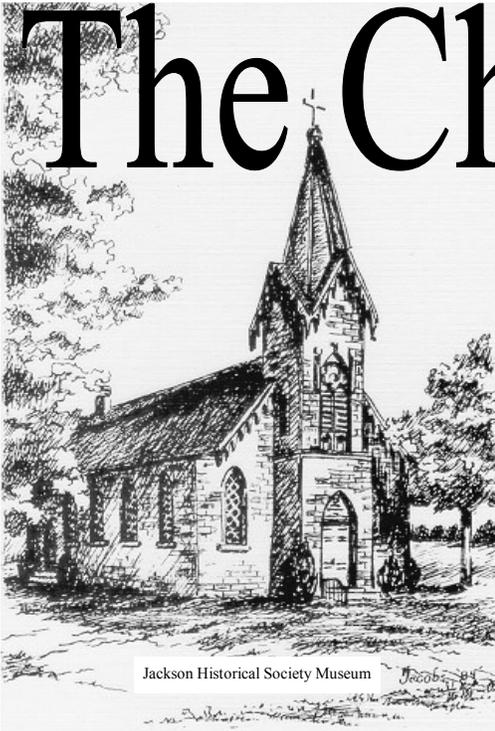


The Church Mouse



Volume 18 Issue 3 Jackson Historical Society November 2013

FIGHT FOR THE WASHINGTON COUNTY SEAT

Washington County has 431 square miles. It is bordered on the south by Waukesha County, on the west by Dodge County, on the north by Fond du Lac and Sheboygan Counties, and on the east by Ozaukee County. The latter was formerly a part of Washington County, but since the legislative act of March 7, 1853, runs its own affairs. The separation was the result of a heated quarrel about the seat of the county's administration. In newly settled areas quarrels of this kind were common.

On December 7, 1836, the Legislature created Washington County and Port Washington was made the county seat. Until 1840 the county belonged to the judicial circuit of Milwaukee County, and its administrative machinery was run from there. On August 13, 1840, by the Act of Organization, it received its own administration. However, as Port Washington had fallen into decay and was almost deserted, the necessity to choose another county seat was pressing. Thus Grafton, which was formerly called Hamburg, received the honor. But, when on February 20 1845 the county received its own court, plans were again ripe for the removal of the seat. This time four places, Port Washington, Cedarburg, Grafton, and West Bend

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.

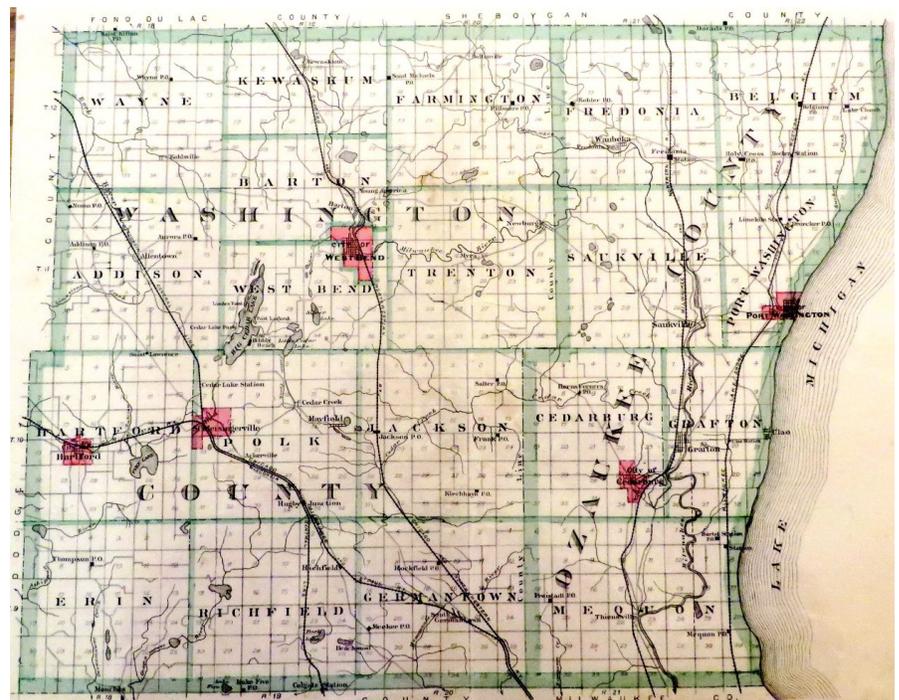
JHS meetings are held at 1860 Mill Road, Jackson, in our restored, Karl Groth log home. Visitors are welcome.

