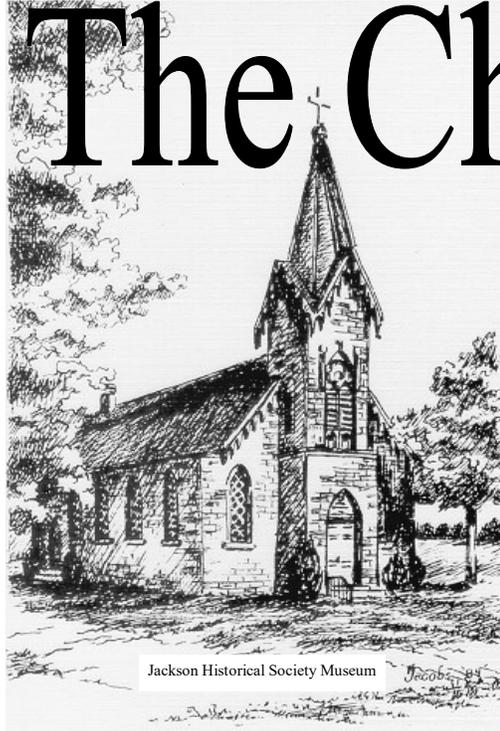


The Church Mouse



Volume 29 Issue 3 Jackson Historical Society December 2021

EXPLORATION & DISCOVERY!

A Water Route to Far East Riches Commercial Ventures or Just Looking

Ask some folks who discovered America and many will say, Christopher Columbus, and then recite the first few lines of the following ditty.

*In fourteen hundred ninety-two
Columbus sailed the ocean blue,
It was a courageous thing to do
But someone was already here.*

*Columbus knew the world was round
So he looked for the East while westward bound,
But he didn't find what he thought he found,
And someone was already here.*

*It isn't like it was empty space,
Caribs met him face to face.
Could anyone discover the place
When someone was already here?*

Not to denigrate the voyage, for it was a risky undertaking to captain three small ships and sail west across the ocean to blaze a new path to the riches of the far east.

Unfortunately for Columbus, he piloted his ships into the Caribbean and made landfall on a populated island called Guanahan, later part of the Bahamas.

Of course, the people who “discovered” America while searching for the far east water route, were often greeted on the shore by indigenous peoples, which takes us back to the last two lines of the ditty. “*Could anyone discover the place when someone was already here?*”

We'll begin here, about 13,000 years ago and look at people through the centuries who may have had an opportunity to “discover” America.

We do know that people during an ice age lived on exposed land between Asia and future Alaska called Beringia. When the ice age ended and the ice began to melt, the ocean water level rose and the people left Beringia and crossed a remaining land bridge into future Alaska and then moved down along the west coast into what became America. However, there is also support growing for people sailing in from Pacific Islands



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MEMBERSHIP DUES

Your annual **\$20** 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.

Jacksonwi.history@gmail.com

JHS OFFICERS

Clif Koeller—President

Jerry Prochnow—Vice President

Lenore Kloehn—Treasurer

Doris Koeller—Secretary

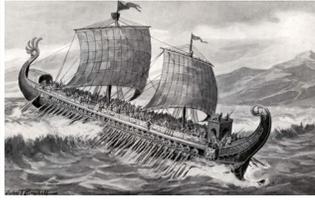
BOARD MEMBERS

JHS Officers, Elmer Kloehn,

Gordon Ziemann, Russ Hanson



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and inhabiting the country.



There are many reasons why the indigenous people would have come. Perhaps it was to gain land or find food, improve their situation, or just to see what's there.

Ancient Egyptians may have traded with peoples in South America 1000 years ago. Ancient Mesopotamians may also have traded in South America. The Phoenicians were traders and explorers about the same time and as mariners for hire, sailed under the flags of many countries. The potential for discovery of North America by

these early mariner/explorers is possible. But did they explore to the north?

