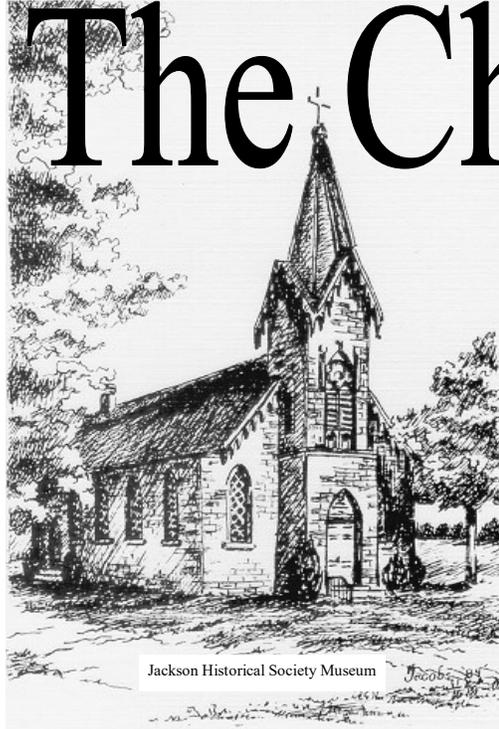


# The Church Mouse



Volume 27 Issue 1 Jackson Historical Society February 2020

## NORTH AMERICA

Discovery – Exploration - Settlement

In the 16th and 17th centuries, French, Spanish, and Portuguese fished for cod off Newfoundland. They built fish processing villages on the island to prepare the fish for the trip back to Europe. Explorers were looking for a water passage to China. Instead, they found a continent they could plant their flag on, claiming it as their own.

The 1600's saw the British claim and colonize the eastern seacoast of North America beginning with Jamestown in 1607. In 1620, the Mayflower arrived to create the Plymouth colony. The other colonies followed through the mid 1700's.

The French arrived in the early 1600's and established colonies at Acadia (Nova Scotia) and Quebec City (on the St. Lawrence River) and proceeded to explore the North American land to the south and west. France eventually laid claim to land west of the Appalachian Mountains, south to Louisiana, and further west to the Rocky Mountains which became New France.

The Spanish claimed islands in the Caribbean, land in South America, Florida, and land west of Louisiana.

To complicate matters, the lands being claimed in the name of these European countries, were already populated by many well established Indian tribes.

As the French explored the rivers of New France from the Ohio to the Mississippi River, they established friendly relationships with the many Indian tribes. Instead of colonizing the Indian lands, they developed a fur trading business with the tribes. The French traded manufactured goods for furs. Trading Posts were built on the rivers at various points to provide a strategic location to trade. Many were sited at strategic locations to allow observance of traffic on the rivers.

The French established trading companies to gather the furs and see them shipped back to Europe. Banks were also set up in Montreal to handle the financial transactions.

In our Great Lakes area, trading posts were established at Michilmackinac, La Baye, and Prairie du Chien.

Michilmackinac, built in the early 1700's, overlooked the Straits of Mackinac between Lake Huron and Lake Michigan. It was a trading post for the fur trade, a mission, and a fort. La Baye, built about 1717, was a trading post for the fur trade, a mission, and a fort. Located on the Fox

(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 3rd 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

Russ Hanson—President  
Jerry Prochnow—Vice President  
Lenore Kloehn—Treasurer  
Nancy Ebeling—Secretary

## BOARD MEMBERS

JHS Officers, Elmer Kloehn,  
Gordon Ziemann, Clifford Koeller





River in what is now Green Bay, it dealt with the Indian tribes along the Fox River, Wisconsin River, and tributaries. Prairie du Chien (Dog's Prairie – "Dog" was believed to be the name of a local Indian Chief), was located on the Mississippi River, north of the confluence with the Wisconsin River. The trading post and later a fort, dealt with the fur trade along the upper and lower Mississippi River, Missouri River, Wisconsin River, and tributaries. It was an important post because it permitted dealing with the Plains Indian tribes to the west and northwest.

Indian tribes would trap during the winter, bundle the skins and travel to the trading posts in the spring to bargain with the traders for manufactured goods. The trading posts developed into small communities as traders chose to live near them year around. Many traders married Indians, usually a chief's daughter, to maintain good relationships and raise a family. This relationship was quite profitable for the French and was maintained for many years.

However, the French and Indian War erupted in 1754. This conflict between France and Great Britain began when France expanded into the Ohio River valley in conflict with claims of the British colonies, particularly Virginia, for that land. The war raged on for nine years until 1763 and ended with the defeat of the French. The Treaty of Paris, signed at the end of the war, ceded all French lands in North America, except Louisiana, to the British. Spain secretly acquired Louisiana from the French in 1762, toward the end of the war.