JHS OFFICERS

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

BOARD MEMBERS

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



Washington County Showing the 1853 Division—1892 map

(Fight for County Seat continued on page 2)



JACKSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S FREE PROGRAM

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

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

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

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. (C.T.H. G)

JACKSON BECOMES A TOWN

One hundred years ago, Carl Quickert wrote his *HISTORY OF WASHINGTON COUNTY*. Much of what he wrote then provides an insight into what we have become today. Here are some excerpts.

By legislative act the town of Jackson was created on January 21, 1846. Some years previous, the settlement of the fertile and almost level land, watered by Cedar Creek and numerous tributaries, had already begun. The first land entries were made in 1843 by John McDonald and Peter Devereau. Each one took up 80 acres. In May of the same year John Kinney followed the Scots-French vanguard and picked out forty acres. By fall thirty-one entries were made, and until the winter of 1845 their number had increased to 149. Much land was bought for speculation. The first poll list, that of the year 1846, showed up only one-fourth of the names in the realty records. The value of the land was in those early days readily recognized by people who saw the day coming when the railroad would lie alongside Indian trails, and small amounts of grain ground between two stones would be overtaken by golden wheat fields and the grist mill. Among the first settlers was a large contingent of Germans. A group of German Lutheran immigrants headed by their pastor Kindermann and their teacher Steinke settled in the town and founded the hamlet of Kirchhayn, which today can boast of having one of the oldest Lutheran congregations in Wisconsin. Smaller fractions of the same group founded colonies in the neighboring hamlet of Freistadt, and in Watertown.

April 7, 1846, three months after the town had been born and baptized, the first town meeting was held. It appears to have been looked on as an important affair, for 43 voters were present—apparently the entire voting population. It was in the turbulent times of the quarrel about the location of the county seat that Jackson added its voice to the heated discussion. The Poor Farm already lay within the border of the town, so why not move the other offices onto the grounds and have everything together? The intentions were good and the arguments plausible, but the established towns wanted no part of Jackson's suggestion. Regardless of the scoffers, the town unanimously voted for the county seat to be moved to the town of Jackson. However, it wasn't to be.

The first town meeting was held in the home of L. Topliff who was the clerk. He also was the first to be elected chairman of the town. It was decided to levy \$100, of which \$75 were for general expenses and \$25 for schools. Thus the town began to manage its affairs.

(Fight for County Seat continued from page 1)

fought for the honor. However, because each one felt they should be chosen, consequently none would get it. The administration led a kind of nomadic life. It was a county seat on wheels, meting out justice and decrees here and there, where it seemed best. From 1847 until the county was divided, Port Washington again became the county seat. In 1848, an attempt was made to settle the question by popular

(Fight for County Seat continued on page 6)



