatomie Tribe slowly moved to the south and the west. The vacated country was then peopled by the Menomonic Tribe, also Algonquin. They had been living to the southwest, where Waukesha County is located today.

When the Indians ceded their land to the government, the Menomonic Tribe lived east and north, and the Pottawatomie Tribe west and south of the Milwaukee River.

The Menomonic Tribe ceded their land to the government in the treaty of February 8, 1831. Approximately two and a half years later, on September 26, 1833, the Pottawatomie Tribe ceded their land. However, the Pottawatomie Tribe inserted a clause into the treaty that left them in possession of their land for three more years. So it happened that the country east and north of the Milwaukee river was opened for settlement about six years earlier than that west and south of the river. The tribes were all removed to reservations west of the Mississippi River.

However many of the Indians longed for their old hunting grounds and wandered back singly or in groups, living among the settlements of the whites and sustaining life with hunting and begging.

One of the Indian villages was quite large and located south of West Bend near the shore of Silver Lake. Another one lay on the eastern shore of Pike Lake in the Town of Hartford. Interestingly, the only places in the county to have adopted an Indian name are the town and village of Kewaskum. Kewaskum was an Indian Chief who lived near the communities that bear his name. His wigwam was located on Indian Hill.

The Indians were on friendly terms with the white settlers. They were honest and appreciative of favors. Animosity or bloody wars between the two races were unknown here. The Indians of Washington County had to do considerable begging in order to live in the area, but always tried to be of some service to their benefactors or to pay them back with something that might be of use to them. So it was in the 1830's in Washington County.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Your annual **\$15** dues cover a calendar year starting in **January**. The current year for your membership is shown on The Church Mouse address label to the right of the zip code.

Your dues include a subscription to the Church Mouse and help us preserve Jackson history.

JHS MEETINGS TIMES

The Jackson Historical Society meets the 2nd Monday of every other month, Jan/Mar/May/Jul/Sep/Nov, at 7:00pm.

JHS meetings are held at 1860 Mill Road, Jackson, in our restored, Karl Groth log home. Visitors are welcome.

JHS OFFICERS

Nancy Ebeling—President
Jerry Prochnow—Vice President
Lenore Kloehn—Treasurer
Jim Kliese—Secretary

BOARD MEMBERS

All JHS Officers, Russ Hanson,
Royal Natzke, and Elmer Kloehn



JACKSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S FREE SPRING PROGRAM

Each Spring, the Jackson Historical Society provides a FREE program for our area residents. This year our program will be on lighthouses and the maritime history of Lake Superior and Lake Michigan.

LIGHTS OF THE LAKES is an original slide show accompanied by music and sound effects. Consisting of over 200 images, the program includes portraits of 56 different Great Lakes lighthouses. Other pictures are of shipwrecks and historical mining and lumbering activities in the 19th and early 20th centuries. The importance of these industries at that time necessitated the construction of many of the light stations to help facilitate water transport of mineral and timber products to distant markets.

Geographically, the lighthouse tour starts in the northwest corner of Lake Superior, traces the coast to Whitefish Bay, then moves on to Lake Michigan, where we travel down bound from the Straits of Mackinac along

the western shore as far as Milwaukee. Many offshore lights are also included.

Our free program, **LIGHTS OF THE LAKES**, will be presented on the 27th of March 2014 at the Jackson Town Hall at 7:00pm. Doors open at 6:30pm.

Join Phillip L. Block, Great Lakes Historian, for this excellent program. Mark you calendar!

JOIN US!

The Jackson Historical Society is looking for some new members to help sustain the society into the future.

History is important as knowledge of the past helps us to understand the present and can provide guidance into the future.

If you are new to the area and interested in learning about the community, **join us**. If you've lived in the area for a long time and have family information to add to our knowledge, **join us**. Interested in genealogy or photography, we have ongoing projects that could use your help, **join us**. We'd like your help guiding the Jackson Historical Society into the future. **Join Us!**

Become an active member of the Jackson Historical Society; contact us at jhsheritage@sbcglobal.net, call Russ Hanson at 262-677-3888, Nancy Ebeling at 262-677-3957 or Jerry Prochnow at 262-338-8867, come to a meeting, or come to our FREE program on March 27th.

JOIN US!

LIGHTS OF THE LAKES



Sturgeon Bay Ship Canal North Pierhead Light was built in 1882 and renovated in 1903. It is a combination 43' lighthouse & fog signal bldg.

In the 19th and early 20th centuries, ships on Lakes Superior and Michigan carried mining and lumber products to market. The importance of these industries and the safety of the ships and crews caused the construction of many light stations throughout the lakes. With slides, music, and sound effects, our presentation will explore the history of lake transportation and the light stations built to protect it.