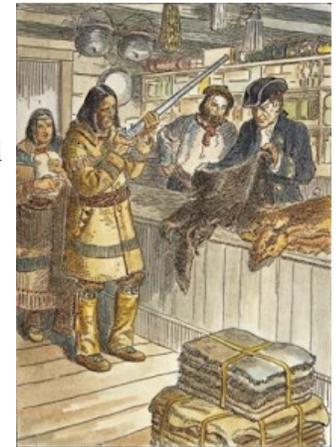
After Great Britain had defeated the French, the financial costs of fighting the war created extensive British debt. Great Britain felt that because the war was to benefit the English colonies, the colonies should pay a large part of the debt. The British parliament passed a number of laws taxing the colonies. The colonies felt the taxes were unjust and rebelled, with the Revolutionary War beginning in 1775 at Yorktown. On July 4, 1776, the Declaration of Independence was signed. The war ended in 1783 with the signing of the Treaty of Paris on September 3rd, 1783 creating the United States of America.

As the British and American military forces disengaged, Great Britain was to return all forts to U.S. control. Fort Michilmackinac, overlooking the straits between Lake Huron and Lake Michigan, was returned to the U. S. military in 1796. However, the military went no further west, leaving forts and fur trading posts at La Baye, and Prairie du Chien in British hands. The western fur trade continued under British direction. The U.S. tried various methods to take over the fur trade, but were, for the most part, unsuccessful. Furs continued to be processed through Canada and British manufactured goods continued to flow into the U.S. from Canada untaxed.

The Northwest Territory was ceded to the United States in the Treaty of Paris. In 1787, the Northwest Ordinance was passed to provide for the admission of the land to the Union as states. Westward migration from the colonies continued with Ohio becoming a state in 1803. Also in 1803, President Thomas Jefferson purchased Louisiana from France, who had forced Spain to return it to them in 1801, for \$15,000,000, opening up vast lands west of the Mississippi River to further expansion.

However, in 1803, Britain and France went to war. Many of the battles were at sea, between British and French warships. The U.S. was trying to remain neutral, shipping to both warring parties. However, British ships would stop U.S. merchantmen, confiscate the cargo and impress a number of our seamen for duty on the British warships. The British action became unacceptable and the U.S. president, James Madison, declared war on Britain in 1812. The war continued until the Treaty of Ghent was signed in 1815.

The fur trade around the Great Lakes and Mississippi River areas continued for both British and American organizations after the war of 1812. However, it gradually declined throughout the 1800's, as new states were formed, the area became settled, and farming took over. Activity moved further west.





# Dolley Madison



**Charming, flamboyant and strong willed, Dolley was tested in the calamity of the War of 1812. Born into a Quaker family, Dolly was raised to be obedient and well behaved. Early in her life she married a man selected by her father. Dolley would soon be strengthened by adversity. Widowed at an early age she would then be courted by Congressman James Madison. As First Lady, Dolley would become the Grand Dame of Washington. We meet Dolley as she returns to Washington after the death of President Madison and**

**the loss of their home, Montpelier.**

**What:** Dolley Madison—The lady who saved Washington.

**Who:** Relive history with Jessica Michna, actress and historian, as she becomes Dolley Madison.

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

**When:** Thursday, the 2nd of April 2020, at 7:00pm

**Cost:** Free

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

## DOLLEY!

Dolley Madison was brought up within the strict principles of Quakerism under which she lived until she was twenty-six years old. From a young girl to a young wife, she never deviated from the Quaker way of life. It was not until she married Madison that she departed from the plain practices in which she had been raised and which she had followed during her first marriage to another Quaker. Her fundamental attitudes were not changed, and could not be changed, by the high pressures

of the public stage to which she had suddenly been transplanted. She remained a simple Quaker at heart.

Through her marriage with Madison she became an actress on a grand stage. Her progress through life was a passage through the great days in the development of the American democracy.

Dolley played a central role in this eventful era. She had an ability to keep people together who otherwise had a tendency to break up. She was a calming influence during times when a calming influence was needed.

She lived in a generous age; among people who gave their all for the new world then had created.

Combining the lady of distinction with the pioneer woman, Dolley accepted the responsibilities placed upon her. She gave freely of herself to the founding of the American nation.

Even her glamorous social reign was not without aggravations. Her husband's administration was one of the most turbulent of that period. She was destined to be the President's wife during the war of 1812. that saw her burned out of the White House which she had adorned. The bright picture that she imposed on her generation remained untarnished by the harshness of the times. She stood out in contrast to the troubled times in which she lived.

