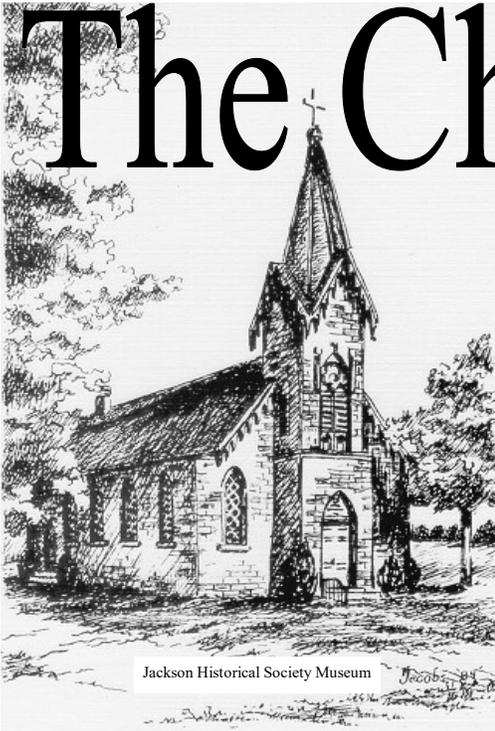


# The Church Mouse



Jackson Historical Society Museum

Volume 30 Issue 3 Jackson Historical Society December 2022

## EDUCATION AND THE LAND ORDINANCES

### Public Education Supported

After a victory in the Revolutionary War and American independence, the Confederation Congress decided we should establish a method to locate and measure land for sale in the new states to be formed in the west. The sale of this land would also help replenish the federal treasury which was depleted fighting the Revolutionary War.

The Confederation Congress, made up of delegates from the 13 colonies (States), passed the Land Ordinance of 1785. This ordinance was



important because it determined and standardized the dimensions of Townships that would be created in future states as they were added to the Union. The Land Ordinance of 1785 permitted, through these Townships, the accurate location and sale of land

in future states. And, with the formation of Townships, Section 16 was designated within each Township to support public schools. Thus, national support for public education was begun.

The Land Ordinance of 1787 established the Northwest Territory and reinforced the support for education within the states created within it. From this land area, five new states were established, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin.



## 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.

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.

May/Jul/Sep held at 1860 Mill Rd., Jackson, in our restored, log home. Nov/Jan/Mar held in Jackson Town Hall.

[Jacksonwi.history@gmail.com](mailto:Jacksonwi.history@gmail.com)

Send mail to P.O. Box 197  
Jackson, WI 53037

## JHS OFFICERS

Clif Koeller—President  
Jerry Prochnow—Vice President  
Lenore Kloehn—Treasurer  
Doris Koeller—Secretary

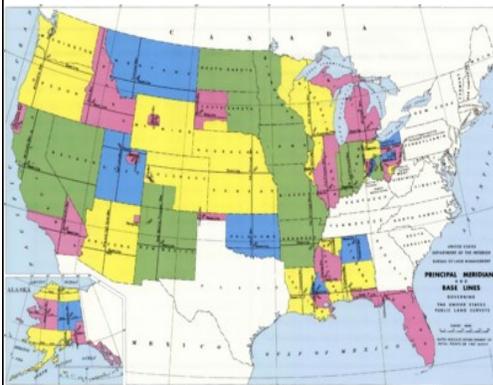
## BOARD MEMBERS

JHS Officers, Elmer Kloehn,  
Gordon Ziemann, Russ Hanson

## THE PUBLIC LAND SURVEY SYSTEM ARRIVES

### How Does It Work?

The *Public Land Survey System* or *PLSS*, was the surveying method used to identify and plat new lands to be offered for sale. It was developed as part of the Land Ordinance of 1785 and used to survey land in the Northwest Territory and many of the future states to the west.



