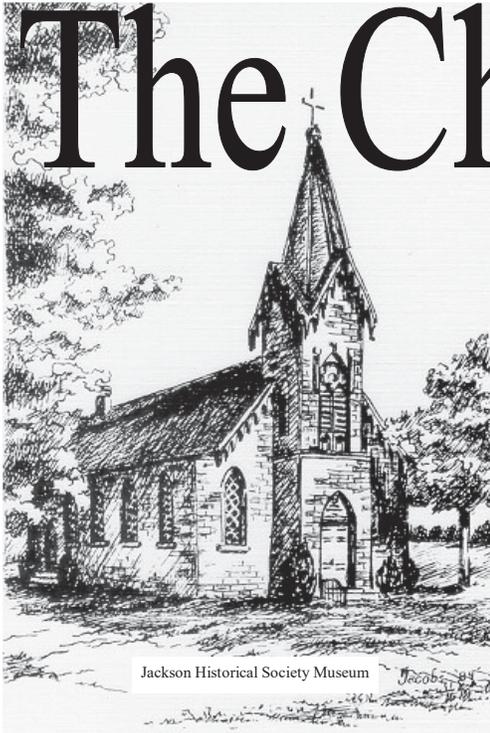


The Church Mouse



Jackson Historical Society Museum

Volume 31 Issue 1 Jackson Historical Society March 2023

LAND PATENTS

A Handy Tool When Researching Family History

At the end of the Revolutionary War the new Americans emerged victorious, but with a mountain of debt to repay. In the 1783 Treaty of Paris that officially ended the war, Britain ceded the Northwest Territory to the U.S. The United States now had a lot of land to sell to raise the cash to pay their debts.



The Land Ordinance of 1785 established the Public Land Survey System or PLSS, to survey and plat lands for sale that would eventually be added to the new nation as states. The Land Ordinance of 1787 provided additional rules pertaining specifically to the Northwest Territory. Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin were the first PLSS states added to the union. Once these lands were surveyed into

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

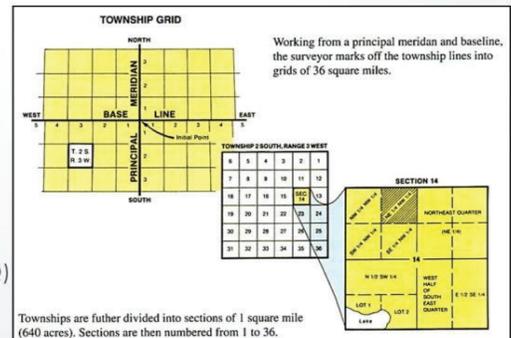
Clif Koeller—President
Jerry Prochnow—Vice President
Lenore Kloehn—Treasurer
Doris Koeller—Secretary

BOARD MEMBERS

JHS Officers, Elmer Kloehn,
Gordon Ziemann, Russ Hanson

U.S. PUBLIC LAND SURVEY SYSTEM

- PLSS – tier system of grids of decreasing land area
- Standard lines: principal meridians and baselines
- Townships and ranges
- Sections
- Quarter sections (Q)
- Quarter Quarter sections (QQ)
- Quarter Quarter Quarter sections (QQQ)



Townships and the surveys accepted by the Federal Government, the land could be platted and sold. The first Land Patent was issued on March 4th of 1788 to John Martin of Ohio. He bought 640 acres for \$1.00/acre.

Later the government established a minimum price of \$1.25 per acre and tracts as small as 80 acres, cash sales only. These public lands were offered for sale through District Land Offices at pre-announced public auctions. Later, after the paperwork was processed, a Land Patent was issued to the buyer. The Land Patent identified the buyer, the location of the land, when purchased and payment made, and was validated by the President's signature.

As more of the Northwest Territory land was PLSS surveyed and platted, it was bought and settled by immigrants or U.S. citizens moving

(LAND PATENTS continued on page 3)



LANDS ADDED TO U.S. BY PURCHASE, WAR, OR TREATY



1803—Louisiana Purchase from France doubled the size of the nation, adding the region drained by the Mississippi River's western tributaries.

1819—Florida acquired by treaty with Spain, redrawing a border of the Louisiana Purchase.

1845—Texas became a State but did not give unoccupied lands to the United States. There are no Federal public lands in Texas.

1846—Oregon Compromise with Great Britain ended joint occupation of the Oregon Country by dividing the region along the 49th Parallel.