She lived to be an old lady of more than 80 years of age. She knew all of the Presidents from George Washington to Zachary Taylor, and saw at close range the principal events of this long period. She witnessed many portentous changes in which politicians rose and fell. In her later years, fading into the background of political life,

*(Dolley continued on page 5)*



## THE WAR OF 1812 COMES TO WISCONSIN

### The Battle for Fort Shelby at Prairie du Chien

During the war of 1812, Prairie du Chien was a small frontier settlement, the residents loyal to both Americans and British. By 1814, both nations were anxious to control the site because of its importance to the fur trade and its strategic location at the intersection of the Mississippi River and the Fox-Wisconsin Waterway, a transportation route linking the Mississippi with the Great Lakes.

After the Treaty of Paris in 1783, Prairie du Chien became a part of the United States. However, the Americans did not make an effort to establish a military presence in this frontier settlement. It remained mainly under British influence into the 1800's. In the spring of 1814, American forces decided to secure the location. They worried that if Prairie du Chien fell to the British military, St. Louis would be susceptible to an attack down the Mississippi River from the north. William Clark, the governor of Missouri Territory, organized a force in St. Louis to defend Prairie du Chien.

The American force arrived in Prairie du Chien and began building Fort Shelby. The Americans made steady progress on the fort. The barracks were completed and occupied by mid June. As part of Prairie du Chien's defenses, the American river gunboat *Governor Clark*, a fourteen gun wooden vessel was anchored in the Mississippi River beside Fort Shelby.

However, word of the new American defenses at Prairie du Chien reached the British at Fort Mackinac. The Post Commander, did not want the Americans to gain a foothold in the area, fearing that it would interrupt the British fur trade and Great Britain's many alliances with the region's Indian tribes. In response to the American threat, he assembled a militia force consisting of about 75 members including a 3 pounder canon and several hundred Indians. En route to Prairie du Chien, they were joined by additional militia volunteers and Indians, bringing the force to about 650 men.

In mid July, the British force arrived at Prairie du Chien. Late in the morning they approached Fort Shelby and delivered a note demanding the Americans' surrender. The Americans refused and prepared to defend the fort. The battle began early in the afternoon when the British 3-pounder gun opened fire. The gun damaged the *Governor Clark* and compelled it to retreat downriver. The boat carried the Americans' cannons and a substantial supply of goods and ammunition.

With the gunboat gone, the British concentrated their fire on Fort Shelby. The 60 Americans and the British militia maintained a steady exchange of gunfire throughout the next day, but to no avail for either side. However, by the third day, the Americans inside Fort Shelby were beginning to run short of ammunition and other supplies. More pressing, the well inside the fort had run dry, and an attempt to repair it failed. The American commander offered to surrender the fort if the British would guarantee his men's safety.

On July 20, the Americans officially surrendered and vacated the fort. The remaining American arms, ammunition, and provisions were turned over to the British. The 60 American troops returned to St. Louis.

The British force took possession of Fort Shelby, which was renamed Fort McKay. In spite of a shortage of rations during the winter, the British occupied Fort McKay until word of the Treaty of Ghent reached Prairie du Chien in the spring of 1815, ending the war. The treaty returned Prairie du Chien to the United States, so the British force abandoned the fort, burning it down when they left. So ended the Battle of Prairie du Chien.



**TODAY WILL BE HISTORY TOMORROW!**

**HELP THE JACKSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**PRESERVE YOUR YESTERDAYS.**

**DONATE YOUR HISTORICAL ARTIFACTS**

**SHARE YOUR FAMILY HISTORY**

Please Contact The Church Mouse [jshheritage@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jshheritage@sbcglobal.net)



### LOST CEMETERIES

A series of articles by Gordon Ziemann

As I drive through Jackson and surrounding areas, I often catch a glimpse of a small cemetery with a few monuments, often not very well maintained, sometimes in a wooded area, and I wonder about its history. Who is buried there? When? Family cemetery? Church cemetery? Has it been abandoned or is it still maintained? What is the rest of the story that is buried there?

With this issue I will continue the series of stories in the Church Mouse exploring the history of these Lost Cemeteries.