Initial Points, Prime Meridians & Baselines of PLSS Surveys

To begin the survey an *initial point* is chosen. A *Baseline* is selected and drawn through the *initial point*. This is the *Township line*. Then a *prime meridian*, perpendicular to the *Baseline*, is

(Public Land Survey System continued on page 2)



### SCHOOLS AND THE LAND ORDINANCES

As some delegates to the congresses worked on making certain the Land Ordinances achieved their goals, others labored on assuring they promoted education for the citizens in the new states to be created.

During the colonial period, each of the colonies determined their own style of schooling. Considering the different religions and life styles, schooling was difficult to maintain let alone centralize. The New England colonies wanted all adaptable children to attend school, become educated and good citizens. The middle colonies tended to follow parochial tenets, educating children to develop strong minds to become ministers and priests and to hold high office. Because of the rural nature of the southern colonies, compulsory education was seldom offered, the substitute being apprenticeships or something similar. Choice of school type would remain with the new states.



In order to mandate education and develop schools, Congress established *The Land Ordinance of 1785*. The ordinance set aside *Section 16* in every *Township* in new territories for the establishment and maintenance of public schools. The ordinance also set aside *Section 29* for the purpose of religion and two sections for a university.

Later, *The Northwest Ordinance of 1787* organized the Northwest Territory into five states, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin, with the same stress on education. To emphasize the importance of education, *Article 3* of the ordinance reads;

***Religion, morality, and knowledge being necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind, schools and the means of education shall forever be encouraged.***

The promotion of education was achieved within the adopted Land Ordinances to the benefit of the new states being formed in the new nation. Education certainly was *encouraged* by these Ordinances.

square land area is identified.

This is referred to as a *Survey Township*. The *Survey Township* is roughly 36 square miles in size, 6 miles on a side, and contains 36 numbered *sections* 1 mile on a side, each containing 640 acres. Each *section* is then divided into *quarters*, each *quarter* containing 160 acres.

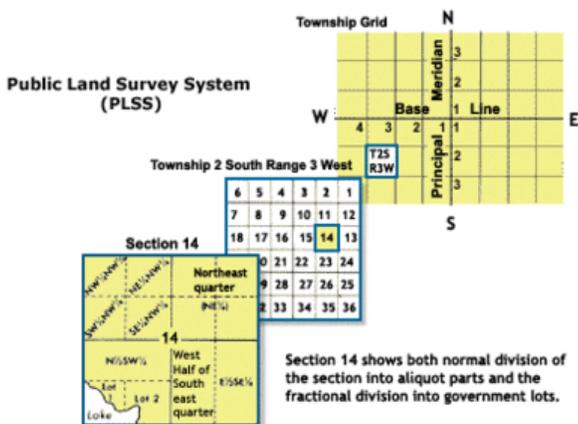
Using the Township of Jackson as an example, its original location designation using the *PLSS* would be T10NR20E. In fact, the Township was originally referred to by the public as simply "*Town10*" until incorporated in the Territory of Wisconsin as Jackson in 1846.

However, application of the *PLSS* in the United States often ran into some difficulties. Large tracts of land, i.e. 13 colonies land, land obtained through purchase from a foreign entity, or gained through conflict had survey systems in place that differed from the *PLSS* and had to be accommodated into the general survey. Wisconsin had to accommodate land surveyed by the French "long lot" method during their occupation of land in the Northwest Territory

The *Public Land Survey System* as part of *The Land Ordinance of 1785* brought with it support for education through its designation of *Section 16* for schools, *Section 29* for religion and no more than two sections to create a university.

The United States was using land as currency to assist in the establishment of *Public Education* throughout the country.

(Public Land Survey System continued from page 1)



selected and drawn through the *initial point*. This is the *Range Line*. To complete the survey, lines at 6 mile intervals are drawn parallel to the *Baseline (Township Line)*, and also drawn at 6 mile intervals parallel to the *Principal Meridian (Range Line)*. Where the 6 mile interval lines intersect, a

**Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2022**



'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!