Later, in the sixth century, it has been proposed that an Irish Monk named Saint Brendan, sailed to future Canada in a wooden boat covered with animal skins called a currach. In 1976, to provide writer, sailed an exact replica of the original boat and following the route described in Irish folklore, arrived in future Canada. Other than the written legend and the later trip, proof of the earlier trip and discovery is not available.



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In the tenth century, it was the Vikings who sailed to North America. The Vikings expeditions from Greenland are quite well documented and accepted as historical fact. About 1000 CE, Leif Erikson, the son of Erik the Red, landed in North America at a place called Vinland. This area eventually became Newfoundland, in Canada. After living there a few years, he returned home to Greenland. In 1960, a Norwegian explorer, Helge Ingstad and his wife Anne, unearthed an ancient Norse settlement at Vinland. During the next few years, foundations of eight separate buildings were exposed along with additional artifacts. Proof had been provided and in 1969, the U. S. Congress designated October 9th as Leif Erikson Day



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A British Naval Officer/Historian led a group that proposed the Chinese as discovering America. They assert that a Muslim-Chinese mariner from the Ming Dynasty discovered America. Zheng He was a real historical figure who commanded a huge armada of wooden sailing vessels in the very early 15th century. He explored Southeast Asia, India and the east coast of Africa and it has been suggested that during his seven voyages, he cruised America's east coast. Proof of cruising or landing in America is lacking, so the theory is given little credence.



The French arrived in the early 1500's but were only interested in harvesting cod fish off the Grand Banks.



They were great exploiters of natural resources, first fishing and later working with the Indian tribes to harvest and export animal furs.



In 1523 a group of Italian merchants in the French cities of Lyons and Rouen persuaded the king of France, Francis I, to sponsor a voyage by Italian explorer Giovanni da Verrazano to North America in search of that passageway to China. He explored America's coast from North Carolina up to New York and Cape Cod, apparently the first European to do so. Much later, a New York bridge (Verrazano Narrows Bridge) was named after him to honor his voyage.

By 1529, the Normans were shipping large quantities of codfish to England. But except for building temporary villages ashore to process the fish, there was no attempt at colonization. However, the French fishermen did purchase furs from the local Indian tribes which began the business of fur trading.



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In 1607, 104 English men and boys arrived in America to start a settlement. On May 13 they picked Jamestown, Virginia for their settlement, which was named after their King, James I. The settlement became the first permanent English settlement in North America.

The Dutch first arrived in America in 1609 when the Dutch East India Company vessel *De Halve Maen*, commanded by the English captain, Henry Hudson, laid anchor at Sandy Hook, before sailing up what is now known as the Hudson River. In 1614, Dutch merchants established a trading post at Fort Orange. Ten years later thirty families came from Holland to establish a settlement that became known as New Netherland. Over the next few years other colonists arrived and a large settlement was established on Manhattan Island. The Dutch purchased the island from Native Americans in 1626 for \$24 worth of trinkets, beads and knives. The chief port on Manhattan was named New Amsterdam.



The Pilgrims, originally referred to as Separatists, Brownists or Puritans, were a religious group that had left England and established themselves in Leiden, Netherlands about 1607-08. In 1620 they sailed

from Leiden to Plymouth in England where 120 passengers boarded the ship *Mayflower* for the trip to the new world. They sailed in September and anchored at Provincetown on the tip of Cape Cod, New England territory, in early November. After exploring the area in a smaller sailboat, they settled on Plymouth for their colony. They began to build houses for the families with the first one built



to serve as a hospital. That first winter, 50% of the group was lost to sickness. The colony survived and established Plymouth on a former native village called Patuxet.

In 1638 the Swedish government established a colony, Fort Christina, along the banks of the Christina River in Delaware Bay when the ships *Kalmar Nyckel* and the *Fogel Grip* landed Swedish and Finnish settlers. The area was called New Sweden. The Swedes became involved in the fur and tobacco trades and this brought them into conflict with Dutch, who claimed the same area. In 1655, with a formidable armada, the Dutch took the Swedish settlement by force.