What: Our FREE program is a story of maritime history on Lake Superior and Lake Michigan, industries that required lake shipping to get to market, lighthouses built to protect them, and shipwrecks that occurred. Over 200 slides with music and sound effects will accompany the presentation.

Who: Join Phillip L. Block, Great Lakes historian, photographer, and member of the Great Lakes Lighthouse Keepers Association, for the pictorial story *Lights of the Lakes*.

Where: Jackson Room—upper level
Town Hall—Town of Jackson
3146 Division Road

When: Thursday, the 27th of March 2014, at 7:00pm

Cost: Free

Sponsored by THE JACKSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
*Jackson Town Hall is south of Highway 60 on Division Rd. (CTH. G)



LAND OF THE GIANTS

Before the dawn of history, a people lived here who were called Mound Builders. They did not leave any written documents, or signs carved in stone, and so they were named after the mounds or hills they were supposed to have built in various shapes including animals and even man.

The existence of this people is to a great extent mythical. Where did they come from? What became of them? Nobody knows. The earthworks alone tell us of their presence and their explanation is not extensive.

Because animal mounds in Washington County were found primarily in the Town of Farmington, it is believed that Mound builders did not live in the county in great numbers. But there can be no doubt that they hunted and fished in Washington County from Silver Lake in the east to Big Cedar Lake in the west. Many years later, as the ground was plowed for farming, many artifacts were discovered. They found arrowheads, fish spears, lances, knives, axes with holes for the handle, chisels and needles primitively made of metal mostly copper and pottery for cooking made of burned clay. The workmanship of these things proves that the skill of these artisans was superior to that of the Indians. They may have gotten the copper from near Lake Superior or may have found lumps of native copper brought south by the glaciers.

The mounds in the Town of Farmington are constructed of sandy soil and are piled up to five feet or more high without a corresponding cavity in the ground nearby that could have supplied the building material.

On one farm are two mounds in the outlines of men. One is 180 feet long and the other 200 feet, with a height of about five feet and a distance between out stretched arms of 100 feet. On the same farm, a mound of the shape of a giant lizard is found. When the Indians living in that vicinity were asked whether they created the earthworks, they shook their heads no. They knew nothing of them except that they had always been there.

A burial place of veritable giants was found years ago on a farm close to these animal mounds. Some farmers loading gravel to build a road found a mass of bones in a sand layer. They were struck by their size and put the skeleton together which measured eight feet from the top of the skull to the bottom of the heel bone. Alive, the owner of the bones must have been a regular giant. The skull was well preserved and in the jaw were teeth measuring one inch in length. It did not have the protruding cheek bones of an Indian skull and therefore pointed to a different race of men.

Could it be that the Mound Builders were the people alluded to in the Iceland Sagas as inhabiting New Iceland? For if the Mound builders came from Iceland, they must have been Teutons.

Who were the Mound Builders? Will the question ever be answered?

So said Carl Quickert in his History of Washington County published in 1912.

It is indeed a question that has never been completely answered. Other examples of "giant" people have been reported from around Wis-

consin, the United States, and in fact, from around the World.

Scientists are remaining stubbornly silent about a lost race of giants found in burial mounds near Lake Delavan, Wisconsin, in May 1912. The dig site at Lake Delavan was overseen by Beloit College and included more than 200 effigy mounds that proved to be classic examples of 8th century Woodland Culture. But the enormous size of the skeletons and elongated skulls found in May 1912 did not fit very neatly into anyone's concept of a textbook standard. They were enormous. These were not average human beings.

First reported in the 4 May 1912 issue of the *New York Times*, the 18 skeletons found by the Peterson brothers on Lake Lawn Farm in southern Wisconsin exhibited several strange and freakish features.

Their heights ranged between 7.6ft and 10 feet and their skulls, presumably those of men, are much larger than the heads of any race which inhabit America today." They tend to have a double row of teeth, 6 fingers, 6 toes and like humans came in different races. The teeth in the front of the jaw are regular molars. Heads usually found are elongated believed due to longer than normal life span.



Scientists have remained stubbornly silent about a lost race of giants found in the burial mounds near Lake Delavan, Wisconsin, in May 1912.

The Lake Delavan find of May 1912 was only one of dozens and dozens of similar finds that

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were reported in local newspapers from 1851 forward to the present day. It was not even the first set of giant skeletons found in Wisconsin.

On 10 August 1891, the New York Times reported that scientists from the Smithsonian Institution had discovered several large "pyramidal monuments" on Lake Mills, near Madison, Wisconsin. "Madison was in ancient days the center of a teeming population numbering not less than 200,000," the Times said. The excavators found an elaborate system of defensive works which they named Fort Aztalan.

The celebrated mounds of Ohio and Indiana can bear no comparison, either in size, design or the skill displayed in their construction with these gigantic and mysterious monuments of earth -- erected we know not by whom, and for what purpose we can only conjecture," said the Times.

