



## Many Visit Indian Site at Portage

As summer draws on, many Milwaukeeans are enjoying the pleasure of a trip to the Old Indian Agency House at Portage, where they have luncheon or afternoon tea and spend the day inspecting the historic site. The house recently has been restored

by the Colonial Dames of Wisconsin to its original condition.

The tea room, presided over by Miss Elsie Hotchkiss and Mrs. Gertrude Klauser, both widely known to Milwaukeeans, is on the sloping lawn back of the old house. Shaded by large old oak trees and overlooking the willow bordered canal which connects the Fox and Wisconsin rivers and completes the great waterway from the Atlantic to the Gulf of Mexico, the tea room is a delightful and interesting place for luncheon or tea.

Among the Milwaukeeans who have paid visits to the agency house

are Messrs. and Mmes. Morris F. Fox, Henry A. Crosby, Loyal Durand, Robert Schilling, L. P. Porter and Carroll Towne; Mmes. Horace A. J. Upham, Carl Henry Davis, H. J. Moon, Kenneth Hamilton, H. Wingfield Richter, R. G. Richter and Miss Evelyn P. Johnson.

Others from surrounding towns also have motored to the agency house. Many of these are members of the Colonial Dames of Wisconsin. Among them are Mmes. George P. Glifford, Ernest Voss and H. Ellie Proudfit, all of Madison; O. D. Sutherland and F. L. Remington of Fond du Lac, and Misses Helen and Mar-

garet Parsons, May L. Cowles, Emily Parsons and Louis Phelps Kellogg, all of Madison. Dr. and Mrs. W. C. Wise of Fond du Lac, Mr. and Mrs. N. T. Yeomans of Watertown and Dudley Montgomery of Madison have also been guests at the agency house recently.



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# Madison Association of Commerce



WEEKLY NEWS BULLETIN

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## VISIT OLD INDIAN AGENCY HOUSE AT PORTAGE

The lovely old Indian Agency House at Portage has been restored and is being kept open by the Colonial Dames. In the early days it was the home of the government agent, Mr. Kinzie, and his bride from Connecticut. Mrs. Kinzie brought overland with her, her piano and lovely furniture to make her home on the frontier. All traces of the fort have disappeared, the house being the only thing left.

The hospitality of the house takes the form of luncheon or afternoon tea, the slight charge for admission and for refreshments going into the restoration fund. Reservations may be telegraphed to the hostess, Miss Hotchkiss.

The Agency House is located on Highways 51, 16, 81, and 33. The spot is well worth a visit from Madisonians or summer visitors.



with historic memories from the time when Jollier and Marquette in 1673 passed by on their adventure of discovery to the days just before the Civil War when the fort was abandoned and the Agency House became a farm house. A visit to Portage and the Agency House vivifies the reading of *Wan-Bunn*. Mrs. Kinzie's charming account of life in primitive Wisconsin, and together they make an object lesson in early Wisconsin history. It is hoped that the educators of the state will become interested in the preservation of the old house and the new edition of *Wan-Bunn*."

"The plan for the preservation of the house involves the incorporation of a non-profit company with shares to be sold at moderate rates. Any school which would contribute one or more shares would have a permanent vested interest in this project. Then when the pleasant summer days come again pilgrimages will be made to this historic spot, where imagination may reconstruct the days of its prime, may see the thronging Indians coming to visit their father, Agent Kinzie, may listen to the bugle calls from Old Fort Winnebago when Jefferson Davis, just from West Point, was one of its officers. The whole neighborhood is replete

West Point, and who later became the president of the Confederacy, was sent to the fort as first lieutenant. Temporary barracks were constructed of logs, but in a short time all hands were busy putting up good substantial buildings. Davis not only aided in the plans for the fort but also helped materially to furnish it as he was a first-class cabinet maker. Several pieces of furniture which he made are now in the homes of Portage and Columbia County people.

John H. Kinzie, son of John Kinzie, whose name occupies so prominent a place in the early history of Chicago, was sent out as agent to the Indians. When he and his wife arrived in 1829 they found accommodations very poor, but they were urged to stay at the "Fort" until a new building could be put up.