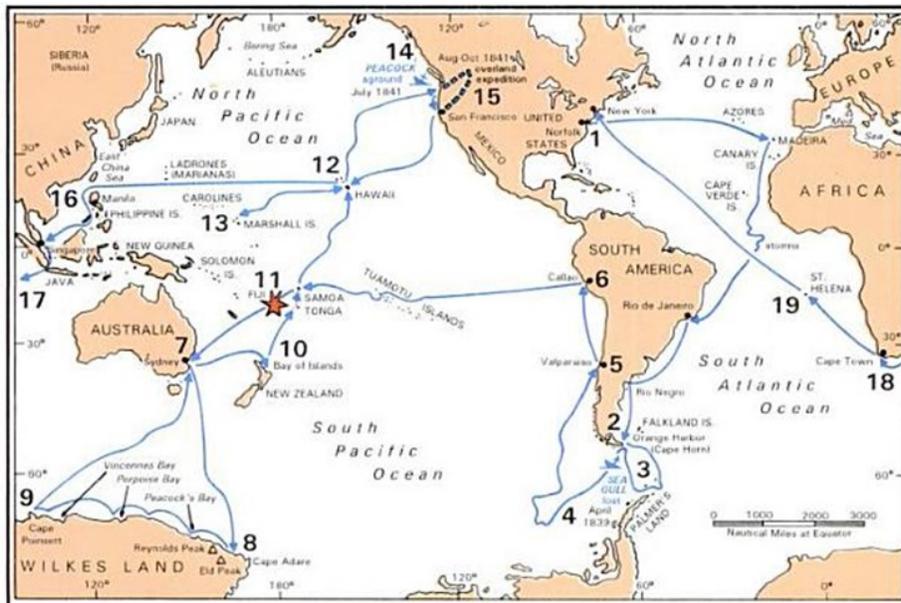
INCREDIBLE VOYAGE—AMERICA'S HISTORY REVISITED

The U.S. Exploring Expedition 1838-1842

Part 2

Arriving back at Fort Jackson (Sydney) (7), a badly needed overhaul was completed and the squadron headed for New Zealand (10). After a week's stay, they headed for Tongataboo Island, one of the Tonga group. The Fiji Group was next visited where two crew members were killed by natives. Leaving the Fijis on August 10th, the squadron proceeded to the Phoenix Islands and on to Canton Island, reaching the Sandwich Islands (Hawaiian Islands) (12) on September 23rd. Wilkes dispersed his ships to explore and survey other island groups, while the Vincennes remained in Hawaii.

While in the Hawaiian Islands, expeditions were sent to examine Mauna Loa, Mauna Kea, and Kilauea. A camp on Kilauea used by Wilkes to explore the volcano remains today.

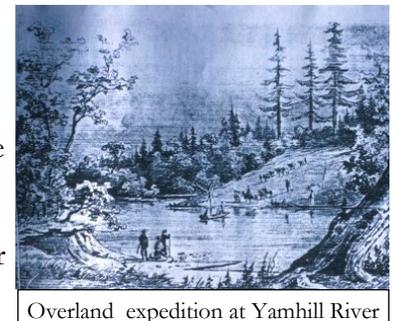


The Vincennes left Honolulu on April 5th, 1841 and reached the mouth of the Columbia River 22 days later (15). After almost being wrecked off Destruction Island, Wilkes proceeded to the Straits of Juan de Fuca about May 1st. For the next six months, various parts of the Straits of Juan de Fuca and Puget Sound were surveyed and mapped. Several extensive exploring expeditions were made inland as far as Nisqually (Tacoma), Fort Vancouver just north of Portland, and up the Columbia River and Willamette Valley to the Falls. Another expedition crossed the Cascade Range north of Mt. Ranier penetrating to Fort Colville almost at the northeastern corner of Washington State. Returning they entered Idaho reaching Lake Coeur d'Alene.

On June 27th, Wilkes received the news that the Peacock had been wrecked off Cape Disappointment (14), but that all hands had been saved. Unfortunately, many scientific collections stored aboard were lost. Surveying was now discontinued and the ships got underway, arriving off Astoria on the 6th of July.

Wilkes shifted his command to the Porpoise and sent the Vincennes to San Francisco. The Porpoise proceeded to survey the Columbia River up to Fort Vancouver (Portland). Continuing with the surveying of the Columbia River aboard the Porpoise, Wilkes sent an expedition to explore overland (15) from Fort Vancouver to San Francisco, joining the Vincennes there.