1848—Discovery of gold in California. Mexico gave up a vast territory in the Southwest, providing the U.S. with 338 million acres of public lands - now California, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, and parts of New Mexico, Colorado, and Wyoming.

1850—The United States purchased 75 million acres of land from Texas, part of what is now Arizona and New Mexico.

1853—The United States purchased 19 million acres of land from Mexico with the Gadsden Purchase. This became part of New Mexico and Arizona.

1867—Alaska purchased from Russia, adding 365 million acres of public lands to the United States.

1898—Annexation of Hawaiian Islands by the United States. Since Hawaii had been an independent nation, no public lands were involved. Principal of public land laws extended to the Territory of Alaska.

1850—The United States purchased 75 million acres of land from Texas, part of what is now Arizona and New Mexico.

As new lands were acquired and populated, a process, not unlike that which was followed to create the five states out of the Northwest Territory, began.

It is important to recognize that the application of the PLSS to the new territories was not always uniform. Many of the future states already had other survey methods in place that were generally accommodated.

And so, even though we end our discussion in 1850, the opportunity for growth of the United States continues with an unknown future.

THE YOUNG MEN WHO CREATED THE UNITED STATES

It has often been said that in the journey through life, the young rely on energy to balance the experience of the old, and vice versa. What makes the Constitutional Conventions that created our country remarkable was that the delegates were both young and experienced. The average age of the delegates was 42 with four of the most influential delegates—Alexander Hamilton, Edmund Randolph, Gouverneur Morris, and James Madison—in their thirties. Over half of the delegates graduated from college; 8 signed the Declaration of Independence; 25 served in a Continental Congress and 40 in a Confederation Congress and 15 helped draft new State Constitutions.



(LAND PATENTS continued from page 1)

west. In the Northwest Territory, land became state territories then states as Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin were added to the United States. Wisconsin became a territory in 1836 and a state in 1848.

As emigration continued, more land was acquired through purchase, war, or treaty and added to our country, it was PLSS surveyed, where applicable, and then sold, necessitating more Land Patents. When qualified, new states were formed and added to the United States. The growth of the United States progressed.

In 1812, the General Land Office (GLO) was created as part of the Treasury Department to handle the sale of public lands. All the land records were now kept in one place. Later, the records were transferred to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and today maintains more than nine million historical land documents: general land patents, survey plats and field notes, homestead patents, military warrants, and railroad grants. These records can be accessed by the general public at www.gloreCORDS.blm.gov. A website has been established to facilitate that access.

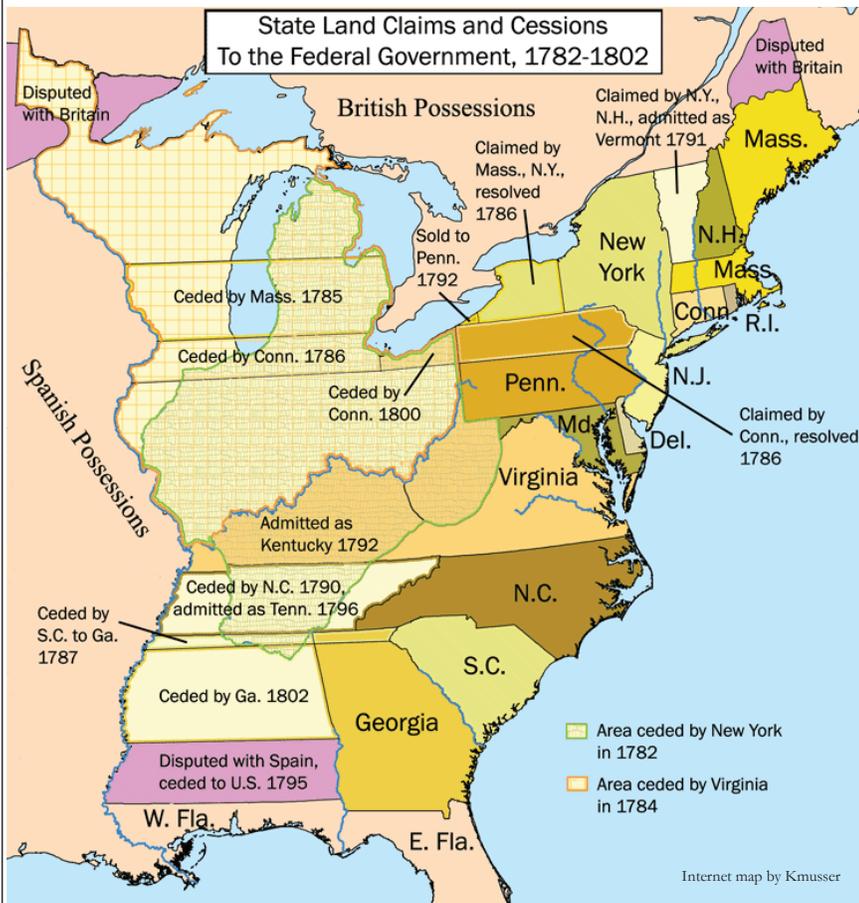
If you know or believe a family member purchased PLSS surveyed land from the U.S. Government, check it out on the government website listed above. Plug in the information you know. It's easy and you may be surprised with the results. You may be able to print out an original Land Patent for the land purchased.