Under the able leadership of Mrs. Kinzie the structure, which is still standing, was built. Mr. Davis also helped to plan and furnish this building, having his office at one time in the "front room." Its framework is massive, the studding, rafters, joists, sleepers, and sills being twice the size of materials used in buildings at the present time. Mrs. Kinzie describes

tory for it, orders for the evacuation of the fort were issued in 1845, the troops being sent to St. Louis to relieve those stationed at Jefferson Barracks, which had been ordered to the Gulf. In 1853, the property was sold at auction under the direction of Jefferson Davis, then secretary of war. The Old Agency House was sold at the same time.

Columbia County people lost the almost priceless opportunity of preserving the Old Fort itself but it is not too late to save the Indian Agency landmark.

For several months past, people in various parts of the state, as well as our local people, have become interested in the project of purchasing and restoring this property to its original condition, as nearly as possible, and having it for a museum and a shrine. About 130 acres of land belong with the building and they will have to be sold together.

This project is especially sponsored by the Committee of Landmarks and History of the State Federation of Women's Clubs.

Miss Louise Phelps Kellogg of the State Historical Society has the following to say concerning the Old Agency House:



The Old Agency House  
Fort Winnebago, Portage, Wisconsin



# The Old Agency House at Portage

By MARY BAIRD  
*Junior High School, Portage*  
 (See Cover Design)

FORT Winnebago on the "portage" of the Fox-Wisconsin rivers was an important fortification in the early pioneer days, being the link between Ft. Howard, Green Bay, and Ft. Crawford, Prairie du Chien. About 5000 Indians from the regions of Lake Winnebago, Green Lake, Fox Lake, Baraboo, and Beloit came to an old log building, the Agency House, which was located on a small hill just west of the "portage," to receive the \$15,000 annuities, besides presents and rations during emergencies.

It was long recognized that the "portage" was one of the most important keys to the control of the Winnebagoes. At the east end of this tract of land was a log house and barn occupied by Pierre Pauquette, several huts which were the homes of half breeds, and the Agency House.

The feeling of insecurity that prevailed among the white traders and trappers moved General Macomb to recommend the establishment of a military post between the Fox and Wisconsin rivers.

This request was granted and in 1828 Major Twiggs reported his arrival with his command. Jefferson Davis, who had just graduated from West Point, and who later became the president of the Confederacy, was sent to the fort as first lieutenant. Temporary barracks were constructed of logs, but in a short time all hands were busy putting up good substantial buildings. Davis not only aided in the plans for the fort but also helped materially to furnish it as he was a first class cabinet maker. Several pieces of furniture which he made are now in the homes of Portage and Columbia County people.

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the building in a very interesting manner in her book *Wau Bun*.

When the Kinzies arrived at the Fort they found the Winnebagoes assembled in anticipation of the arrival of Shawkeewakee (the Indian name for agent), who was to pay them their annuities. Many of them pitched their tents near by, and some camped for days in the front yard. Here they whiled away the time playing what seemed to be their favorite game, "Moccasin."

Mr. Kinzie had great influence over this tribe, so much so that he persuaded them not to join their forces with other tribes during the Black Hawk war.

The Kinzie home was a social center for the people in and around the Fort, the young people meeting every week for singing school. (Mrs. Kinzie had brought her piano with her all the way from Chicago.) It was near this historic building that the famous Red Bird surrendered to the whites; and the first postoffice at the "portage" was sheltered in one of its large high ceilinged rooms.

The old fort, however, like all earthly things had its day. The approaching war with Mexico had reached its threatening stage and preparatory for it, orders for the evacuation of the fort were issued in 1845, the troops being sent to St. Louis to relieve those stationed at Jefferson Barracks, which had been ordered to the Gulf. In 1853, the property was sold at auction under the direction of Jefferson Davis, then secretary of war. The Old Agency House was sold at the same time.