The Vincennes arrived at San Francisco, anchoring off Sausalito on October 6th. A surveying expedition was sent up the Sacramento River, to beyond the site of Sacramento City. Meanwhile, the party which left Fort Vancouver was slowly



(Incredible Voyage continued on page 4)



(*Incredible Voyage* continued from page 3)

wending its way to San Francisco. They were afflicted with sickness and hostile Indians, but after two months reached the Sacramento valley. They journeyed down the river and joined the Vincennes. While at Sausalito the brig Oregon was acquired to replace the Peacock. On November 1st, 1841, the squadron departed San Francisco, arriving off Honolulu (12) on the 17th. They replenished their supplies and left on November 28th.



Expedition views Mt. Shasta

Wilkes' orders were to return to New York by May 31st, 1842, and this left him little time. He split his squadron, with the Porpoise and Oregon exploring various small islands and reefs of the Hawaiian group; then, heading for the Philippines, rounded northern Luzon and proceeded direct to Singapore. Wilkes with the Vincennes and Flying Fish headed southeast, arriving at Wake Island on December 20th. They visited the Ladrone group, discovered Assumption Island, rounded the northern end of Luzon and anchored in Manila Bay (16) on January 12, 1842. Proceeding south into the Sulu Sea, on February 2nd, Wilkes entered into a treaty with the Sultan, governing commerce between the United States and Sulu. He then rejoined the rest of his squadron in Singapore (17). After a short stay, the squadron sailed for Cape Town (18), arriving on April 13th, 1842. After a stay of only four days, the ships were again underway, homeward bound. On May 1st, 1842, the ships stopped at St. Helena (19).

The closing "leg" of the cruise was uneventful. On June 10th, 1842, the expedition dropped anchor off Staten Island (1), thus writing the closing chapter of one of the greatest epics of the sea. All hands were now called aft and Wilkes expressed his thanks to them all for the manner in which they had conducted themselves. A national salute was fired, and Wilkes' pennant was hauled down as he left the ship for the last time.

Wilkes and his men had zigzagged across the oceans; filling in borders that had only been loosely sketched, they gathered a mountain of artifacts. Hydrographic surveys were made of some 280 islands as well as of the inland waters of what is now United States territory extending from the Straits of Juan de Fuca to San Francisco Bay. The existence of the Antarctic Continent had been added to the world's knowledge of geography and 1,600 miles of its coast had been followed to substantiate the claim. 180 detailed charts were constructed by Wilkes as a result of the expedition.

In addition to the narrative of the expedition which consisted of 5 large volumes, some 14 volumes were published covering the research in geology, botany, ethnology, meteorology, hydrography, etc. Many botanical species were brought back and about 2,000 sketches made during the exploration.

A tremendous feat of navigation, the expedition broadened knowledge of uncharted areas of the world and helped expand American commerce, industry and scientific knowledge. It cemented the nation's status as a new world economic leader.

Wilkes died in Washington in 1877, and today rests in Arlington National Cemetery.

Although, THE INCREDIBLE VOYAGE of Charles Wilkes on behalf of our young nation succeeded in advancing our position among the world's nations, the voyage does not appear to receive the historical recognition its success deserves. Perhaps it was that our young nation was ill prepared to showcase and self promote its massive accomplishments. Perhaps, in the turn of history, other events began to intrude on the voyage's achievements. Less than 20 years after the completion of the INCREDIBLE VOYAGE, there was gold in California, westward expansion, the transcontinental railroad and the convulsion of the Civil War to capture our attention.

Should you wish to learn more about the U. S. Exploring Expedition, much information can be found on the internet. A book, *MAGNIFICENT VOYAGERS* by Herman J. Viola and printed by the Smithsonian Institution Press is also an excellent source. It is available in the West Bend Memorial Library.

