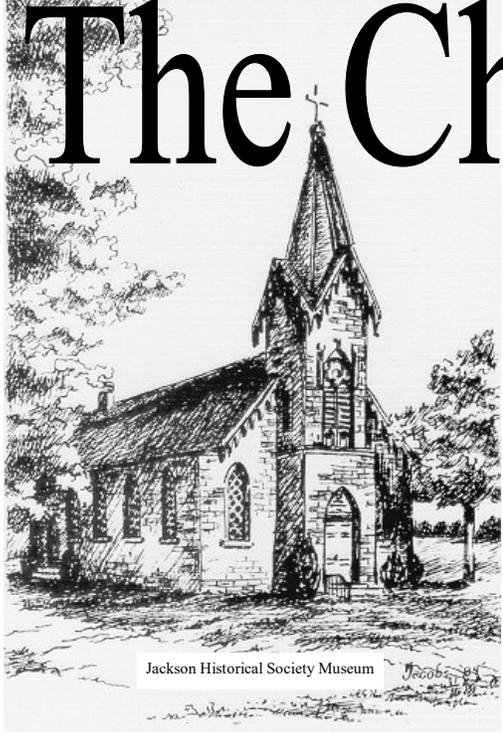


The Church Mouse



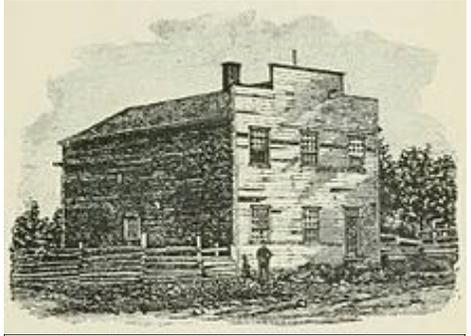
Volume 21 Issue 3 Jackson Historical Society November 2016

WHY DID THEY COME? Emigration in the 1800's

We have all heard that America is a nation of immigrants. At some point in time, our ancestors emigrated from their homes to somewhere else. During the many glacial periods, people took advantage of ice bridges to move to new areas. When the ice melted and the glaciers receded, people moved away from the rising oceans to new homelands. I know that the Native American Indians were here when most of our forefathers arrived, but they too came from somewhere else. From throughout Europe, Scandinavia, the English Isles, people came. America welcomed them all. Actually, we were not alone in welcoming immigrants. History tells us that North and South America along with Australia all accepted many new immigrant citizens. But why did these immigrants emigrate from their homes to begin a new life in another country? What caused them to pick up and leave their familiar homeland? There were as many reasons as there were immigrant groups, but some common reasons were economic hardship, the need to provide for themselves and their family, civil unrest, a.k.a. wars, persecution, and, of course, the desire to be free, to govern one's own life and to succeed to one's ability. The opportunity to "begin again" drew many immigrants to the "New World."

Emigration has been a constant through the ages. However, much of the emigration relating to our area took place during the 1800's. With the opening of the Northwest Territory to settlement, the arrival of immigrants from both Europe and settled America, accelerated the development of the area into states. Ohio-1803, Indiana-1816, Illinois-1818, Michigan-1837, Iowa-1846, Wisconsin-1848, Minnesota-1858, North Dakota- 1889, South Dakota-1889 all became states as the flood of immigrants moved into the new territory.

Early immigrants to Wisconsin settled in the Southwest part of the state. Welsh and Cornish miners and speculators descended on the lead mining area in the 1820's and 1830's. In the 1830's and later, especially with Wisconsin becoming a territory in 1836 and a state in 1848, other immigrant groups arrived and settled in the state. German immigrants were the largest group, with a high percentage of German immigrants coming from Prussia, well represented in the Jackson area.. Scandinavians ranked next led by Norwegians, then Danes, and Swedes. Next came French Canadians and English,



1st State Capitol in Belmont

(Emigration continued on page 2)

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

- Royal Natzke—President
- Jerry Prochnow—Vice President
- Lenore Kloehn—Treasurer
- Jim Kliese—Secretary

BOARD MEMBERS

- JHS Officers, Russ Hanson,
- Elmer Kloehn, and Rob Mielke

(Emigration continued from page 1)

Irish, Scottish, who brought with them their Scottish “dollars” a name we borrowed for our currency, Swiss, Dutch, Italian and Polish, Belgian, Luxembourg, Finnish, etc., immigrants. Looking around the state today at the various communities with their major ethnicities and you can see who emigrated to Wisconsin.

In Jackson, we know the story of the German immigrants from Pomerania who with their pastor and teacher boarded the sailing ship Ajax, a Barque, in Stettin, Prussia, and sailed to America, arriving in New York in September, 1843. Traveling to Wisconsin, they settled in Kirchhayn and established David’s Star Church.



