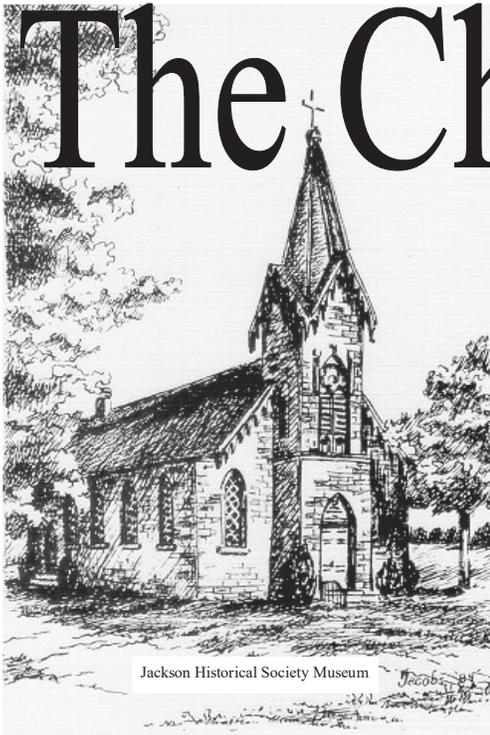


The Church Mouse



Jackson Historical Society Museum

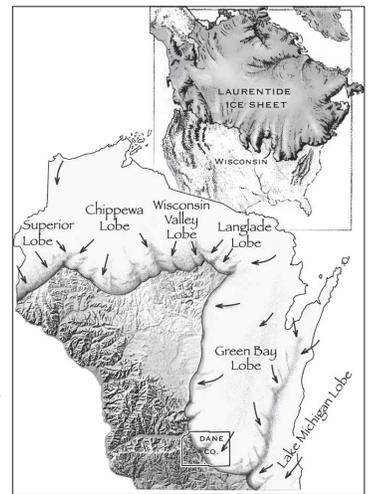
Volume 31 Issue 2 Jackson Historical Society August 2023

WISCONSIN—THE JOURNEY

From Wisconsin Glaciation to AMERICA'S DAIRYLAND

Misconsin, Mesconsin, Ouisconsin, Wisconsin. Our future name we owe to early French explorers as they interpreted native names for the area. However these French explorers and the native population came along well into the process of Wisconsin's development. To understand the basic "why" and "how" of Wisconsin, we need to return to the glacial period that transformed the state into what it is today.

The last time the climate cooled and a glacier grew in North America is known as the Wisconsin Glaciation. About 100,000 years ago, the climate cooled and a glacier, the Laurentide Ice Sheet, spread over the northern continent. Near the end of the cycle, beginning about 31,500 years ago, the glacier began its advance into Wisconsin. It expanded for approximately 13,500 years before temperatures warmed again and the glacier began to leave Wisconsin. We are currently in a warming period that is referred to as an inter-glacial. The glacier in Wisconsin took another 7000 years for the ice to melt and finally depart northern Wisconsin.



The visit by the glaciers during the Wisconsin glaciation produced the land immigrants found when they arrived during the 1700's & 1800's.

As the glaciers receded, the area to it's front was grass covered frozen tundra and supported "super size" animals like woolly mammoths. People came still later. With the glaciers melting, water ran back into the oceans raising sea level and forcing an inhabited land called Beringia, to shrink in size and start it's Siberian inhabitants leaving the area. They migrated into what became Alaska and on down the Pacific coast, then eastward, eventually getting to the Wisconsin area as the glaciers were retreating northward. As hunters and gatherers, they decimated the large grassland animals and, over time, created villages and populated our area. Glaciers, na-



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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.

Your dues help us preserve our historic site, Jackson history, and include The Church Mouse.

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.

jhsheritage.wi@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 Journey continued from page 1)

tive emigration and settlement were high points on the Journey to Wisconsin statehood and beyond, many years hence.

The millennia passed with the Native Americans living in our area. They established villages, planted and harvested some crops—the three sisters, hunted, and raised families. And then, the Europeans arrived.

European fishing in the Grand Banks, exploration and establishment of colonies on the Eastern seaboard by several nations consolidated under British rule, French fur traders in future Wisconsin helped to depart by the British, the Revolutionary War, U. S. independence from England, the War of 1812 confirmed our independence, Northwest Territory developed into territories then states. Yankee and European Emigration into future Wisconsin increases. Journey high points all.