On 20 December 1897, the Times followed up with a report on three large burial mounds that had been discovered in Maple Creek, Wisconsin. One had recently been opened. In it was found the skeleton of a man of gigantic size. The bones measured from head to foot over nine feet and were in a fair state of preservation. The skull was as large as a half bushel measure. Some finely tempered rods of copper and other relics were lying near the bones.

Giant skulls and skeletons of a race of "Goliaths" have been found on a very regular basis throughout the Midwestern states for more than 100 years. Giants have been found in Minnesota, Iowa, Illinois, Ohio, Kentucky and New York, and their burial sites are similar to the well-known mounds of the Mound Builder people.

The spectrum of Mound Builder history spans a period of more than 5,000 years, a period greater than the history of Ancient Egypt and all of its dynasties.

The skeletons of some mound builders are on display. There is an exhibit, for example, at the Aztalan State Park where one may see the skeleton of a "Princess of Aztalan" in the museum. But the skeletons placed on display are normal-sized, and according to some sources, the skeletons of giants have not been displayed.

Has there been a "giant" cover-up? Why aren't there public displays of gigantic American skeletons at natural history museums?

There is a "prevailing scholarly consensus" that we have an adequate historical understanding of the peoples who lived in North America during this period. However, the long record of anomalous finds like those at Lake Delavan suggests otherwise.

Current science tells us that humans from Asia travelled to North America over a land bridge to Alaska during a glacial period. Over time, they travelled through western Alaska, the western part of Canada, and into western United States, seeking better living conditions. A glacial period not only provides an impetus to leave an area, but when the glacial ice forms, sea level drops, exposing more land, providing a way out. A rapidly forming glacial period approximately 12,000 years ago called the Young-

er Dryas, very rapidly ended a long warming period, changing the climate from temperate to very cold. The effect of this rapid drop in



temperature caused Northern Europeans to leave their home areas and seek better living conditions. Did some leave their home areas and reach North America. There is some evidence that they may have while seeking relief from the glacial cold and a warmer more habitable climate.

Could ancestors of these people be our giant Mound Builders? It is possible, but yet to be proved.



SILENT AUCTION ITEMS

The Jackson Historical Society's silent auction to be held during the Raspberry Festival on September 8th is our annual fund raising event. It's success relies on your donating items for it. Please check your attic, basement, and garage and see what "treasures" you have to donate to JHS. We are currently accepting donated items.

Please contact Lenore Kloehn (262) 377-2142 if you have items you wish to donate.

Your donations help the Jackson Historical Society preserve your history. Thanks.

JHS AT THE W. B. LIBRARY

Some of our historic cameras are on display at the West Bend Library. In spring the display will feature Jackson baseball items. Check it out.



INDIAN SCARE IN JACKSON

On Thursday, the 27th of March, 1930, *Die Abendschule* in St. Louis, MO, published an article titled *Der Schreck vor einem Indianeraufstand* or *The Scare of an Indian Uprising*, a memory of his childhood by Heinrich Krueger. This is his story as he told it.

The farm where I was born, where I grew up and where I still live, is about 25 miles Northwest of the big city of Milwaukee, in the State of Wisconsin. It was the year 1862. The mood of the population was somewhat strained because of the ongoing Civil War in the south. At dawn my father sees a big man carrying a large pitchfork, running towards our house. As he comes closer, he recognizes him as one of our closest neighbors.

“We all have to leave, he shouts to my father, the Indians are coming and they will kill all of us.”

“Where are they now?”

“They are near Green Bay and have already destroyed everything and have burned it to the ground.”

“Well, father says, then they are still a long way from here.”

“My neighbor and I would like to go to Kirchhayn to get more information, so just come along!”

“Yes, father says, but first I’d like to have some breakfast.”

The Village of Kirchhayn was one of the more important ones for miles. The telegraph was still a rather unknown communication device. After breakfast the three men departed for the town, about two and a half miles away, where they found a whole lot of agitated people. They were awaiting the return of a local businessman who had been sent to a larger town some five miles away to get more reliable information. Since he did not return promptly the crowd grew increasingly apprehensive, thinking the Indians might have ambushed him. A horseman was sent to look for him. He did not return either. With the excitement growing, it was assumed that both of them had fallen into the hands of the Indians. A second horseman was ordered to investigate and to return if he observed the least suspicious activity, which he promised to do. It did not take him very long and he returned, reporting that the businessman would return shortly. He had no additional news other than the same scare and excitement prevailed at Cedarburg and that they also had sent riders to gather more information.

“I don't believe a word they are saying, a man shouts, where on earth are all these Indians coming from? They had to be coming out of the ground!”

However, the women disagreed with him. Instead they called him a showoff and daredevil, asking him whether he just wanted to talk smart until the Indians would grab him by his neck!