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BETTY DITTFURTH



GEORGE BARKER

George Barker '32 and Betty Dittfurth '32 have charge of the sales of 1931 homecoming buttons to fraternities and sororities. Assistant committee men and women are canvassing the dormitories and retail stores. —Photoart

**Edge Towns Hold Their Own; Statistics Show Population Increase**

Evidence from population trends in the entire state of Wisconsin indicates that a majority of Wisconsin's edge towns are holding their own, and that towns above 4,000 are going forward at the pace of the average county. These conclusions are based on a survey of population statistics for 1930 made by H. R. Doering, assistant professor of business administration of the university extension department. The results are published in the November issue of the Wisconsin Bulletin.

So far as present trends can be projected into the future," said Doering, "small towns will continue for some time to be important contributors of staple merchandise, for people do not go long distances for such wares."

**Villages Decline**

Evidence disclosed that nearly 60 per cent of Wisconsin villages up to 1,000 population are falling behind, and over two-thirds of the places between 1,000 to 4,000 are barely holding their own. Of the places between 4,000 and 1,000, over 86 per cent are making substantial progress, the report stated, and most cities larger than 1,000 are doing better than ever.

ette Magill. He had not been long at Fort Winnebago before he asked for

age percentage growth of 21.3. The state as a whole, both farm and city, grew 11.5 per cent in the 10-year period.

The smallest county seats had a slightly larger growth than did other villages of similar size. In all other groups county seat towns registered smaller percentage increases than the group to which they belong.

**Counties Fluctuate**

The report shows population changes for all counties, indicating that 16 of the 71 counties suffered population decreases from 33.4 per cent to less than 1 per cent. Increases ranged from more than 100 per cent to less than one-tenth of 1 per cent.

Decreases by incorporated places concentrated in two areas of the state. In one, the percentages of decrease for incorporated villages and cities by counties are: Douglas, 8.7; Bayfield, 33.4; Ashland, 7.7; Sawyer, 7.3; Rusk, 4.2; Pierce, 4.5; Clark, 1.1.

**Lake Counties Progress**

The other section of the report shows that the lake counties are making substantial progress, the report stated, and most cities larger than 1,000 are doing better than ever.

The Agency house is the one historic shrine of this region. It is easily reached from Madison.

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# Some Ideas Enshrined In Historic Homes

## Redskin Ceremonies, Southern Aristocrats, and Men of Letters Live Anew In These Old Landmarks

By Louise P. Kellogg

THE PRESERVATION of historic homes has proceeded rapidly in recent years in all parts of our country. Only to mention Washington's well-known Mount Vernon brings a recollection of the stately home on the banks of the Potomac loved by our first president and so well cared for by the Mount Vernon association. Other historic shrines in the Old Dominion include Thomas Jefferson's Monticello and the recently restored Governor Nelson home at Yorktown. Old Williamsburg with William and Mary college is being reconstructed after 18th century models. Massachusetts cherished the Quincy homes of the Adams family, while in New England at large, literary shrines are the Wayside Inn at Sudbury, the House of Seven Gables at Salem, the Thomas Easley Aldrich house at Portsmouth, and the birthplace of Longfellow at Portland.

The western states also are becoming historically conscious. Near Nashville the Hermitage, sacred to the memory of Rachel and Andrew Jackson, still stands with its slave quarters and wide gardens, its broad porches and fine furniture to show how the southern aristocracy lived before the Civil war.

Kentucky has not only saved the log cabin in which Lincoln was born, but has enshrined it with a marble temple. Not far away is the lovely Roman house kept in remembrance of the author of the poem written therein, "Our Old Kentucky Home." Ohio has preserved the humble birthplace of Ulysses Grant overlooking the Ohio river, while at Vincennes, the old William Henry Harrison house stands as a memorial to Indiana's first territorial governor. Illinois keeps the Lincoln home at Springfield just as the president left it in 1861 when he left for Washington, while a few miles away the entire village of New Salem has been rebuilt as it was when the young Lincoln walked its streets, kept its post office and store, studied grammar with Mentor Graham, and made love to Ann Rutledge.