In 1664 an English fleet arrived and demanded the surrender of the New Netherlands. The English took control of the territory and New Amsterdam became New York.

So there you have some of the players in the historical run-up to America. Discounting the indigenous peoples waiting on the shores when

(Exploration & Discovery continued on page 4)

JACKSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PLAN A ONE-ROOM SCHOOLHOUSE CLASS VISIT IN 2022

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 jacksonwi.history@gmail.com or Doris Koeller @ (262) 677-3457 clifdoris@att.net

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

HELP NEEDED

The Jackson Historical Society could use some help building our genealogical database. We use Family Tree Maker software. If you can give us a hand, we'd appreciate it. Please e-mail us at jacksonwi.history@gmail.com if you're able to volunteer some time. Thanks.



(Exploration Discovery continued from page 3)

the explorers arrived, we have proven candidates for the discovery of North America in the Vikings, but did they explore south to America after creating their village? Proof awaits discovery. How about the early French although that seems to be about fishing and the Grand Banks. The British created the Jamestown colony in 1607, beating the Dutch by a couple of years, so perhaps the honor of discovery and settlement should be theirs.

A last interesting point is that America was apparently named after Amerigo Vespucci, another Italian mariner/explorer. Amerigo Vespucci was a navigator who made at least two voyages to the Americas, the first time in 1499, 7 years after Columbus. He appears to be the first to realize that a new continent had been discovered and not just the coast of Asia. A map created in 1507 by Martin Waldseemüller was apparently the first to depict this new continent with the name "America," a Latinized version of "Amerigo." Let the dis-sension continue!

Material for this article was found in Wikipedia.
Clipart for this article was found on free sites.



SWEET TREAT HISTORY FESTIVAL

Sunday, September 12, from 1 - 4, the Jackson Historical Society (JHS) held their annual festival at its museums and grounds.

In 2020 the festival was not held due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Raspberry Festival as it was known for many years, was transformed into the *Sweet Treat History Festival, a good ole fashion ice cream social* for 2021. Attendees enjoyed walking through the **Church Museums** viewed many displays of historical items that have been acquired through the years.

Attendees also enjoyed attending three 45-minute visual historical presentations by Architectural Historian **Jim Draeger**. His informative topics on the *Glory Days of Wisconsin Gas Stations, Exploring Wisconsin's Historic Breweries, and Wisconsin's Historic Taverns and Bars* were well attended.

Attendees viewed many historical belongings as they toured our restored 1850's Karl Groth **two-story log home**. The home was moved to our JHS site. Karl Groth was a member of Immanuel Church, now our JHS museum.

Violinist Dan Ognavic providing musical entertainment, strolled through the grounds as attendees enjoyed a festive good time.

The JHS grounds also includes our One-Room Schoolhouse built on the site in 1864 by the Immanuel Lutheran Church. Children enjoyed sitting in their old fashioned school desks while writing with quill pens and printing with chalk on their slate boards, all under the direction of Doris Koeller, our teacher. For recess, students could also participate in outside games including a **gunny sack race**, three-legged race, and hoop rolling. Volunteers from 4-H Kirchhayn Trotters helped with the schoolhouse activities.

For *Sweet Treats*, **Amish raspberry pie and other pies donated by friends of JHS were offered along with Cedar Grove ice cream** during their festival visit.

There were several historical demonstrations including an **antique corn shucker (sheller)**, antique engines pumping water, and antique cars. Several stands offered farm fresh produce, honey, and fresh picked apples.

JHS wants to thank all the folks who helped make the day a success for our visitors. After an enjoyable afternoon of the "*good ole Sweet Treat History Festival*" activities, the festival ended at 3:45 with a "*good ole fashioned*" rainstorm". See you all next year.