### NOT EXACTLY LOST, BUT.....

Schuck, Spoonholz, Miller, Kliese, Leatherl, Eckhart..... If one of these names is the same as yours, you may have a relative in this issue's "lost" cemetery. These are some of the names found on the headstones of a cemetery which has faded into obscurity. Everyone can see it, but no one seems to know anything about it. It is the final resting place for members of a church that was located on Mayfield Rd. in the Town of Polk. The church burned down many years ago and no one can seem to remember the name of it or, what denomination it was, only that it was gone. And, then there is the fact that the cemetery is in the wrong place. It should have been located further west from where it is now. It is now located on a residential lot. The name of the church was "Polk Dairy Church" or something like that, but no one seems to remember what its actual name was.

I have been led to believe that a school was intended for the location where a house now stands. One acre was set aside for the school. Then another acre to the west of the school lot was designated for the church cemetery. A house also stands on that lot today. The cemetery was placed on the west edge of the first acre. So much for planning. We don't know how all these errors occurred, but that's the way it ended up.

Many of the people interred in the cemetery were buried, for the most part, from the 1890's to around 1910. The newest burial, Jacob and Mary Schuck, were buried in 1916. The youngest person buried was Elizabeth Widder, buried in 1834 at the age of 17. There may be older burials, but many of the stones have weathered very badly and are not readable. Also, there didn't appear to be any very young children buried here even though infant mortality was quite high in those days. However, children's headstones are usually smaller in size than the other stones and

may have been covered up by the snow when I was there.. I'll have to look again after the snow melts.

If you are wondering where this "lost" cemetery is located, it is just west of the intersection of Mayfield Road and Sherman Road. It is visible from Sherman Road.

If you have any information to help me fill in the many gaps in this cemetery's description, please send an e-mail to Gordy Ziemann at [gordyoz@att.net](mailto:gordyoz@att.net). Maybe together we can remove the "lost" from this cemetery.

If you drive by a "lost" cemetery and would like Gordy to explore its history, please send him an e-mail indicating its location.

*(Dolley continued from page 3)*

she still functioned as the guardian of manners and the inspiration of social charm in the capital city.

The career she had so unaffectedly adopted in Madison's time was pursued with the same sincerity and amiability to the end of her days.



**AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETIES EVENTS**

**RICHFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY** Maple Syrup Family Day, Saturday, March 28, 2020, 11am to 4pm, Richfield Historical Park, 1896 State Road 164, Richfield, WI 53076 Please Contact [www.richfieldhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.richfieldhistoricalsociety.org) for more information.

**GERMANTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY** Please contact the Germantown Historical Society at [germantownhistoricalsociety.org](http://germantownhistoricalsociety.org), for information on future events.

**POMMERSCHER VEREIN FREISTADT** For activities and information, please contact [Pommerscher.org](http://Pommerscher.org).

**THE HISTORY CENTER** Show & Tell with Mike Paul, Tuesday, March 17, 2020, 6:30pm—8:30pm, Old Courtroom.

The History Center, 320 S. 5th Ave., West Bend, WI 53095. Contact [www.historyisfun.com](http://www.historyisfun.com) for more information on this and future programs.



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](mailto:jhsheritage@sbcglobal.net). Russ Hanson, Editor



**RASPBERRY FESTIVAL SILENT AUCTION**  
**We Need Your Help!**

For many years, the **Silent Auction** has been a successful part of our annual Raspberry Festival, the major fund raiser for us each year. **We need your help for the 2020 Raspberry Festival.**

Lenore Kloehn has organized and led the **Silent Auction** for the past 13 years and has decided to retire from the leadership role in 2020. Thank you, Lenore, for all you've done to make the **Silent Auction** the great success it is.

SO, we need a new leader to organize and lead the **Silent Auction** for our 20th annual Raspberry Festival, Sept. 13th, 2020. If you feel you'd like to take on that task, **please contact** Lenore Kloehn at 262-377-2142 or by e-mail at [elkloehn@att.net](mailto:elkloehn@att.net). She'll be happy to help you get started.



**HELP NEEDED**

The Jackson Historical Society could use your help building our genealogical database. We use the familiar Family Tree Maker software. If you can give us a hand to help enter genealogical data, we'd appreciate your support.

Please e-mail us at [jhsheritage@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jhsheritage@sbcglobal.net). if you're able to volunteer some time.

Thanks.  
Russ Hanson—Editor

**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 a class as it was for their grandparents and great-grandparents.

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

Please contact the Jackson Historical Society\* at [clifdoris@att.net](mailto:clifdoris@att.net) or Doris Koeller @ (262) 677-3457 or [jhsheritage@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jhsheritage@sbcglobal.net)

The Jackson Historical Society historic site is located at 1860 Mill Road, Town of Jackson

\*on the Hwy. 60 roundabout at Division Road (G), go south to Mill Road, turn west to the JHS site.