### Wisconsin Homes

WISCONSIN, rich in historic lore, has long been making efforts to preserve the homes of the early settlers. One of the most interesting relics of the past is the

dred citizens and travelers this past summer.

Fort Winnebago was built in 1828 in order to overcome the Indian tribe of that name which had gone on the warpath the previous summer. Red Bird, the distinguished chieftain of the Winnebagos had in 1827 surrendered himself to the United States army in a scene called the most dramatic of early Wisconsin history. Fortunately, we have an account of an eye-witness, the Indian commissioner from Washington, who wrote as follows:

### Surrender of Red Bird

AT ABOUT noon of the day following there were seen at the portage a body of Indians—some mounted, some on foot. Two American flags in front and rear and the one in the center was white. They bore no arms. They approached within a short distance of the bank of the Fox river, when we heard singing. It is the Death Song." "It is the Red Bird singing his death song." His eyes were fixed on Red Bird and I well might be—for of all Indians I ever saw he is the most perfect in form, in face and gesture. In height he is about six feet, straight, but without restraint. His proportions are of the most exact symmetry. His pose figure is a model of beauty. I never beheld a face that was so full of nobility and at the same time all the most winning expression. It appears to be compounded of grace, dignity; of firmness and decision, and tempered with wildness and mercy. His face was painted one side red, the other mixed green and white. Around his neck he wore a collar of blue and white wampun, with the claws of a wildcat forming its rim. He was clothed in a suit of dressed elk or deerskin nearly white. On one shoulder a beautifully ornamented feather nearly white, on the other one nearly black. At the tip of one shoulder a tuft of horse hair, dyed red. Across the breast bound tight to it, his war-knife, three feet long. In one hand he held the white flag, and in the other the calumet pipe of peace. There he stood. Not a muscle moved nor was the expression of his face changed a particle. He appeared conscious that according to Indian law he was no wrong

## of Letters Live Anew

### Honor Him With Fort

AFTER THIS brief tragedy ended, the government sent Maj. Triggs of the 1st United States infantry, to build a fort at Portage, over which all traffic from the Great Lakes to the Mississippi passed and near which the Winnebagos had their villages. At the same time a sub-Indian agency was created to conciliate the tribes-



LOUISE P. KELLOGG  
Research Associate, Wisconsin Historical Society.  
—Courtesy Wis. State Journal.

men and to insure their fulfillment of the treaty made at the close of the Red Bird war. The agent selected for this difficult position was John Harris Kinzie, son of a Chicago pioneer, who had grown up on the frontier, spoke the Winnebago and other Indian languages and knew well Indian customs and character.

Kinzie made an excellent agent—kind, firm, comprehending and sympathetic. When Harriet Martineau visited Chicago after Kinzie had left the agency, she said she found no one else who had the kind appreciation of the natives of North America that Kinzie and his wife shared.

Kinzie's wife here comes into the story as an eastern girl named Juliette Magill. He had not been long at Fort Winnebago before he asked for

at Green Bay where a series of festivities were given for the bride.

While at Green Bay arrangements were made to transport Juliette's belongings to Fort Winnebago. There was much discussion over the way to take her fine new piano. Finally a large boat was chartered, the legs taken off the instrument which was placed in the center of the craft, mattresses piled upon it and boxes and baskets packed around it. In this boat Agent Kinzie and his wife started for Fort Winnebago, up the strong rapids of the lower Fox river.

### Welcome Home!

AT LAST Fort Winnebago came in view and all the officers of the post hurried down to the landing to meet the newcomers. The commandant's wife begged Juliette to live beside her in the officers' quarters. As there was then no Agency house, the Kinzies gladly partook of the fort's hospitality.

In June, 1831, the government allowed a thousand dollars for a house for the agent. We do not know who the architect of the fine house was that was finally built on Agency hill. The government officials suggested that the soldiers might be utilized to build to house, but before it was begun Black Hawk, the Sauk chief went on the warpath and the troops were needed for garrison duty. By November of 1832 the Agency house was completed. Governor Porter of the territory to which Wisconsin then belonged, was visiting Fort Winnebago when the house was finished. He wrote the Indian commissioner that it was a house the United States might well be proud to own and he made up the deficit in the appropriations from a fund at his disposal. The time soon came when the Kinzie's decided to leave Fort Winnebago. Juliette was grieved to leave her new home on Agency hill, her Indian "children." So well did she love her Wisconsin home that years afterward she wrote a book about her experiences at Fort Winnebago, and named it Wan-Eun, or the Early Day.