LEAD MINING IN S.W. WISCONSIN

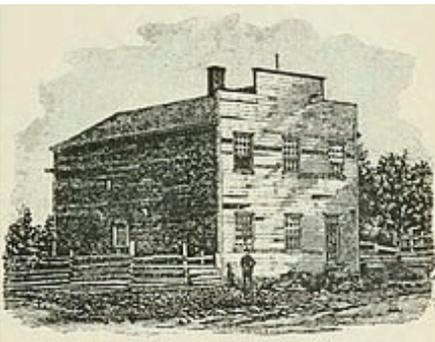
Europeans knew of lead being mined in the upper Mississippi. For many years, Indian tribes had mined its native lead. French fur traders began trading in lead mined by the Indians in the 1680s. When the French withdrew from the area in 1760, Indians guarded the location of the mines carefully, allowing only selected individuals to mine lead.

Settlement in the region remained slow until a series of treaties between 1804 and 1832 ceded all Indian lands south of the Wisconsin River to the U.S. The treaties coincided with a strong demand for lead. Lead was widely used, not just for munitions, but also for pipes, weights, paint, and pewter.

In the 1820's, some lead miners came up the Mississippi from Missouri mines. By the 1830's a steady stream of immigrant Cornish miners had arrived from Cornwall England looking to "get rich quick".

Cornish miners built small stone homes, but many sought quick shelter in holes they had dug in the hillsides. These miners acquired the nickname "BADGERS", adopted by Wisconsinites today.

Early leaders in the territory needed a place to meet and establish the territorial government. A land



speculator, John Atchison, laid out the village of Belmont, Wisconsin and in 1836 began building four public buildings there to attract the lawmakers to his site: a council house where lawmakers could convene, a lodging house for the legislators, a house for the territorial governor, and a courthouse for the territorial supreme court. On September 9, 1836, Territorial Governor Henry Dodge announced that Belmont would be used as the territorial capitol, at least for the first legislative session. The likely reason for Dodge's selection of Belmont as capitol city was its location in Wisconsin's lead mining region, which at that time was Wisconsin Territory's most populous area. However, by the 1840's, lead consumption had slowed as the easily mined lead declined and miners left for mining opportunities elsewhere. The capitol was eventually relocated to Madison.

During the height of lead mining and lead consumption, this SW area, soon to become the State of Wisconsin, produced more than 1/2 of the national consumption of lead, a record amount. It was another high point on The Journey to Wisconsin statehood and beyond.

As lead production from the depleted mines decreased, many of the folks who remained took to farming the rich soil in the area.

(The Journey continued on page 3)

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 PLEASE



Sweet Treat History Festival

Presented by the Jackson Historical Society

Sunday, September 10th, 2023

1:00 - 4:00pm

Bring your family & join us for a good ole fashion ice cream social

Join us for ice cream and Amish baked Raspberry Pie.

View historical demonstrations and antique engines.

Enjoy our strolling musician.

Local vendors and farm fresh produce

One-room school house presentation and yard games.

Tour the restored, 1850's Karl Groth log home.

Visit our Church Museum of local Jackson history.

Presentation by Royal Natzke at 1:30pm & 3pm

DIRECTIONS

JACKSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY Museum & Grounds 1860 Mill Rd., Jackson, WI 53037

Directions: Driving on Hwy 60. At roundabout take Division Rd. South off Hwy. 60 to Mill Road (look for signs), turn West on Mill Road to Jackson Historical Society Grounds and Festival location.

Or, take Maple Rd. South off Hwy 60 to Mill Rd., turn East to festival grounds.

Parking in rear of festival grounds (take west drive next to church museum). Parking is also available along Mill Rd.

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“KING WHEAT”

As the emigrants purchased and cleared land in Wisconsin for farming, they chose to grow wheat. An ancient crop, grown world wide, wheat had been grown by immigrants and Yankees—2nd generation Americans out east and as they moved west into Wisconsin, brought wheat with them. They found that wheat grew well on Wisconsin's glacial soil. Wisconsin's preference toward wheat production also coincided with new harvesting machinery. Cyrus McCormick patented his reaper in 1834,



and the threshing machine of J. I. Case was invented about the same time. Both inventions became



popular in Wisconsin, providing constantly greater yields. And, The Milwaukee and Mississippi Railroad laid track that eased getting the wheat to market. By 1860, wheat growing in Wisconsin had reached

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(The Journey continued from page 3)

its apex of over 27 million bushels.