Barque sailing ship

Along with an economic reason to emigrate, they came because of religious persecution back home in Pomerania.

Another local story is that of Franz Reis who emigrated from the Hunsrück area in southwestern Prussia in 1848, worked hard, saved his money, and purchased much of the land the Village of Jackson was eventually built on. He brought the railroad to Reisville, (Jackson) by providing railroad right-of-way and free land for a depot. Volker Reis, a Reis descendant, and his family, recently travelled from Europe to the Jackson and Dheinsville (Germantown) area where he met with many American Reis descendants. Such is the immigrant history of many of our families, friends, and neighbors here in Jackson. We are indeed a nation of immigrants.

**IMMIGRANT SHIPS TO AMERICA
1843 Sailings**

<u>Ship</u>	<u>Arrived Port of New York</u>	<u>Sailed From Port of</u>
Brig Edward	July 22nd	Hamburg
Barque Marianna	August 5th	Hamburg
Barque Kammonham Roy	August 18th	Hamburg
Barque Hualco	August 21st	Hamburg
Barque Ranbow	August 26th	Hamburg
Barque Reform	September 4th	Hamburg
Ship Howard	September 6th	Hamburg
Brig Proteus	September 5th	Stettin
Brig Dorothea	September 7th	Stettin
Barque Arab	September 8th	Hamburg
Ship Sylvester	September 8th	Stettin
Barque Ajax	September 11th	Stettin
Barque Bachus	September 12th	Hamburg
Barque Sophronia	September 13th	Hamburg
Brig Sir Issac Newton	October 30th	Hamburg
Ship Stephani	December 31st	Hamburg

**NEW YORK—IMMIGRANT
PORT OF ARRIVAL**

During the 1800’s, many of the ships that brought immigrants to America arrived in New York harbor. How did we keep track of who was arriving.

When individuals emigrated from one country to another, a list of the passengers on board was



kept. This was the Passenger List or Manifest. Prior to 1855, ships landed at any available wharf, passenger lists were accepted and the immigrants processed into America.

From 1855 into the 20th century, there were three different ports in New York City where passengers landed, Castle Garden, the Barge Office, and Ellis Island. From 1855 to 1890, Castle Garden, also known as Castle Clinton, was the place where immigrants were



processed for entry into this country. About 7.5 million people passed through Castle Gardens. Until Ellis Island opened in January 1892, approximately 550,000 more

(New York Continued on page 6)



THE ERIE CANAL



The Erie Canal helped bring many immigrants to Wisconsin. Proposed in 1808 and completed in 1825, the canal links the waters of Lake Erie in the west to the Hudson River in the east. It was an engineering marvel.

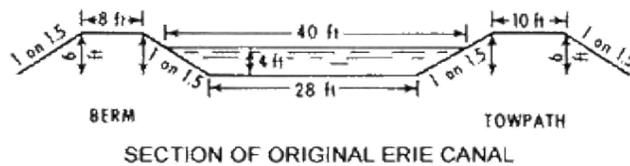
In order to open the country west of the Appalachian Mountains to settlers and to offer an inexpensive and safe way to carry produce to market, its construction was proposed as early as 1768. However, those early proposals would connect the Hudson River with Lake Ontario near Oswego. It was not until 1808 that the state legislature funded a survey for a canal that would connect to Lake Erie. Finally, on July 4, 1817, ground was broken for the construction of the canal. In those early days, it was often sarcastically referred to as "Clinton's Big Ditch", DeWitt Clinton being the Governor of New York. It was completed on October 26, 1825. It included 18 aqueducts to carry the canal over ravines and rivers, and 83 locks, with a rise of 568 feet from the Hudson River to Lake Erie.

It was 4 feet deep and 40 feet wide, and floated boats carrying 30 tons

of freight. A ten foot wide towpath was built along the bank of the canal for the horses and/or mules which pulled the boats. Their driver was often a young boy.

Later, in order to keep up with the increasing demands of traffic, the Erie Canal was enlarged between 1836 and 1862. The larger Erie Canal was 70 feet wide and 7 feet deep, and could handle boats carrying 240 tons. The number of locks was reduced to 72.

In 1903, the State again decided to enlarge the canal by the construction of what was termed the "Barge Canal", consisting of the Erie Canal and the three chief branches of the State system -- the Champlain Canal, the Oswego Canal, and the Cayuga and Seneca Canal. The resulting Erie Barge Canal was completed in 1918, and is 12 to 14 feet deep, 120 to 200 feet wide, and 338 miles long, from Waterford to Tonawanda. 36 locks were built to handle barges carrying up to 3,000 tons of cargo, with lifts of 6 to 40 feet. This is the Erie Canal which today is utilized more often by recreational boats than cargo-carrying barges. Today, most of the remaining traces of the Old Erie Canal date from 1836-1862 when it was enlarged to 70 feet.