Now every trace of Fort Winnebago has vanished save one building—a barn, but the fine old Agency house still stands on the hill, four square to all winds, secure in its charm of setting and site. It has known many vicissitudes since the departure of the Kinzie's; at one time it was used as a tavern, at another as a store for Indian goods. Then it became a peaceful farm house, until this year when it was bought by the Colonial Dames of America for the state of Wisconsin. It was skillfully restored under the auspices and directions of a Madison architect. It is now open for visitors, and next year it is to be completed and furnished as nearly as possible in the style of 1830.

The Agency house is the one historic shrine of this region. It is easily reached from Madison.



# Dr. Louise Kellogg to Tell of Indian Agency House on WIBA

State Historical Society  
Member on Air Next  
Tuesday Night

**S**TATION WIBA announced today that Louise Phelps Kellogg, of the State Historical society, has been secured to speak on "The Agency House at Fort Winnebago," in a radio talk to be given next Tuesday night at 7:15.

Dr. Kellogg, well known historian and author, has prepared a most interesting talk on this historic, 100-year-old building which still stands on its original site above the Portage canal that connects Fox river with the Wisconsin, near Portage, Wis.

### Memorial to Early Days

The Agency House, first the home of John H. Kinzie, Indian agent, later a garrison house, tavern and farm home, has been purchased by the National Society of Colonial Dames in Wisconsin. It is to be restored and maintained as a memorial to early day Wisconsin and a shrine for historic memories of its pioneers.

Dr. Kellogg has compiled a history of the famous old house in which she tells of the difficulties experienced by the Kinzies in building the place and the trials of handling Indian affairs.

The house was started in the winter of 1831 and wasn't finished until November 1832. Lumber for the building had to be cut from the woods and fashioned by hand.

### Building Alone Remains

Every trace of Fort Winnebago, which stood across the Portage from the Agency House, has vanished and this lone building is the only landmark of those early days in Wisconsin.

Until 1840 the Agency House was used as trading emporium, then aban-



Dr. Louise P. Kellogg

doned and unused for several years. In 1854 the land on which the Agency House stood was patented to James Martin, who three years later sold it to George C. Tallman. From Tallman the land, now a farm, passed into the hands of the family of James B. Wells, by whom it was sold in 1878 to Edmond S. Baker, whose home it became until his death on Oct. 3, 1928.

Dr. Kellogg, who is known throughout the state for her interesting discussions and great knowledge of Wisconsin history, will provide a radio program both educational and inspiring. Mark the calendar for Tuesday Aug. 11 at 7:15 for this interesting talk to be heard over WIBA.

## U. W. Students Plan Trip to Indian Agency

Registrations will be received up to Thursday for a University of Wisconsin summer session bus trip to the old U. S. Indian agency house at Portage Saturday, according to Charles E. Brown, curator of the state historical museum, who is in charge. Dr. Louise Kellogg, historical society research worker, and others will speak at a brief informal program.

The building was built on the bank of the Fox river, opposite Ft. Winnebago, in 1831 for U. S. Indian Agent John H. Kinzie. In 1930 it was purchased by the Colonial Dames of the state. The pilgrimage will be limited to 100.



June 13 '31. Agency House, Portage, Wis.



## Agency House Remains Open During Winter

The Old Indian Agency House at Portage which was visited by 2,200 persons this past summer, will remain open all during the winter, it is announced. Miss Elsie Hotchkiss, who was hostess during the summer has returned to her home in Milwaukee and Mr. and Mrs. Walter Lashure, Portage, have taken up their residence there and will keep the dwelling open to the public.