There also was a man in the crowd carrying a hunting bag containing some very sharp hunting knives. He spotted a young friend and slapped him on the back with his bag in a friendly manner, albeit with excessive exuberance, causing a knife to penetrate the bag and his friend's back leaving the broken tip embedded. The young man paled and was sat

down on a chair with his shirt removed while a doctor was called to help. As the physician tried to retrieve the piece of broken metal from the friend's back, a husky man pushes himself through the onlookers to see what was happening. As soon as he saw the blood he fainted. His boots were removed and he was carried into a yard where he recovered.

The people eventually agreed to go home for the time being and to meet again in the afternoon in order to reevaluate the situation. In the afternoon it was decided to evacuate all the women and children to the sturdy masonry church for the night with a contingent of armed men to guard them. Another troupe was to take up positions two miles north of Kirchhayn. Some hothead suggested anyone who was not willing to participate should be shot on the spot. However, a calmer Pomeranian replied, “we can not do that, we have no right to do it.” Two brothers, who owned horses, were asked to patrol the area and three gunshots would be the sign that they have spotted the Indians and the men guarding the church would come to their aid.

A businessman who had just finished his errands started on his way home. On the road he observed a number of ox carts, all of them in a great hurry. Riding on the carts were men, women and children, some only half dressed. He asked about the cause of this unusual procession. They answered, “The Indians are coming in great numbers. They are murdering and burning everything to the ground that gets in their way. If you don't want to get killed, don't go any further! You won't find your wife and

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AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETIES EVENTS

RICHFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY Contact www.richfieldhistoricalsociety.org for information on events.

GERMANTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY Bell Ringing and Wine & Cheese at Christ Church, May 4th, 2015. Contact the Germantown Historical Society at germantownhistoricalsociety.org for more information.

POMMERSCHER VEREIN FREISTADT Annual Fund Raising Party, Friday, March 28th, 2014. Music by the Alte Kameraden, Pomeranian Folk Dances by the Pommersche Tanzdeel, Great Food. Contact—information@pommerschervereinfreistadt.org.

WASHINGTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY Show & Tell with Mike Paul, Antique Appraisal. Tues March 18th, 2014, 7-9pm. Old Courthouse Museum, Please contact the historical society at <http://www.historyisfun.com> and click EVENTS for more information.



The Editor welcomes comments on the newsletter. Please mail all suggestions for articles, etc., to The Church Mouse, 1921 Hwy. 60, Jackson, WI 53037, or phone (262) 677-3888, or e-mail jhsheritage@sbcglobal.net. Russ Hanson, Editor

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children alive and your buildings are all in ashes.” He believed them and turned around to return to Milwaukee. Later, a friend of his asked him whether the rumors about the Indians are true. “Yes it is true,” he replied. “My wife and children were murdered and my buildings are in ruins!”

Towards evening my father left the house in order to meet the other men who volunteered as guards. A former German soldier was appointed as their leader. Soon they departed, marching in a northerly direction carrying rifles and pitchforks, seeking the enemy.

After marching for a couple of miles it was decided to stop at a farm near the road for a rest. The farmer was very glad to see them because of the additional security and rushed to the basement to fetch a gallon of homebrew in order to refresh the “Indian fighters.”

During their break it started to rain which dampened their spirits, and the morale of the warriors reached a very low point. Since no Indians were to be seen so far, they decided to turn back. A young man who may have had more than his share of the homebrew discharged his rifle. Since this could be confusing to some of the other patrols in the area the other men tried to disarm him, but to no avail. He decided not to take any orders from anyone. He fell back and fired a couple more shots. In the meanwhile it started to pour heavily and the discipline of all the troops just went down the drain. Everybody started to run home in order to find a dry place. They acted as if they were at the battle of Waterloo when it was nearing its end and the motto was "Save yourselves if you can!"

And so ended *Der Schreck vor einem Indianaufstand or Scare of an Indian uprising* in Jackson.

A copy of the original 1930 article was provided The Church Mouse many years ago by Elva Puestow and Marietta Fick. It was translated by JHS friends Inge and Percy Kletke of Grafton.

If you have original articles on Jackson history, please consider sharing them with other Church Mouse readers in future issues. Please contact the Church Mouse editor if you have material to share. Thanks.

**HELP!
VOLUNTEER
DRIVERS
NEEDED!**



Spring is just a couple of snow storms away. It won't be long before the grass will begin to green-up and then have to be mowed. Your Jackson Historical Society needs help mowing its lawn. If you can occasionally volunteer a couple of hours during this summer to help mow our lawn, please contact us. Call Jerry Prochnow at 262-338-8867, Nancy Ebeling at 262-677-3957, or Russ Hanson at 262-677-3888. Our e-mail is jhsheritage@sbcglobal.net.



EASTER
April 20th
2014

WHAT HAPPENS TODAY WILL BE HISTORY TOMORROW!