However, after years of continuous wheat crops and the record 27 million bushels produced in 1860, production continued to decline over time by 4 million bushels, primarily due to nitrogen depleted soils, wheat rust disease and an infestation of chinch bugs. A high point in Wisconsin agriculture had been reached but not sustained. By the late 1870s, "King Wheat" had run its course in southern Wisconsin, and crops grown had become diversified. Barley was grown as beer production left the farmstead and became commercialized. Corn and oats crops increased dramatically rising 5 million bushels in 1849 to over 67 million bushels in 1879. Hay also enjoyed a rise in production over the same period, from 275,000 tons in 1849 to 1,907,000 tons in 1879. Even with these crops a new direction in Wisconsin farming was necessary.

It was soon recognized that the same climate and soils that had produced large wheat crops were ideal for forage crops, and the land that was unsuitable for cultivation was good for pasture for livestock. Dairying appeared to fill the bill but was considered woman's work. The women took care of the family cow (or cows) that produced the milk, butter, and cheese the family needed, but the



production of these items for sale to a broad market was not yet recognized. Until the early 1860s, the extent of the dairy "industry" was a typical farmer's exchange of butter and cheese with the local storekeeper for other groceries. Because of this decidedly limited market for dairy, farmers gave little attention to

their herds (in terms of character, breeding, housing, winter feeding, pasturing), their methods of production or storage, or methods of selling. However, many of the immigrants moving into Wisconsin in the mid 1860's, New Yorkers from the East and immigrants from Northern European countries—all had experience with dairying. The favorable conditions and personalities accelerated the interest in dairying.

The rise of Wisconsin as "**America's Dairyland**" occurred as a result of a number of factors. The New York dairy farmers who settled in southern Wisconsin in the 1840s brought with them the skills needed for commercial dairying and butter and cheese production. German and Scandinavian immigrant families arriving in Wisconsin were also quick to adopt dairying as a profitable way to farm. Most of the earliest dairy operations made cheese rather than butter because it kept longer in the days before refrigeration. They specialized in European-style cheeses that appealed to consumers. Wisconsin became particularly well known for its Swiss cheese.

In 1862, the first Morrill Act provided land to be sold for the creation of institutions to teach agriculture, military tactics, and the mechanic arts. This land grant was assigned to the University of Wisconsin, a liberal arts school, created in 1848. Subsequent to the land grant, professional

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AMERICA'S DAIRYLAND License Plates 1940—present



"America's Dairyland", the slogan on our automobile license plates, appeared on the 1940 issue plates in support of our major agri-industry success. It remains on our license plates to this day.

The glaciers provided the compatible landscape for dairying utilized by our many immigrant farmers to build the successful agri-industry, dairying.

The Journey continues!



(The Journey continued from page 4)

associations in the science and organization of dairying were developed by the University of Wisconsin College of Agriculture with the cooperation of farmers in the practical execution of dairy plans and policies.

The effort quickly proved to be successful. In 1867, Wisconsin could boast 245,000 dairy cows, a number that would rise to 1,460,000 by 1912. In 1869, the state produced over 3 million pounds of cheese, and that number would more than quadruple within 10 years.

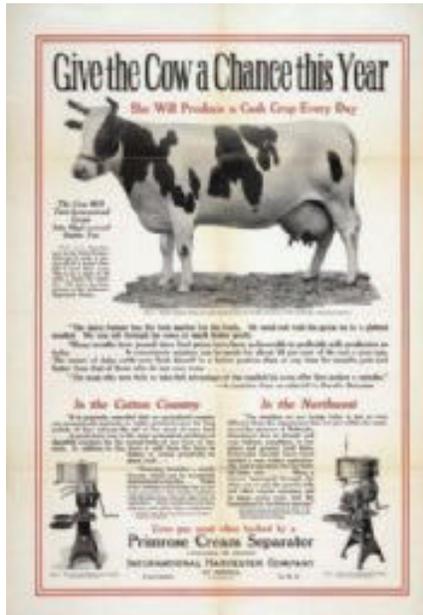
The danger of this rapid rise in production was a glut in the Western market that forced down the prices of cheese and butter. In 1871, the price for cheese was down to 8 cents a pound, and butter prices were likewise depressed. Wisconsin's dairy producers needed to break into eastern and English markets with their products. To this end, producers banded together to form the Wisconsin Dairymen's Association in February of 1872. The organization proved beneficial for marketing purposes, and also provided a forum for dairy farmers to exchange successful ideas or new procedures.

