

Friends of Jonathan Clark House
February 2021 Newsletter
We Bring History to Life
on the Corner of Bonniwell and Cedarburg Roads in Mequon

Our mission:
To collect, preserve and share the history of the Jonathan Clark House
and the early settlers of Mequon Thiensville



2020 Was a Successful Year for the Jonathan Clark House Museum

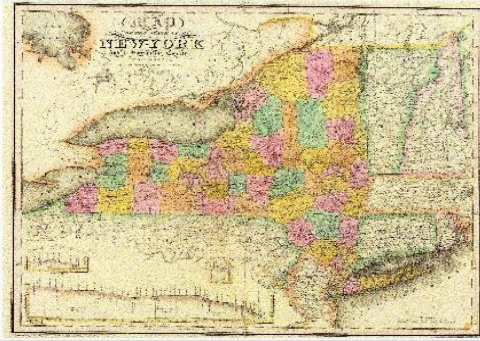
Thank you to all of our Friends who made the 2020 year-end fund drive a success with their generous donations. Last year was a challenge in many ways, and your continued support is very much appreciated. We could not exist without the trust you have in the mission of the Friends of Jonathan Clark House. This unique historical house museum is entirely dependent upon the generosity of our community members, businesses and service organizations for its ongoing operations, events, and debt repayment. Hopefully, you enjoyed our "2020 Annual Report" that was filled with news and reports from our Board Members and Volunteers. Please note that the report included a list of our 2020 donors and is available on our website. www.jonathanclarkhouse.org

Gary Heckendorf, Board President

Friends of Jonathan Clark House
P. O. Box 634, Mequon, WI 53092
www.jonathanclarkhouse.org
jchmuseum@gmail.com
262-618-2051



Newsletter Editor
Nina Look
Photographers
Jean Hill, Gary Heller and
Nina Look
Young Historian Contributor
Spencer Holloway



State of New York, 1832



**Mary Turck Clark
in about 1870**



**Young Historian
Spencer Holloway**

Meet the Turck Family – Part One **by Young Historian Spencer Holloway**

The Turcks were from a long line of Dutch Americans. This article features **Peter** and **Rachel** Turck of the old Town of Mequon. **Peter Turck** was born in 1798 in Kinderhook, New York and **Rachel Gay** was also born in 1798. They were married in about 1819 and had eight children. Seven of their children were born before the Turck's arrival in Milwaukee in 1837.

The oldest child **Mary**, born in Athens, New York in 1821, became a teacher in the Turck's Mequon house attic. Her students were her younger brothers and sisters and a couple of other children. She married **Jonathan Clark** in 1840. Their marriage is recorded in Milwaukee.

Peter and Rachel's oldest son, **Joseph**, was born in 1823, daughter **Adama/Adamy** was born in 1825, daughter **Elizabeth** was born in 1828 and daughter Rachel was born in 1830. Their son **James**, born in 1833, achieved a multitude of economic roles during his lifetime as well as involvement in Milwaukee business and politics. Their daughter, **Sarah**, was born in 1835 married **Alfred Bonniwell** in Mequon. The youngest child, **Benjamin**, born in 1839, was the only one of the eight Turck children born in Mequon. He is recorded in the 1860 census as a "clerk" living with his sister **Mary Clark** and her children.

Peter Turck served in the Second Wisconsin State Legislature as a representative in the Assembly for Washington County in 1849. This is confirmed by looking at the electees list for the 1840s. Present-day Ozaukee County was part of Washington County up until 1853 when the area was split into two counties.

Researched articles suggest **Peter Turck** went as a delegate to a Territorial Convention for his political party representing Washington County. That is when Michigan, Wisconsin and Iowa were all still new states or territories and had heated borderline arguments over where the boundaries would be set. They needed an elective body to pass ideas and laws for the new territories. Colonization and advancement of these wilderness-filled areas would take some time. He also set up the first Mequon sawmill, something we will cover another time in great detail.

Well, that's all for now in this brief informative article of the Turck Family. Tune in next time to read about new updates and backstories of more figures and new information on the ones we've already uncovered!

Local Community Leaders Complete the 2021 Nine-Member Board

I am pleased to introduce you to our two new 2021 Board Members **Joel Willems** and **Judy Button**, as well as our continuing board member, **Justin Racinowski**, who was elected to a second three-year term. Joel is the new Director of the Cedarburg History Museum. He is the former Curator of the Chudnow Museum in Milwaukee. As Joel stated, "I am pleased to join the JCH Board and explore collaborations between local historians and history enthusiasts." Judy Button was appointed by the Board of Directors to complete the third year of a vacant term. Judy, a long time Mequon resident and elementary education teacher, stated that she is "excited to contribute to the education-based mission of the Clark House Museum". Justin is the Principal of Racinowski Architecture + Design who chairs the Preservation Committee. At its January 12 meeting, the 2021 board members re-elected **Gary Heckendorf**, President, **Linda Chay** Vice President, **Margaret Bussone** Secretary and **Diana Hetzel** Treasurer.

