

## Friends of Jonathan Clark House Museum 2020 Annual Report

Our mission is to collect, preserve and share the history  
of the Jonathan Clark House and the early settlers of Mequon-Thiensville



Executive Director Nina Look  
and Board President Gary Heckendorf

Dear Friends –

We have had a most unusual year but have found successes in many new avenues and met new friends along the way. Although we will not hold an annual meeting, we hope this report will give you a good overview of 2020. We look forward to seeing you in 2021!

It is a pleasure to serve as your JCH Board Vice President. My project this past year has been JCH public relations. I am planning a promotional/educational video that will be funded in part by Port Washington State Bank. I am currently recruiting additional sponsors. If you would like to get involved, drop me a note at [jchmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:jchmuseum@gmail.com).



Board Vice President Linda Chay



Treasurer Diana Hetzel, on right with JCH volunteer Carol Stephenson

Our year-end fund drive was a success. We finished 2020 with \$16,400 in expenses and \$53,500 in income. We have \$158,000 left on our property mortgage. Please contact me at the address below if you would like to see more details on our finances. We are very grateful to our 2020 donors for their financial support and trust in our endeavors. [jchmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:jchmuseum@gmail.com)



Education Director Margaret Bussone with  
JCH Friend Jim Marshall of Spectrum  
Investment Advisors

Have you seen our new educational outreach program posters and bookmarks? The “Become a Young Historian” project is a Jonathan Clark House collaboration with the Mequon Thiensville Historical Society and the Trinity Freistadt Historical Society. Posters are displayed and bookmarks are available at area schools, municipal offices and the Weyenberg Library. You can get your copy by sending a note to me at [jchmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:jchmuseum@gmail.com)

I am an architect with a deep regard for historic preservation. As my fellow Board of Directors and I have looked at the delicate nature of the 1848 Clark House, we have decided to develop a Heritage Center that will expand our mission to the community. A draft of my plan is available from Nina. Let her know if you have an interest in getting involved in Center naming rights and fundraising.



Board Member Justin Racinowski



Board Member Dr. Patrick Steele  
with his former student, Miss Wisconsin

As you may recall, we had only two events in 2020. The first was the annual meeting sponsored by Herbst Oil, TRU Heating and Cooling and the Village BP and hosted by Jim Marshall at Spectrum Investment Advisors. Perhaps I met you at the meeting. Our second event was my fabulous presentation on the history of Wisconsin baseball, hosted by Concordia University Wisconsin.

We appreciate the support we get from area businesses, service clubs and the Mequon Community Foundation. We are proud members of the Mequon Thiensville Chamber of Commerce and the Cedarburg Chamber of Commerce. Financial support and volunteer talents are critical to our organization's success. Let us know if you would like to serve as a volunteer.



Board Member Dan Umhoefer and JCH Friend Pastor Dale Erickson



Assistant Director Anne Bridges with fellow tour docent Mike Runde

As our organization has grown in the past eight years, we have learned so much about the role the Clark, Turck and Bonniwell families played in the development of our community. We are pleased to pass on this knowledge to others. Our tour docents and I look forward to 2021 interactive tours. Did you know that we customize each tour according to our audience?

In March, I co-curated the Clausing Octagon Barn exhibit at the Cedarburg History Museum with CHM Director Steve Daily. Partners in this project were Al Dobberfuhr of the Trinity Freistadt Historical Society, Nina Look of JCH, Jane Butz and Allen Buchholz of the Ozaukee County Historical Society and, of course, Ozzie Clausing. The pandemic restrictions came out the week after our opening!

JCH Preservation Manager, Fred Derr



Clausing Octagon Barn Exhibit project representatives with Fred Derr in the back row on the left



IT Advisor Shaw Bridges with his two-favorite people, his wife Anne and Santa Claus

We made big strides with our computer system in 2020. Thanks to one of our members, Henry Hile, and to Fromm Family Foods and their IT expert Bryan Villwock, we were able to tap into the neighboring Leaf Land Landscape Design site internet. This has provided us with a faster and more reliable service to support all of Nina's hard work. I enjoy being the behind-the-scenes tech support staff.

It has been a productive year at "Clark House Historian", with 100 new posts drawing over 4,000 visits from more than 540 online readers. We've made contact with several descendants of early settlers and examined dozens of early maps, books, photographs and news articles. Look for my posts on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at [jchmhistorian.com](http://jchmhistorian.com) Come see what's new in Clark House history!