Luncheon and tea will be served

to visitors who wish it. A furnace has been installed to insure a warm and comfortable house and the road will be open all winter so that it will be easily accessible.

A committee from the Colonial Dames, of which Mrs. Hobart Johnson is a Madison member, is planning to plaster and furnish three rooms during the fall. The rooms will be furnished as nearly as possible as they were in the days when the Kinzies lived there. Mr. Kinzie was the government Indian agent a century ago.

Part of the money for the re-decorating and furnishing will be donated by the Milwaukee chapter of the Colonial Dames which held a large benefit bridge party in Milwaukee Thursday at which there were 200 tables in play.

## Colonial Dames Build Fence for Indian Agency House

Appropriate Decoration Is Planned and Executed  
by Wisconsin Women at Historic Portage Place;  
Landscape Is Now Being Laid Out by Milwaukee Members of Group

THE old rail fence, with bittersweet, grapes and wild roses covering its irregular frame, is missing from the modern country scene. Here and there on the Wisconsin landscape one does see a weather-worn old fence, reminiscent of pioneer days and the labors of the early settlers. Appreciating the charm of these handmade homely barriers the Colonial Dames of Wisconsin have now very appropriately surrounded the yard of the old Indian agency house at Portage with an old rail fence.

The agency house was built in 1832 for John Kinzie, first Indian agent in the wilderness of Wisconsin territory. His wife, Juliette, wrote "Wau-bun," meaning "early days," in which she described their life at Portage. In the book she speaks frequently of the rail fences about which the wild gooseberries and raspberries grew.

A landscape typical of a frontier home has been planned and is being laid out under the direction of Mrs. Alfred F. James and Mrs. G. A. Carhart. Theirs was the happy thought of the rail fence. Mrs. James is also having two rustic gates made from old wood for the front and side entrances of the agency house.

Many gifts have been donated to the historic site recently. Mrs. T. H. Spence of River Hills has given four pine trees; Mrs. William D. Van Dyke, jr., of Fox Point, 12 lilac trees; Mrs. William C. Frye of Milwaukee, a bed of lilies of the valley; W. A. Toole of Garry-Nee-Dule, Baraboo, Wis., a wild rose hedge from his wild flower collection.

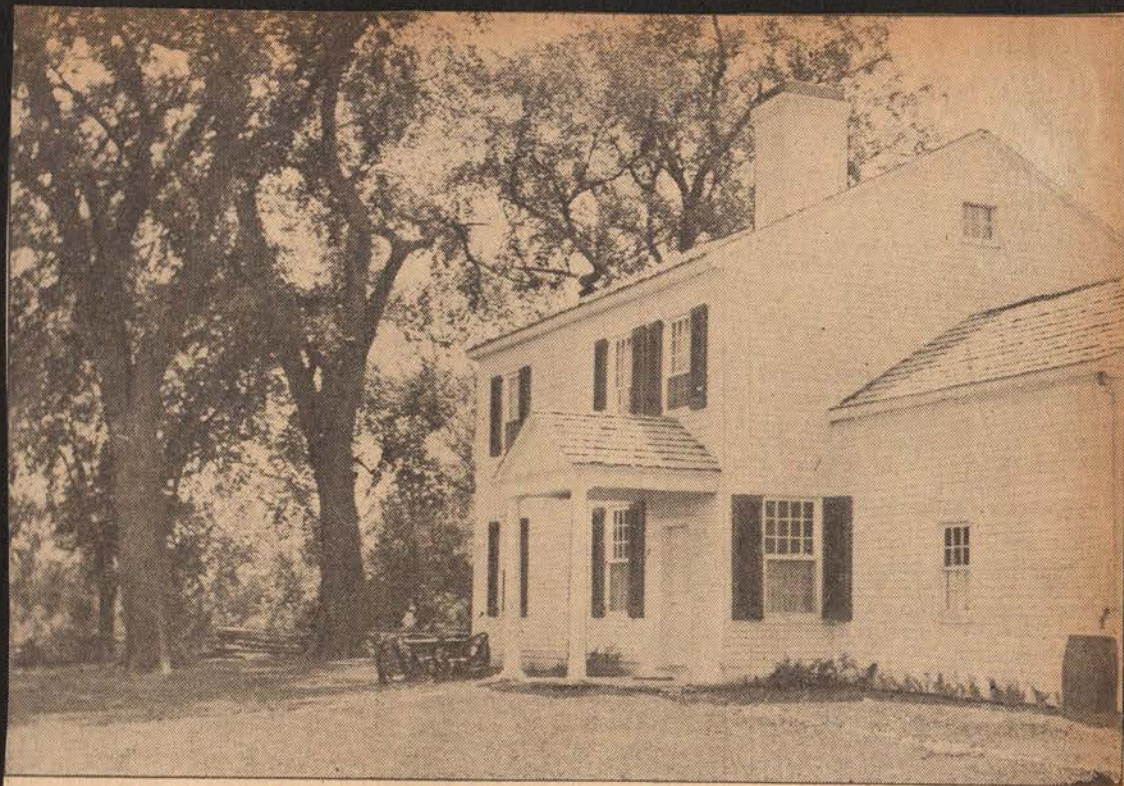
Close to the house is a bed of historic flowers, including a group of lilies which was given by Mrs. John Rathbone, a Colonial Dame of Detroit. A small permanent marker informs the visitor that the original roots of these lilies were planted by George Washington in his Mount Vernon gardens.