Patrick Steele, Ph. D., Nominating Committee Chairperson



Joel Willems



Justin Racinowski



Judy Button

Friends of Jonathan Clark House 2021 Board of Directors and Volunteer Staff

Gary Heckendorf, President
Linda Chay, Vice President
Margaret Bussone, Secretary
Diana Hetzel, Treasurer
Judy Button, Director
Justin Racinowski, Director
Dr. Patrick Steele, Director
Dan Umhoefer, Director
Joel Willems, Director

Dr. Nina Look, Executive Director
Margaret Bussone, Education Director
Anne Bridges, Assistant Director
Fred Derr, Preservation Manager
Shaw, Bridges, Technology Director
Reed Perkins, Historian
Jean Hill, Photographer

Thank you to our recent donors:

Al Lustig and Janice Watson, Tammie Strause, Herbst Oil, Gordon and Sharon Hinrichs, Bob and Jan Blazich, and Sue and Jack Kessler (in honor of Margaret Bussone).

Something for your Social Calendar

We will be celebrating a special 200th birthday on May 3.
Watch for details in the JCH April newsletter.

Museum Interior Preservation Projects are Completed



Parlour east wall



Parlour front door



JC Office west and north walls

Paul Weyker, Premiere Plastering
Tony Kartsonas, Historic Surfaces, LLC
Phil Goodson, Philip Merrill Interiors
Ron Kirschling, The Mitered Edge
Mequon Community Foundation



I am pleased to say "Thank you" to our project professionals,
project sponsors and JCH Preservation Manager Fred Derr

Justin Racznowski, Preservation Team Chairperson

Weyenberg Library Exhibit

Fred Derr and Nina Look are designing a "Become a Young Historian" exhibit to be in the Weyenberg Library lobby in the month of March. It will include a "Find the Red Fox" contest managed by Young Historians Kate and Kolby Zellmann.

News of 2021 Grants and Acquisitions

We are pleased to receive a grant from the **Mequon Community Foundation** that is a result of their annual appeal. We thank those of you who designated **Friends of JCH** for your donation. These funds are vital to our operating budget.

We recently purchased two wool braided rugs made in North Carolina. One is a large oval for the parlour, and one is a round rug for Jonathan's office. The **Junior Woman's Club of Mequon Thiensville** is underwriting the round rug through a recent grant from funds they raised at their 2020 Turkey Trot. The parlour rug is available for underwriting. Contact Nina for more information.

The Origins of the Heritage Days Series and a Tribute to a Dear Friend



2016 and 2017 JCH Kid's Camp at the MT Recreation Department and at the JCH Museum

In June of 2016 and 2017 the JCH Education Team, made up of retired educators and JCH Friends, held three-day "19th century" MT Recreation Department summer camps for grades 3 thru 5. At the center of the planning and execution of the project was volunteer **Diane Schlitz**, known to 30 years of first and second graders at Wilson School who loved **Mrs. Schlitz**.

At the Rec. Department we played games and sang, and Diane taught the children to cook apple sauce and apple butter, grind wheat and make winter bread. She guided them as they made mobiles from items collected in nature, and on the last day, at the Clark House, the children created cardboard log cabins, corn husk dolls and churned butter, all through Diane's planning. Starting in 2018, the camp concept expanded into our Heritage Days series. How lucky to have the 1978 "Wisconsin Teacher of the Year" guiding us!

This January 8th, we lost our dear friend, Diane Schlitz. We will miss her knowledge and creativity, but we will remember her kindness, gentle humor, love of teaching and the endless concern, respect and love she had for children. We adults learned so much from her and feel privileged to have had her in our lives. We extend our most sincere sympathy to her family.

Margaret Bussone, JCH Education Director

An Opportunity to Invest in your Historic House Museum

Would you like to sponsor a museum artifact or project? Several are available for underwriting, including costumes and furnishings that tell the story of early settler life. Contact Nina for more details on levels of sponsorship. You will be pleased with your investment!



Woolen Shawls
Three @ \$35/each



Hand-Made Corn Broom
\$50



Windsor Chairs
Four @ \$500/each



Jonathan Clark House Museum Woodland Photo - December 26, 2020

Traces of Wildlife

If you are looking for JCH Preservation Manager Fred Derr you may find him in the Clark woods cutting down dead ash trees and looking for traces of wildlife. Last December he discovered a beautiful barred owl calmly watching him from a tree limb. Fred called on Kristin Gies to learn about the habitat of our local owls.

Barred owls, although common in hardwood forests of Wisconsin, are majestic creatures not often noticed. Barred owls love to nest in the hollows of old trees. These owls are also the most vocal of the owls of our region, creating a sound that resembles a laugh! So, the next time you are hiking at dusk or in the early morning hours, listen for laughter in the forests!

Kristin Gies, Mequon Nature Preserve Executive Director and JCH Friend

We Salute our JCH Volunteer Social Media Team



Tammie Strause in her Gallery



Rose Gallenberger in Jonathan's Office

Tammie Strause is our Facebook volunteer. She is the owner of the popular Pink Llama Gallery in downtown Cedarburg. Tammie is Past President of JCH and has generously held JCH Valentine's Day benefits at the gallery. In addition, she is a leader in the Cedarburg Arts Guild and their annual Fall Art Tour. She is a past recipient of the Cedarburg Chamber of Commerce's "Spark Plug" Award. Thank you, Tammie, for promoting JCH through Facebook.

Rose Gallenberger is our website volunteer. She was recruited by our Board Member Dr. Patrick Steele where they both work at Concordia University Wisconsin. Her current position is Administrative Assistant in the Speech-Hearing-Pathology Clinic. Rose also volunteers at the Wauwatosa Historical Society as Vice President of Education. She was previously Director of the Mount Clare Museum House in Baltimore. Thank you, Rose, for extending our message to the community.