Historian Reed Perkins (with Nina) and his wife Dr. Laura Rexroth



JCH Photographer Jean Hill with "Caroline Clark" and "Jonathan Clark"

I am a volunteer photographer for area non-profit organizations such as the Mequon Thiensville Chamber of Commerce and the Jonathan Clark House Museum. The reason I most enjoy being the JCH photographer is because of its mission to share the history of our community with young people. My role is to express the mission through my photographs.

The Jonathan Clark House is about educating and entertaining people of all ages. That's why I love the museum and why I volunteer and truly believe in the amazing institution that it is. I have learned, taught and enjoyed so much in my three years of volunteering at the museum. I will continue to volunteer with my mentor Margaret Bussone as we teach and entertain the people of our community.



Young Historian Matthew Seiberlich  
"Jonathan Clark"



Young Historian Spencer Holloway  
"Peter Turck"

To understand where the future will take us, we need to first understand how the past got us here. I am dedicated to the historical research of Peter Turck who helped shape our state government and developed the local economy. He and his family helped move the territory into the founding of a state. I look forward to meeting other JCH young historians. My mentors are Reed, Fred and Nina.

It is important for us to learn about and understand our heritage. We owe a certain respect to those who came before us and shaped our world. The Clark House is a historical resource with tangible and visual exhibits that peak one's interests and invest one's mind into the learning of said heritage. The museum is vital to our community's understanding of its past, and perhaps a glimpse into its future.



Young Historian Silas Toppe with his  
mentor Al Dobberfuhr

The Clark House is a good example of a pioneer house where people of all ages visit, learn and enjoy. It is better to see and experience history rather than just reading or hearing about it. It is fun and exciting! I have learned how to be an old timey pioneer, and I like making new friends. If you know someone who would like to join me at Museum events, give Nina a call. My mentor Carol Stephenson and I will give them a personal tour.



Young Historian Clara Klimczak  
"Laura Clark"



Young Historian Cooper Ressel

I enjoy helping out at the Jonathan Clark House. Everyone I've met there is great. I have helped with event set-up and break-down, seasonal yard work and educational demonstrations. I look forward to the 2021 Heritage Days where I can again demonstrate the rope maker with my mentor Fred Derr.

The Parlour and Jonathan 's Office have been re-plastered and painted. Our crew as pictured are Ron Kirshling of the Mitered Edge, JCH Perservation Manager Fred Derr and painter Phil Goodson of Philip Merrill Interiors. Not pictured is plasterer Paul Weyker of Premiere Plastering. These two projects were generously funded by the Mequon Community Foundation.



## 2020 Board of Directors

### **Gary Heckendorf, President**

Jackson, Vice President/Commercial Banker, Forte Bank-Hartford

### **Margaret Bussone, Secretary and Education Director**

Mequon, Retired, Foreign Language Faculty, Mequon Thiensville School District

### **Diana Hetzel, Treasurer**

Mequon, Retired, DH Bookkeeping

### **Linda Chay, Board Member**

Cedarburg, Vice President/Mortgage Lending, Port Washington State Bank

### **Justin Racinowski, Board Member**

Fox Point, Principal, Racinowski Design

### **Pam Ruschman, Board Member**

Mequon, Artist

### **Alexis Ruzell, Communications**

Mequon, Realtor, Realty Executives Integrity

### **Patrick Steele, Ph.D., Board Member**

Jackson, Associate Professor, History, Concordia University Wisconsin

### **Dan Umhoefer, Board Member**

Mequon, Owner, Village BP/Herbst Oil/TRU Heating and Cooling,

## 2020 Volunteer Staff Members

### **Nina Look, Ph.D. Executive Director**

Mequon, Retired, Vice President, Milwaukee Area Technical College

### **Anne Bridges, Assistant Director – Special Projects**

Mequon, Retired, Financial Analyst

### **Frederick Derr, Preservation Manager and Furnishings Curator**

Mequon, Metalsmith, Historic Preservationist

### **Shaw Bridges, Information Technology**

Mequon, Retired, Financial Analyst

### **Reed Perkins, Historian (Turck Family descendent)**

Kenosha, Musician

### **Jean Hill, Photographer**

Cedarburg, Retired, Ozaukee Economic Development



**Parlour and Jonathan's Office Re-Plastered and Painted**



**Fred Derr, his niece Dr. Rachael Miller and Dr. Nina Look at a "Pie on the Patio" event**

## Staffing Announcement

Watch for details in 2021, as the JCH Board of Directors announces the establishment of a half-time paid Executive Director position that will begin in September. This is a big step for our organization as our goal is to raise funds for an endowment for the staffing budget. Preservation Manager Fred Derr and Executive Director Nina Look have volunteered at the museum since it started in 2012 and have plans to continue to serve as volunteer caretakers/curators.