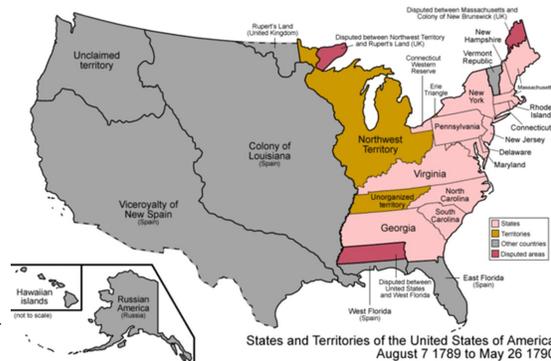


## A CONFLICT OVER WESTERN EXPANSION ARISES

Problem solved by vote

As the American Revolution progressed, the Second Continental Congress acting as the government for the 13 colonies struggled to create a central government acceptable to all the colonies. As the delegates debated the formation of the federal government, a difficulty arose concerning the disposition of the lands to the west of the Appalachian Range.

The charters for some of the original colonies had fixed borders, while others felt that their royal charters extended to the Pacific Ocean. If extended borders were allowed, western lands could have been acquired by these colonies. The Congress ignored the problem by asking that all colonies cede their western expansion claims to the Federal Government. Some did. As a constitution for the new Federal Government would require a unanimous vote of the delegates to pass, several states held out until all states had ceded their rights to western lands. Maryland held out until Virginia had ceded their rights to western lands. Eventually, a unanimous vote on the new constitution was held and passed.



## LAND AS CURRENCY

Land as currency is not new to the United States. The British used land as an incentive to the settling of the 13 colonies as did the French and other European colonists. The Dutch did buy some “waterfront” property from the natives to create “New Amsterdam”, but usually it was acquisition through armed occupation.

We have seen how the Land Ordinance of 1785 provided support for public education by requiring that Section 16 of the newly surveyed Townships be dedicated to the creation of schools. Many basic schools were created in new communities as a result, a positive use of plentiful land.

As the country added western lands, much of the land was surveyed using the PLSS, into Territories and States. Citizens were incentivized with “free” land through the various Homestead Acts from 1841 through 1976 (Alaska 1986). Schools benefited.

A direct boost to education were the Morrill acts of 1862 and 1890 which created Land Grant Colleges. Land Grant Colleges may teach various subjects but their primary reason for being is to teach agriculture, the mechanical arts, and provide classes in military tactics.

The first state to accept Morrill terms was Iowa which created the State Agricultural Collage and Model Farm, now Iowa State University of Science and Technology. The first land-grant institution actually created under Morrill was Kansas State University in 1863.

Using our great land resources as currency has stimulated our growth and our educational systems.

## METES AND BOUNDS

The British System of Surveyy

The new United States had a mix of lands surveyed using different methods. There were military areas, lands measured during the 13 Colony period, and the British system of *Metes and Bounds*.

The original 13 colonies and their “split offs,” Maine, Vermont Tennessee, Kentucky and West Virginia, used the British system of *Metes and Bounds*.

The *Metes and Bounds* system describes property lines based on local markers and “bounds” drawn by humans often based on topography. A typical example might read as follows; “from a point on the north bank of Beaver Creek 1/2 mile above the Junction of Beaver and Spearfish Creeks, north for 200 yards to a large rock then east to a tall hickory tree, then south to Spearfish Creek and down the center of Spearfish Creek to the starting point on Beaver Creek.

As you can see, there are potential problems with this system. Through time, trees die, fall down and deteriorate, rivers can move through erosion or could even change course. Rocks can erode or be moved. Trying to describe a property using these natural points can lead to a complex and confusing property description. Also, the *Metes and Bounds* method of surveying was not easily transferable to the wide open prairies of the western lands.