IMMIGRANTS IN THE CIVIL WAR

In the decades before the Civil War there was an influx of immigrants who sought safety and opportunity in America. A majority of these immigrants settled in the North in urban areas or communities where their countrymen were already established. Between 1820 to 1860 approximately four million people emigrated to the United States. Approximately 500,000 arrived from the German States especially after the 1848 revolution which caused a social and political upheaval. From Ireland, primarily due to the economic hardship brought on by the "potato famine," about 1,000,000 immigrants emigrated to America. During the same period, England, many from economically depressed areas of Scotland and Wales saw the emigration of around 300,000.

Most of these new immigrants adapted quickly. They became American citizens, sent their children to school and in the case of the Germans, began to learn English. Politically, most were loyal to the Union. With the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861, these ethnic groups responded to Lincoln's call for troops. Many immigrant soldiers formed their own regiments, such as the Irish Brigade (69th New York, 63rd New York, 88th New York, 28th Massachusetts, and the 116th Pennsylvania); the Swiss Rifles (15th Missouri); the Gardes Lafayette (55th New York); the French Zouave 9th New York Volunteer Infantry; the Garibaldi Guard (39th New York); the Martinez Militia (1st New Mexico); the Polish Legion (58th New York); the German Rangers (52nd

(Civil War continued on page 5)



2016 RASPBERRY FESTIVAL, ONE FOR THE RECORD BOOKS!

"Great" is the operative word in describing this year's Raspberry Festival on our campus on Sept. 9th - "Great" applies equally to the weather, the size of our crowd and the taste of those raspberry pies (with ice cream, of course).



This year, in addition to the excellent food served, many vendors, music by the Barn Band and a performance by the Pomeranian Tanz Deel Freistadt, the huge silent auction, there were some new displays. The Wisconsin Amateur Radio Cub operated a functional ham radio station and volunteers demonstrated a number of our museum artifacts. Jerry Schuh operated our wooden, foot powered, wood lathe, Bob Witte demonstrated the corn-stalk cutter, Kathleen Huhn washed clothes the old fashioned way, while Jimmy and Bert Fasse made sausage. Al Prost demonstrated grain sowing and harvesting, and Chris Witte did wool spinning. Everyone was fascinated with the way things used to be done.

Those in attendance also enjoyed a free shoulder message, plus viewing blankets, birds, and other craft items for sale. The roasted corn vendor did a brisk business.

People of all ages enjoyed stepping back in history as our teacher in the one-room school, Doris Koeller, explained how classes used to be conducted.



The Raspberry Festival is the main fundraising event for the Jackson Historical Society, and we thank all our volunteers and vendors who made the festival possible and all participants who supported us by attending. Please join us next year on September 10th, a sunny Sunday afternoon.



(Civil War continued from page 3)

New York); the Cameron Highlanders (79th New York Volunteer Infantry); and the Scandinavian Regiment (15th Wisconsin). Many more foreign-born soldiers were scattered as individuals throughout units. A majority of these immigrants served loyally in the Union armies. With an enlistment of about 2,000,000 Union soldiers during the Civil War, 2/3 were native born Americans and the remaining 1/3 immigrants. By nationality, approximately 200,000 were German, 150,000 Irish, 150,000 English, 50,000 Canadians, and 75,000 from other, mostly European, countries.

Scores of individual regiments, such as the 9th Ohio, 74th Pennsylvania, 32nd Indiana (1st German), and the 9th and 26th Wisconsin Infantry, consisted entirely of German immigrants and their American born sons.

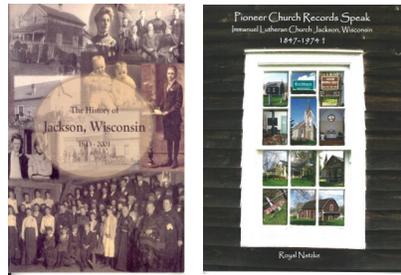


These German Americans professed a wish to “fight mit Siegel.” Major General Siegel was the highest ranking Union General of German descent in the Civil War. New York and Ohio each provided ten divisions dominated by German-born men. During the Civil War, major recruiting efforts aimed at German Americans were conducted in Cincinnati, St. Louis, and Milwaukee, among many other cities.



Immigrants from many nations played an important role in the Union victory in the Civil War.

CHRISTMAS PRESENT



Looking for something special to give as a Christmas gift? We’ve got a couple of great ideas for you.