FYI—The article on our Carl Groth two story log home in this newsletter explains our Land Patent search for information on the original purchase of the Groth farmland and the moving of the log home.

FYI—The Jackson Historical Society maintains copies of Land Patents for **ALL** land that makes up the Township of Jackson. (T10N R20E)

A CONFLICT OVER WESTERN EXPANSION ARISES

Problem was solved by a vote of the Continental Congress



As the American Revolution progressed, the 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 further. 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. All eventually did. Had they not, Wisconsin may have become part of Massachusetts!



**CARL (CHARLES) GROTH
LAND PATENT**

In 2003 the Jackson Historical Society was given the opportunity to secure and move a two-

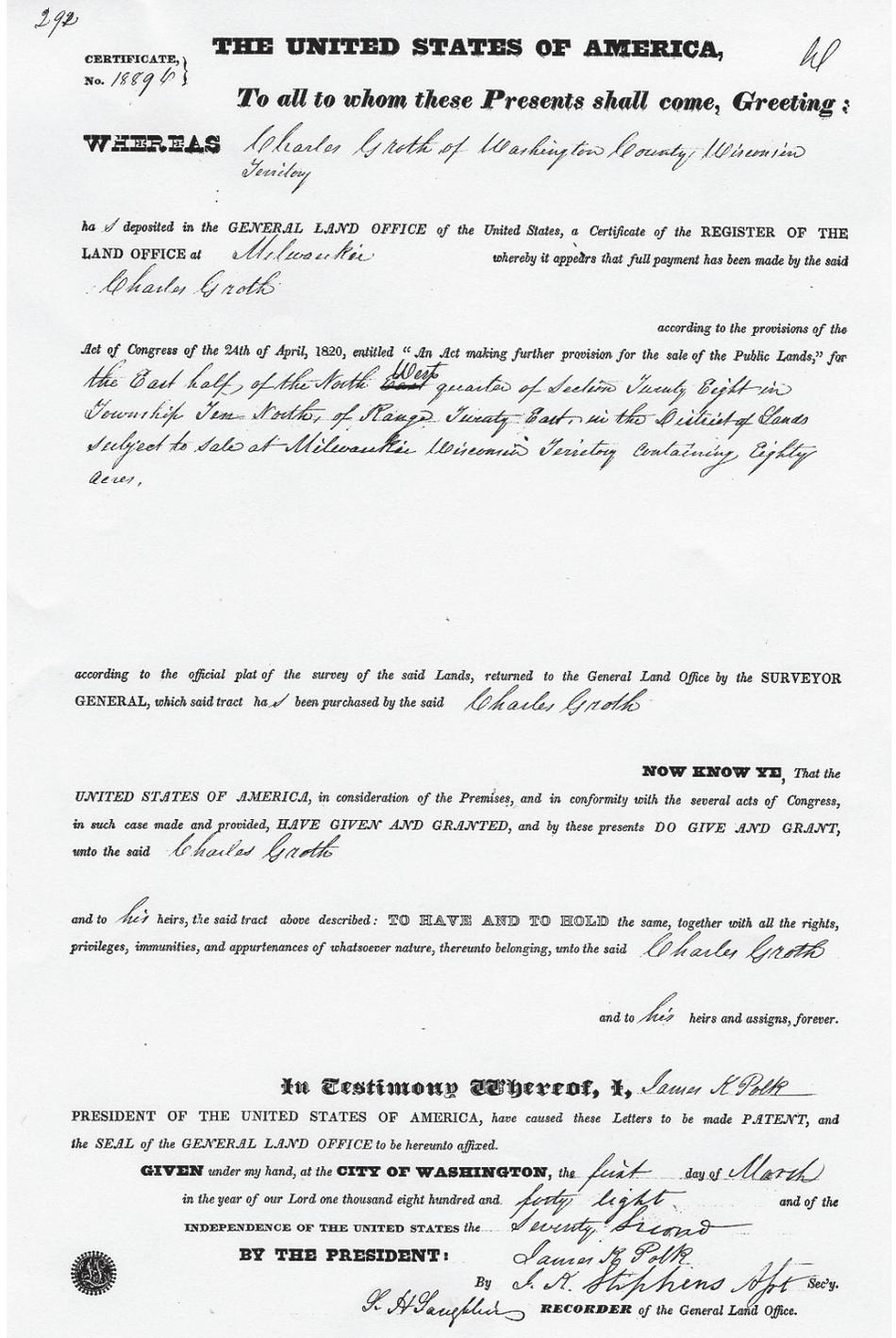


story log home to our site. With the move completed and the resto-



ration continuing, we wanted to confirm the history of the farmland and home from its beginning to its restored status. and that required going back to the Land Patent and the land's original owner. A slight hitch in the process resulted because the name on the Land Patent was Charles Groth an anglicized version of Carl or Karl. That accomplished, we began tracking down the history of the land which required examining the land's tax records located at Washington County. A summary follows.

A look at the Land Patent shows that Carl Groth received his Land Patent in 1848 from President Polk for his 80 acre \$100 purchase. Carl farmed the land until he sold it to C.F. Brusewitz in 1863 for \$2100. Carl Brusewitz married a daughter of a neighboring land-owner, Elizabeth Ziemer and con-



tinued farming until 1886 when he sold the farm to Carl Nicolaus in 1886 for \$4,400. Carl Nicolaus had married another Ziemer daughter, Johanna. In 1888, Carl and Johanna Nicolaus purchased another 80 acres of Ziemer land, the E 1/2 of the SW 1/4 of Section 28 to go with the E 1/2 of the NW 1/4 they already owned giving them a 160 acre farm. They lived in the Ziemer home on the SW 1/4 of Section 28. Later they sold the NW 1/4 of Section 28 80 acre farm to a son, Fred Nicolaus who farmed it until 1947. It then passed to Fred's son Emil who died in 1979.

The original farm was then purchased and the original log home



SPRING PROGRAM

The History and Ecology of Horicon Marsh