## JACKSON DISTRICT 7 PUBLIC SCHOOL HISTORY REVISITED

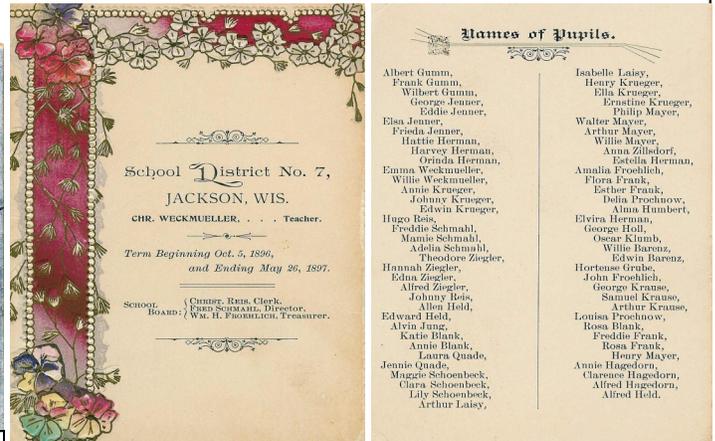
Esther C. Weckmueller passed away in April, 2004. In her estate was a diary kept by her father, Christopher Weckmueller. Chris was the first school teacher in the “new” in 1894 District 7 public school. After many additions and modifications to the original one-room, stone school house, it is still in use today.

Christopher Weckmueller was born on April 16th, 1868 on a 40 acre farm in Section 6 of the Town of Jackson. At the age of 4, his parents moved to a farm in Section 3 of the town of Jackson. At the age of 8, his parents sold the farm and bought an 80 acre farm in Section 12 in the Town of Polk. Chris attended the Mayfield school until the age of 16. During the spring term of 1884, he attended West Bend High School and in the fall attended the County Teacher’s Examination, earned a Third Grade Certificate and was licensed to teach in Washington County. He taught at Joint District 8 & 9 in Polk and earned \$35 per month. Ten years later, at the age of 26, he began teaching in Jackson. Here are excerpts from his diary in Chris Weckmueller’s own words.

“During the summer of 1894, the school district at Jackson built a new school house.” “The position of teacher was offered me and I accepted.” In October, the building was dedicated with appropriate exercises and I began my labors.” “I had charge of the school five years in succession—from 1894-1895, 1895-1896, 1896-1897, 1897-1898, 1898-1899.”



Class Picture District 7 School about 1895



Program from School Year 1896-1897

Chris courted and married Miss Bertha Martin, second youngest daughter of Andrew Martin of Jackson.

“At the close of the school year 1896-1897, we made preparations for our marriage.” “The happy event took place Aug. 25, 1897, with ceremonies in the Evangelical Reformed Church, Rev. F. P. Leich officiating, and a celebration at the bride’s home.” “We made a wedding trip to Kilbourn, visiting the “Dells”, from there to Janesville, thence to Chicago and back to Jackson, where a cozy home awaited us.” “By this time it was again time to begin my school duties.”



Mr. & Mrs. C. Weckmueller & Herbert, Jackson 1889

“May 28, 1898 we were blessed with the arrival of a little son.”

Teacher Chris Weckmueller’s story will be continued in the Spring 2023 Church Mouse.

**\*Note**—The “new” stone one-room school built in 1894 was the 2nd school built on the site and the 3rd public school built in Jackson. The 1st school was a log structure built diagonally across the street. With the completion of the 2nd stone one-room school, abt. 1865, the log school was moved to the canning company in Jackson as housing for itinerant workers.



## *Sweet Treat History Festival*

**Presented by the Jackson Historical Society**

**Sunday, September 11th, 2022**

**1:00 - 4:00pm**

Even though the day turned out to be rainy, The festival went ahead as best we could. Our tent set-up was windblown from the previous evening and rain on Sunday drove many of our customers into our Karl Groth log home and our Immanuel Lutheran Church Museum where we had moved our raspberry pie and ice cream sales.

Our speaker, Russ Hanson presented talks on Jackson history and tht his-



tory of money, while Dan Ogvanic, our strolling violinist, but not today, entertained in the Karl Groth log home.

Thanks to our hardy visitors, all our ice cream and pies were sold and the Sweet Treat History Festival was a rainy success.