Why not give a copy of **THE HISTORY OF JACKSON, WISCONSIN 1842-2001**. It’s 200 pages full of information about Jackson way back when! Good reading! Good reference!

Or, consider giving a copy of **PIONEER CHURCH RECORDS SPEAK 1847-1974**. It’s a 220 page story of Immanuel Lutheran Church of Jackson, through its church records. It’s also an excellent genealogical resource.

Either book is available for \$20 (\$25 mailed)-contact the Jackson Historical Society—Royal Natzke @ 1-262-334-9811 or rdnatzke@yahoo.com. The books are also available for pickup in Jackson at the Village Hall, the Community Center, and at the Jackson Town Hall on Division Rd. In West Bend, stop by the Washington County Historical Society Gift Shop. Or, contact the Church Mouse editor for help.

Holidays are on the way and you’re probably looking for some special gifts. Give them one of our books. They’ll appreciate it!

THE JACKSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

JACKSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ONE-ROOM SCHOOLHOUSE CLASS VISIT

For many years, school was taught in one-room schoolhouses throughout Washington County

Let your students experience school as it was for their grandparents and great-grandparents

Arrange a class visit to the Jackson Historical Society’s fully restored one-room schoolhouse

Contact the Jackson Historical Society at
 jhsheritage@sbcglobal.net or
 Royal Natzke at (262) 334-9811 or
 rdnatzke@yahoo.com

Jackson Historical Society, 1860 Mill Road*
 *On the Hwy. 60 round-about at Division Road (G), go south to Mill Road, turn west to site.

FACEBOOK

Check out the Jackson Historical Society’s Facebook page for what’s happening at JHS.

DONATIONS

Barb Zitlow has donated many historical items to the Jackson Historical Society for our annual silent auction. Thanks Barb

Eldred and Marilyn Gierach have donated a scythe and a washboard from Rheingans Hardward Co. to the Jackson Historical Society. Thanks for the donation.

WEST BEND LIBRARY

In 1948, 5 year old, Arlene Gierach received a doll house as a present from her parents. It is on display at the WB Library. Visit the library and take a look!

11—11—11



AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETIES EVENTS

RICHFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY December 3rd, noon to 3pm, Christmas in the Historical Park, 4399 Pleasant Hill Rd., Richfield 53076. Please Contact www.richfieldhistoricalsociety.org for more information on events and meetings.

GERMANTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY . Contact the Germantown Historical Society at germantownhistoricalsociety.org for more information.

POMMERSCHER VEREIN FREISTADT December 9th, 6:30pm, Lindenwood Community Center, Weihnachtsfest/Christmas party, For information and events, Contact—pommerscher.org

WASHINGTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY Veterans Day  November 11th, ALL DAY, Free Old Courthouse Museum Admission., 11am—5pm, after service on the Veterans Plaza.

December 8th, 10:30-11:30am, Art of Victorian Hair Work and Demonstration. Please contact WCHS at historyisfun.com for more information.



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

(New York from page 2)

immigrants went through the Barge Office.

These historic ship passenger manifests have been preserved and are now available on line. If you are interested in pursuing your family history, these ship passenger manifests are accessible on the internet and could help fill in some blanks. There are a number of sources for this information, but in this example, I accessed a familysearch.org website. I was looking for arrival information for Franz Reis.

Franz Reis, for whom Reisville (Jackson) was named, emigrated from Germany (Prussia) in the 1840's His ship likely arrived in New York. To check, I Googled *Passenger Lists of vessels arriving at New York, 1820-1897*, and from the search results selected [New York Passenger Lists, 1820-1891 — FamilySearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org). In the blanks provided, I entered *Franz Reis, Male*, and picked him out of the results. He arrived in 1848 aboard the Brig Antwerpia. Born in 1822, he was 26 years old. If the person you are looking for is the head of family, viewing the original passenger manifest will list family members traveling with him along with their ages.

Of course, arrival by ship in the Port of New York was only the first step in traveling to their final destination, Wisconsin.

Those immigrants looking to settle in Wisconsin often continued their journey by water. They would book passage on a ship that would take them from New York, up the Hudson River to the Albany, NY, area There, they would book



passage on a canal boat on the Erie Canal, which would take them to Buffalo, NY. As Buffalo is a Great Lakes port, they would book another ship to sail through Lake Erie, Lake Huron, into Lake Michigan and arrival at Milwaukee. In this way, they reached their new home, Wisconsin.



WHAT HAPPENS TODAY WILL BE HISTORY TOMORROW!

HELP THE JACKSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESERVE YOUR YESTERDAYS.

PLEASE JOIN US!