### We need your financial support

Your generous endowment donation could include naming rights such as the "ABC Family Endowment". Contact Board President Gary Heckendorf at JCH to discuss this exciting opportunity.

[jchmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:jchmuseum@gmail.com)

## 2020 Business and Organization Donors

**Bank First** – Fund development budget

**Chevron** Matching Grant with Bob Hickman - Operating budget

**Concordia University Wisconsin** – Events budget

**Culver's** – Education budget

**Fromm Family Foods** – Technology budget

**Mid State Insurance** – Year End Fund Drive

**The Mitered Edge/Ron Kirschling** – Preservation budget

**Port Washington State Bank** – Marketing budget

**Racinowski Architecture + Design** – Design services

**Village BP and Herbst Oil** – Operations and Programming budget

**Weyker Premiere Plastering** – Preservation budget



## 2020 Honorariums

**Margaret Bussone** from Carolyn Lawrence

**Sandy and Jean Custer** from David and Gael Romoser

**Bock Family** from Fred Derr and Nina Look

**Pam Ruschman** from Lynn and Paul Rix

**Margaret Bussone and Jeanne Holper** from Sue and Jack Kessler

## 2020 Memorials

**Kendra Bock** from an anonymous friend

**Jim Coutts** from Margaret Bussone

**Marion Hatzinger** from Nancy Perez

**David Horsefield** from Joan Horsefield

**Tom and John Doyle** from Mary Lou Corrigan Luff

**Rita Gagainis** from Susan and Vilnis Gagainis

**Beth and Otie Marquardt** from Susan and Vilnis Gagainis

**Jon Safran** from

Fred Derr & Nina Look, Jean & Jim Hill, Andrea & Matthew Richmond, Dawn Safran

**Sheri Boesch** from Barbara Boesch Johnson

**Karen Daub** from Tom Daub

**John Marita** from Margaret Bussone

**Jerry McGinnis** from Barbara McGinnis

**Peg Uihlein** from Fred Derr and Nina Look

## 2020 Miscellaneous Donations

**Anne and Shaw Bridges**

**Steve Klimczak**

**Dr. Patrick Steele**

**Suzanne and John Kessler**

**Liz and Bob Hickman**

**Tom Frank**

**Al Lustig and Janice Watson**

**Pat and Ron Heinritz**

**Jenny Hansen**

**Sam Cutler**

**Harold Schnell**

**Gary Heckendorf**

## 2020 Artifact Sponsors

**Jane Boesch** - pewter beaker

**Bernita & Henry Hile** – cast iron kettle

**Margaret Bussone** – yoke & brass kettle

**Fred Derr & Nina Look** - mid 19<sup>th</sup> century book

**Barbara McGinnis** – pie plate & stoneware crock

**Sandra & Jerry Osborne** - girls cotton prairie dress

**Sunrise Rotary of Mequon Thiensville** - rope maker

**Andrea & Matthew Richmond** – lift top library desk

**Jean & Jim Hill** – pie plate

**Tom Daub** – mid 19<sup>th</sup> century book

**Beverly Hess** – woolen shawl & pewter beaker

Thank you to our Artifact Project Underwriters:



Here are three of the artifacts that are still available for sponsorship



Mid-19<sup>th</sup> Century Pine Dry Sink  
\$1,300



Hired Man's Shaving Mirror  
\$300



Clothes Washing Demo  
\$200

## **Society of 1848 Members through 2020**

### **Founder Level \$25,000+**

Cindy and David Bock  
Frederick and Kendra Bock  
Frederick Derr and Dr. Nina Look  
Barbara and Jerry McGinnis, Sr.  
Mequon Community Foundation  
Sommer Family Foundation

### **Preservationist Level \$10,000+**

Spectrum Investment Advisors - Jim Marshall  
Fromm Family Foods -Tom and Kathy Nieman  
Anne and Shaw Bridges

### **Historian Level \$5,000+**

Dr. Gregory and Jean Custer  
Tammie and Jim Strause/The Pink Llama Gallery  
Pieper Power, Inc. /Ideal Mechanical  
Richmond Investment Services – Andrea and Matthew Richmond