TODAY WILL BE HISTORY TOMORROW

**HELP THE JACKSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
PRESERVE YOUR YESTERDAYS**

**DONATE YOUR HISTORICAL ARTIFACTS
TO THE SOCIETY SO THEY
CAN BE SHARED WITH OUR VISITORS**

**VISIT THE JACKSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
AT OUR 1860 MILL ROAD SITE—APPT. ONLY**



“OUR GOOD OLE FASHIONED ICE CREAM SOCIAL” ENJOYED BY ALL!



The Jackson Historical Society & Grounds is located at 1860 Mill Road in the Town of Jackson, WI 53037



AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETIES COMING EVENTS

RICHFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY Christmas at Richfield Historical Park is cancelled. Maple Syrup Family Day—March 26, 2022, 9am-4pm at Richfield Nature/Historical Park. Contact Richfieldhistoricalsociety.org for more information.

GERMANTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY Please contact the Germantown Historical Society at germantown-historicalsociety.org. for information on future events.

POMMERSCHER VEREIN FREISTADT For activities and information, please contact Pommerscher.org.

THE TOWER HERITAGE CENTER Home School at the Museum: The French Fur Trade at the Tower Heritage Center Feb. 8, 2022, 10am-12pm, \$8.00 members, \$10.00 non-members The Tower Heritage Center, 320 S. 5th Ave., West Bend, WI 53095. Contact www.thetowerheritagecenter.org or call (262)335-4678 for info



The Editor welcomes comments on the newsletter. Please mail all suggestions for articles, etc., to *** The Church Mouse, 2988 William Koehl Circle, West Bend, WI 53095 or phone (262) 353-3641 or e-mail 62734.rh@gmail.com Russ Hanson, Editor



HELP PRESERVE (Y)OUR HISTORY

It was during the Bicentennial Celebration period of the signing of the Declaration of Independence that a large group of Jackson area citizens gathered together to form the Jackson Historical Society. Meetings were held, and the society produced our first history book, The History of Jackson, Wisconsin, 1843-1976, a best seller. The society later produced our edited and expanded version of the history book, The History of Jackson, Wisconsin, 1843-2001, also a best seller. In between books, our society membership declined, losing some active members. The enthusiasm for history shown in 1976 had begun to wane. During this period, we also took ownership of the Immanuel Lutheran Church and property, our meeting place, from the Town of Jackson, and proceeded to raise money to perform needed rehabilitation of the church and school buildings. Yet, our active membership continued to decline. Later we moved the Karl Groth log home onto our property and restored it. And, we produced another well received history book, Pioneer Church Records Speak. Still, our active membership has continued to decline until today we have a few dedicated "seasoned citizens" actively maintaining the society. If the community wishes to maintain the respected and financially stable Jackson Historical Society we have, we will need additional active members to step up and help us.

How can you help? It can be as simple as occasionally helping to maintain our museums, dusting some of the items on display. Perhaps you could improve a display or suggest a new one. We'd like to open our museums to the public on some weekends but need someone to be there when we do. Are you that person? Organized? Our office and records could use your organization skills. Like the outdoors? The society's grounds need to be maintained, so can you help with the mowing, weed-wacking, plantings, and more. Literary? How about providing an article for the Church Mouse newsletter, perhaps on your families history. Producing a Church Mouse mailing means putting on stamps, stuffing and sealing envelopes, or if computer knowledgeable, printing addresses on the mailing envelopes. Can you help? Handy? There's always some minor maintenance to do. During a visit by school children to our one-room school house, help our teacher with the visit. Like genealogy? We use Family Tree Maker software and could use some help and advice there. Help out when we hold our events. We're always looking for pies or cookies for these events and also need help serving them.

And the list of needs goes on and on. Most are necessary but not demanding of your time or effort, but quite helpful for our continuation as the Jackson Historical Society. We don't want to have this wonderful educational opportunity disband due to a lack of active participants. Can you help us? If so, please call Clif Koeller at 262-677-3457 and leave a message. Clif will return your call A.S.A.P.