Thank you all who made it to our festival for 2022. Expect the weather for the 2023 Sweet Treat History Festival to be sunny and warm!



### **FREE SPRING PROGRAM**

The 2022 Free Spring Program was a great success in May with a visit by Dolley Madison.

Our **2023** Free Spring Program will be held on Tuesday evening, May 23. Mark your calendar!



### **HISTORIC ASHTRAY DONATED**

A pristine ashtray from FRANK'S TAVERN has been donated to JHS by Mike Riebe of Jackson. You can tell it is quite old because the phone number is 69. It will be added to our historic Jackson collection. The tavern was operated by Delbert "Debbie" Frank for many years. Thanks, Mike.

## **JACKSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

### **PLAN A ONE-ROOM SCHOOLHOUSE CLASS VISIT IN 2023**

**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 Doris Koeller at (262) 677-3457  
clifdoris@att.net**

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

### **OUR JACKSON AREA GENELOGICAL DATABASE NEEDS HELP**

**The Jackson Historical Society maintains family genealogies using Family Tree Maker software and needs help to keep them up to date. If you can help us with maintenance let us know. Please e-mail us at [jacksonwi.history@gmail.com](mailto:jacksonwi.history@gmail.com) if you're able to give us a hand.**

**Thanks. Russ Hanson—Editor**



**AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETIES COMING EVENTS**

**RICHFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY** Maple Syrup Family Day, Saturday, March 26th, 9am-4pm, Richfield Historical Park, 1896 State Rd. 164. Annual Plant Sale, April 1 to May 31. contact richfieldhistoricalsociety.org. for event details.

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

**POMMERSCHER VEREIN FREISTADT** Lindenwood Community Center Benefit, March 25th, Circle B Recreation Hall, Cedarburg, WI 53012. Please contact Pommerscher.org. for additional detail.

**THE TOWER HERITAGE CENTER** 320 S. 5th Ave., West Bend, WI 53095. www.thetowerheritagecenter.org or call 262-353-4678 for information on our events.



The Editor welcomes newsletter comments. Please mail all suggestions for articles, etc., to **\*\*\* The Church Mouse, P. O. Box 197, Jackson, WI 53037, or phone (262) 353-3641 or e-mail [jhsheritage.wi@gmail.com](mailto:jhsheritage.wi@gmail.com) Russ Hanson, Editor**

**THE JACKSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
**The Keeper of Local History**

During the Bicentennial Celebration of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, our nation took a look back at the 200 years of its history since that signing. History became something to celebrate and maintain. The celebratory period saw the formation of many historical societies including our own Jackson Historical Society.

Interest in determining and documenting the history of Jackson was actively pursued with members of all ages taking part in the society's activities. Meetings were held, events scheduled, and our first book, THE HISTORY OF JACKSON, WISCONSIN 1843-1976 was produced.

As the years passed, the society sponsored programs and festivals, secured funding to acquire and restore our Immanuel Lutheran Church historic site, started the Church Mouse our newsletter, and began work on our updated and expanded HISTORY OF JACKSON, WISCONSIN 1843-2001 book. We also moved and restored a two story log home to our historic site. Membership remained high, but our meeting attending decision makers tended to drop off.

As time passed, we found our society with an excellent overall membership, a group of active, meeting attending decision makers who, unfortunately were aging out or as a member commented becoming "seasoned citizens." We do have a few active younger members who are very much appreciated.

However what is needed to sustain the Jackson Historical Society into the future is an addition of younger active members who want to learn and maintain the society into the future.

If you are that person or those persons, please let us know. We need your support. Or better yet, attend a meeting and get to know us. We meet on the third Monday of every other month beginning in January.

Call Clif Koeller at 262-677-3457 and leave a message. Clif will return your call A.S.A.P.

**TODAY WILL BE HISTORY TOMORROW**

**HELP THE JACKSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESERVE YOUR YESTERDAYS—JOIN US!**

**VISIT YOUR HISTORY AT OUR 1860 MILL ROAD SITE—APPT. ONLY**