### **Settler Level \$2,500+**

Antiquarian Society of Wisconsin  
Bob and Jan Blazich  
George and Char Bonniwell  
Gary and Sandy Videkovich Brown  
Sam Cutler  
First Priority Printing – Rob Strzelczek  
Steve French  
Curt and Mary Gielow  
Kim and Ann Harter  
Elizabeth and Robert Hickman  
Hunt Family Foundation  
Junior Woman's Club of MT  
David and Camille Kundert  
Mequon Thiensville Sunrise Rotary  
Mequon Woman's club  
Nancy Perez  
Pieper Foundation  
Joyce Rosenberg  
Pam and Kelly Ruschman  
Harold & Joan Schnell  
Steve and Cindy Shallock

## 2020 Grant Awards

**Junior Woman's Club of Mequon Thiensville** – Programming budget

**Mequon Community Foundation** – Parlour and Jonathan's office plaster-painting project

**Mequon Woman's Club** – General fund

**Optimist Club of Mequon Thiensville** – Stairway painting project

**Pieper Electric Inc. & Ideal Manufacturing** – Well pump replacement and Operating budget

**Sunrise Rotary of Mequon Thiensville** – Rope maker and supplies

**Thiensville Mequon Rotary Club** – Tour docent guidebooks



## 2020 Year-End Drive Report

**We thank the following donors for their support of our mission and our year-end fund drive.  
We are pleased to accept donations and sponsorships throughout the year.**

Sam and Jessica Azinger  
Cindy and David Bock  
Frederick Bock  
Jane Boesch  
George and Char Bonniwell  
Carly Borchardt  
Brook and Liz Brown  
Margaret Bussone  
Drs. Peggy and Ed Callahan  
Kathlyn and Christopher Callen  
Dr. Gregory and Jean Custer  
Jesse and Barkha Daily  
Tom Daub  
Fred Derr and Dr. Nina Look  
Pat and Don Engelbert  
Dale and Mary Erickson  
William Foshag  
Kay Freyer  
Susan and Vilnis Gagainis  
Jamie and Karen Geschke  
Curt and Mary Gielow  
Kristen and Mike Gies  
Dr. Kevin and Eileen Goniou  
Roger and Paulette Gronwick  
Ann and Jon Hammes  
Patty Harkensee  
Kim and Ann Harter  
Philia and Paul Hayes

Dr. Karl and Carol Hertz  
Beverly Hess  
Diana Hetzel  
Bernita and Henry Hile  
Janice and Clay Hill  
Jean and Jim Hill  
Sharon and Gordon Hinrichs  
Michael and Corinne Holloway  
Rob and Dawn Holyoke  
Joan Horsefield  
David Jackson  
Jeff and Amy Johns  
Barbara Boesch Johnson  
Jean and Dave Johnson  
Will and Katherine Jones  
Rob Kos and Dawn Schubert  
David and Camille Kundert  
Ladky Associates  
Leaf Land Landscape/Jim & Shirley Walczak  
Mike and Jane Leske  
Mary Lou Corrigan Luff  
Jim Marshall/Spectrum Investment Advisors  
Barbara McGinnis  
Judy and Joe McGinty  
Mid State Insurance  
Melissa Nimke  
Sandra and Jerry Osborne  
Sandra and Jim Pape

Nancy Perez  
Brigitte and Gerald Phillips  
Ellie and Randy Pipkorn  
Connie Pukaite  
Lynn and Paul Rix  
David and Gael Romoser  
Mimi and John Rosing  
Mike Runde  
Alexis and Vadim Ruzell  
Dawn Safran  
Mary Ellen Sampe  
Mary and Bowne Sayner  
Alice and Bob Schilleman  
Diane Schlitz

Warren and Alice Seifert  
Minna Smith  
Stan Smith  
Carol Stephenson  
Tammie and Jim Strause  
Alden and Gus Taylor  
Norene and John Thiel  
Mike Uihlein  
Julie and Michael Walz  
Jack and Nancy Wiese  
John and Stacey Wirth  
William and Camille Woodward  
Rachel Muchin and Patrick Young  
Suzanne and Kurt Zellmann

### **Become a Young Historian Right here in your own backyard!**



**Check out our “Become a Young Historian” project  
on our website [www.jonathanclarkhouse.org](http://www.jonathanclarkhouse.org)**



**2020 Annual Report developed by Executive Director Dr. Nina Look  
January 8, 2021**

**Friends of Jonathan Clark House  
P.O. Box 634, Mequon, WI 53092  
[jchmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:jchmuseum@gmail.com) 262-618-2051  
[www.jonathanclarkhouse.org](http://www.jonathanclarkhouse.org)**