Part 1 of the *Incredible Voyage* appeared in the June 2013 Church Mouse.



Happy Thanksgiving

WHAT HAPPENS TODAY WILL BE HISTORY TOMORROW!

HELP JHS PRESERVE YOUR YESTERDAYS



THE U.S. EXPLORING EXPEDITION COLLECTION NEEDS A HOME

When the U. S. Exploring Expedition returned in the summer of 1842, it overwhelmed America's meager scientific resources. The number of ethnographic objects alone amounted to 4000 items. It is thought to be the largest every made by a single sailing expedition.

Even larger than the ethnographic collection were the 50,000 specimens of 10,000 species of pressed plants accumulated by botanist William Rich, the horticulturalist William Brackenridge and naturalist Charles Pickering. There were more than 1000 living plants and seeds from an additional 648 species. Titian Peale had brought back 2,150 birds, along with 134 mammals and 588 species of fish. The geologist, James Dana, had collected 300 fossil species, 400 species of coral, and 1000 species of crustacean. There were 208 "spirit jars" of insects and zoological specimens along with 895 envelopes containing 5,100 larger specimens.

In addition to all the collections brought back by the Expedition, there was an equally awe-inspiring amount of data. The Expedition's linguist had amassed notebooks of observations, unprecedented in their scope and thoroughness. Then there were the charts, a total of 241 of them. Laid down in these charts, with a precision rarely seen before, were 280 Pacific islands, 800 miles of the Oregon coast, a 100 mile stretch of the Columbia River, the overland route from Oregon to San Francisco, and 1,500 miles of the Antarctic coast. Wilkes and his officers had also assembled mountains of meteorological, astronomical, magnetic, and oceanographic information. The results of the expedition were larger and more complex than anyone could have imagined and they outran the intellectual resources of the country.

But, there was reason to hope. In 1838, an emissary had arrived in New York with \$500,000 in gold coin (over \$11,000,000 today) from the estate left by the Englishman James Smithson for the establishment of a new kind of institution for the "increase and diffusion of knowledge." No one was sure what the institution should be and a stalemate ensued. To force Congress's hand, former Secretary of War Joel Poinsett created the National Institute for the Promotion of Science to become the caretaker organization for the collections of the U. S. Exploring Expedition. With the help of outgoing Secretary of the Navy Paulding, space was secured in the great hall of the newly built Patent Office Building. With great difficulty and confusion, the Expedition's collection was unpacked and prepared for display. However, it was not until Wilkes replaced the Institute's curator that the collection was properly prepared for display.



United States Patent Office

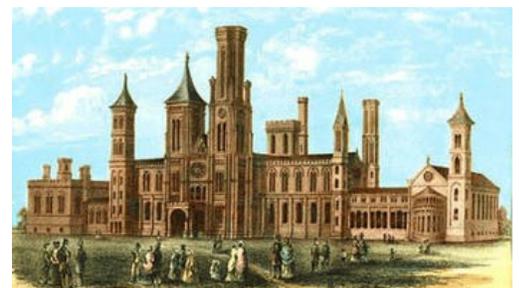
In the back of the Patent Office Building was a greenhouse, where hundreds of living plants from the expedition grew. Many influential Washingtonians, including President Tyler's wife, assumed that these tropical seedlings would be made available to them for their private gardens, but Wilkes denied all requests for the plants. One congressman became so angered that he threatened to stop the Expedition's funding, but Wilkes stood firm. "The restriction was carried out," he wrote, "and our plants preserved."

The collection of the U. S. Exploring Expedition in the U. S. Patent Office became wildly popular. Over the course of the next decade, more than 100,000 people made their way each year to the Patent Office.

Finally, in 1858, 20 years after James Smithson had donated his estate, and 12 years after the Smithsonian Institution had been established, the Smithsonian Institution's museum was created by the U. S. Congress as the first United States National Museum. The collection from the U. S. Exploring Expedition finally had a home as it became part of the Smithsonian's foundation collection.