Formed by the glaciers of the last Ice Age, Horicon Marsh was a hunting ground for Native Americans for over 10,000 years. However, in the past 150 years this marsh has been dammed and flooded to create a vast lake, over hunted by market hunters, and then ditched and drained to convert to agricultural purposes.

Today, Horicon Marsh is a restored wetland hosting over 300 species of birds and attracting thousands of people interested in wildlife. This marsh has been recognized as a "Globally Important Bird Area" and a "Wetland of International Importance".



This program is an overview of the geology, history, wildlife and ecological concerns for maintaining the health and integrity of this vast wetland.

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.

PROGRAM: THE HORICON MARSH STORY

Who: Relive history of the marsh with Bill Volkert, naturalist and historian



Where: Jackson Room—upper level
Town Hall—Town of Jackson*
3146 Division Road

When: Thursday, May 18th, 2023 at 7:00pm Doors open 6:30pm

Cost: FREE

Sponsored by the JACKSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

*Jackson Town Hall is south of the round-about on Highway 60, on Division Rd. (CTH G)

(Groth Land Patent continued from page 4)
converted into a duplex until the 80 acre farm was purchased for a residential development. At this time, the developer discovered the log home within the duplex and contacted the Jackson Historical Society to determine interest. Working with the developer, the log home was moved to our historic site for restoration and to be enjoyed by our many visitors.

JHS has developed a genealogical record of the Carl Groth family through several generations.



AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETIES COMING EVENTS

RICHFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY Thursday, March 23, 2023, "Juliette Kinzie: Frontier Storyteller" Speaker: Kathe Crowley Conn, Author & Educator; Maple Syrup Family Day, Saturday, March 25th, 9am-4pm, Richfield Historical Park, 1896 State Rd. 164. 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 Freistadt Heritage Foundation Fund Raiser, April 21st, Circle B Recreation Hall, Cedarburg, WI 53012. PVF 45th Anniversary Celebration, April 23rd, 11am-3pm, German dinner, entertainment, Howard J. Schroeder American Legion Post 457, Mequon, contact Pommerscher.org. for info.

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 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

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