Some of these new ideas and procedures were emerging from the College of Agriculture at the University of Wisconsin, and its associated Winter Dairy School which opened in 1887 as the first in the nation. The dairy school trained butter and cheesemakers. The college enabled the farmers who attended, and produced innovations through its faculty and researchers. One such innovation was Professor Stephen Moulton Babcock's tester for the butterfat content of milk which benefited dairy farmers financially and helped establish the school's (and the state's) reputation as a leader in the dairy industry. And, as time passed, there were other advances that grew the stature of Wisconsin's dairy industry and kept the state moving forward in dairying.

The Wisconsin Glaciation created the landscape that profitably established the dairy industry, Wisconsin taking years to arrive at that decision. Prior to that, Wisconsin was the leader in lead production, producing 1/2 the national market for lead. After lead production decreased, the state turned to growing wheat, setting a production record of 27 million bushels in 1860. But "King Wheat" was not the answer with production drastically falling off due to soil nutrient depletion, disease, and insect depredation. Wheat production moved west. And so, it was dairying, an occupation long present in Wisconsin, but based on need not profit, that was stimulated through emigration to become the leading industry in Wisconsin for many decades, if not years.

The State of Wisconsin became **America's Dairyland!**

The Journey forward continues



JACKSON AND AMERICA'S DAIRYLAND

In the mid 1800's, emigration into Wisconsin grew the Territory of Wisconsin to its 1848 statehood requirements. Many early immigrants were from New York, the former top dairy state. Emigration from Europe brought Germans from Prussia and Pomerania along with Scandinavians from Norway, many familiar with dairy farming. By the turn of the century, over 90% of the farms in Wisconsin raised dairy cows.

In the early 1870's, the Northwestern Railroad was looking for an area to lay tracks to connect with Green Bay. Franz Reis of Jackson, who had been buying land in the area, offered the railroad a right-of-way across his land and gifted the railroad land for a depot. This not only benefitted Franz Reis who built a feed mill and general store near the depot, but also all farmers who wanted to ship milk and cheese to market. The dairy industry in Jackson and all along the RR line received a big boost in establishing America's Dairyland.



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE FOUNDED—AUG. 25, 1916





AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETIES COMING EVENTS

RICHFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY Threshere & Harvest Festival, 9am-5pm, September 16, & 17, 2023, Richfield Historical Park, 1896 State Rd. 164. Thursday, Sept. 28, 2023~7pm, "Victorian Undertaker", Richfield Fire Hall contact richfieldhistoricalsociety.org. for event details.

GERMANTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY Germantown Hunsrucker Octoberfest, Sept. 23, noon-11pm & Sept. 24, noon-7pm. Contact the Germantown Historical Society at germantownhistoricalsociety.org. for details.

POMMERSCHER VEREIN FREISTADT Contact Pommerscher.org. for event info.

THE TOWER HERITAGE CENTER 320 S. 5th Ave., West Bend, WI 53095. Tower Talks: Wisconsin's State Signs & Symbols, September 5, 7-8pm. Early Farm Days, River Hill Park 1202 Parkview Dr, Kewaskum, WI, Demonstrations and exhibits of early farm equipment and other historical things from the area. Sept. 10, 10am-4pm. Please contact www.thetowerheritagecenter.org or call 262-353-4678 for more 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 Russ Hanson, Editor**

THE JACKSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY The Keeper of Our 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 (we still do), 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, currently available. In 2003 we moved and restored a two story log home to our historic site. In 2014, we added a new history book, PIONEER CHURCH RECORDS SPEAK which remains very popular. We continue to offer group visits to our JHS museum, restored log home and one room schoolhouse including school visits.

If you are an "old timer" and would like to renew your interest in the Jackson Historical Society, welcome back. Or, if you are recent to the Jackson area and would like to learn our history, join us. Come to a meeting. Let us know of your interest. We have a lot of knowledge to share.

If you are that person please let us know. We need your support. Or better yet, attend a meeting and get to know us. We meet at 7:00pm on the third Monday of every other month beginning in January.

Call Clif Koeller at 262-677-3457 and leave a message. Clif will answer or return your call A.S.A.P. or Email Russ Hanson, The Church Mouse, jhsheritage.wi@gmail.com or Phone 262-353-3641

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