Today, the Smithsonian Institution—the world's largest museum and research complex—includes 19 museums and galleries and the National Zoological Park.

For more insight into the U. S. Exploring Expedition collections at the Smithsonian, go to www.c-spanvideo.org/program/SEexpl and www.c-spanvideo.org/program/300321-1 on the internet and watch these videos.



The Smithsonian Institution

AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETIES EVENTS

RICHFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY Christmas at the Mill, Saturday, December 7, 2013.. Richfield Historical Park, 4399 Pleasant Hill Road, Richfield, WI 53067. Contact www.richfieldhistoricalsociety.org for more information.

GERMANTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY Sinter Klausen Christmas Concert, December 1, 2013. Contact the society at <http://germantownhistoricalsociety.org/> for more information.

POMMERSCHER VEREIN FREISTADT Weihnachtsfest, Friday Dec. 13, 2013, 6:30pm—Pomeranian Christmas traditions. Call Vaitl's at (262) 781-7155 or e-mail at vwaitl@wi.rr.com. Reserve by 11 Dec. Contact—information@pommerschervereinfreistadt.org

WASHINGTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY Christmas at the Old Courthouse, 320 S. 5th Ave., West Bend, Sunday December 1, 2013, 1-4pm. 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



RASPBERRY FESTIVAL HELD SEPTEMBER 8th

Our fall Raspberry Festival was held on a cool but sunny afternoon, Sunday, Sept. 8th, 2012, on the society's grounds, 1860 Mill Rd.

The Festival Trio provided the music entertainment.

Delicious raspberry pie and Honey Grove ice cream, brats &



hot dogs, and Bublitz hot buttered sweet corn were enjoyed by all. Eickstedt's honey and veggies were for sale. The Pommerscher Tanzdeel Freistadt played and sang Pomeranian songs, entertaining our



many visitors. Oliver Schowalter's

Miniatures had a new trailer with an expanded layout, antique cars from the Kettle Moraine Model T Ford and Vintage Car Club were on display. Folks toured our restored church, 2-story log home, and joined classes in our one-room schoolhouse. And, of course, our silent auction was very popular again this year.

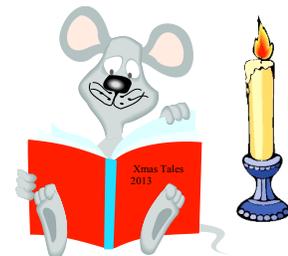
A nice afternoon was enjoyed by all. Thanks for coming.

(Fight for County Seat continued from page 2) vote. Three elections were held, not one of which brought a decision, but did bring many accusations of foul play. Seeing no progress, the people asked the legislature for help. That high body, instead of ordaining a county seat, divided the county into a northern and a southern half to the great surprise of the inhabitants. Those of the southern half, which received the name of "Tuskola," were to vote on the measure. They voted against the division. In 1852 a vote was taken on the question of whether Grafton or West Bend was to be the county seat. Grafton won out, but the election was annulled because of gross irregularities that were traced to a voting place. This was too much for the patience of the lawmakers at Madison, and on

March 19, 1853, they divided the county from the north to south. The smaller eastern half was named Ozaukee County and received Port Washington as its county seat, while the larger western half, with West Bend as the county seat, kept its old name of Washington County. Thus ended the thirteen year fight for a county seat.

The opposition, following the decision, hid the realty records when the authorities from West Bend went to retrieve them in Port Washington. This could not change the law, but added a bit of humor to the affair.

In 1912, Carl Quickert wrote his *HISTORY OF WASHINGTON COUNTY*. This article contains excerpts from that book. The 1892 county map was provided by the Washington County Historical Society.



'Twas the night before Christmas when all through the house not a creature was stirring not even my uncle Fritz, who was asleep in front of the warm fireplace!

Merry Christmas 2013