In the last few weeks, between rainstorms, Colonial Dames and their friends have been motoring to the agency house for luncheon. Those who have been there recently are Mrs. Arthur T. Holbrook, Mrs. Charles J. McIntosh, Mrs. Stanley Hauxhurst, Mrs. George Luhmen, Mrs. George B. Miller and Mrs. George Manierre.

*State Journal*

The hostess house adjoining the Old Indian Agency House at Portage, Wis., which was recently restored by the Colonial Dames of Wisconsin, will be occupied this winter by Mr. and Mrs. George O. Lashure, who will receive guests and serve refreshments to those who visit the site. Mrs. Gertrude Klauser and Miss Elsie Hotchkiss, who were hostesses at the agency house this summer, will return to Milwaukee Thursday.





### *Many Visit Old Agency House at Portage*

THE old Indian agency house, a mile east of Portage, Wis., where the Fox river was connected with the Wisconsin by means of the historic old canal, is being visited by travelers from many distant places as well as residents of this state. The above new picture shows the east side of the house, with its plain entry overlooking the shaded lawn. The house was built by the federal government in 1832 for the then Indian agent, Capt. John Kinzie. The National Society of Colonial Dames of Wisconsin rescued the dilapidated place a few years ago, carefully restored it and is furnishing it with many fine old pieces in the correct style of a century ago. It is maintained as a shrine in memory of Wisconsin pioneers. The visitors' register contains names from Norway and Japan, and many others this year of those who visit the Century of Progress and journey to see the dells of the Wisconsin river. Lawrence Vail Chapman, director of the American Association of Museums, with headquarters at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D. C., recently visited the house and congratulated the Colonial Dames on the splendid restoration, saying it was one of the finest he had seen in the west. The house, just off Highway 33, is 90 miles from Milwaukee and well worth a visit. A small tea house is maintained for the convenience of visitors. On pleasant days luncheon or afternoon tea is served out of doors.

*Journal August 6, 1933*



# HONOR DISCOVERY OF LAKE GENEVA AT FETE TODAY

Indians, Officials and  
Others Join in  
Celebration.

BY GIFFORD ERNEST.

Special Dispatch from a Staff Correspondent.  
Lake Geneva, Wis., June 26.—Discovery of this sapphire blue lake an even 100 years ago by John H. Kinzie, a son of the Chicago trader, was celebrated here today by thousands who have come to love it as did the Pottawatomie Indians, who were displaced by the invasion of the white man following the Blackhawk war of 1832.

When the Kinzie party, consisting of John, his bride, mother, a sister and her little boy, two French woodsmen employes, a half-breed Indian servant girl and a Negro boy, descended the wooded hills on the south shore it was called "Big-Foot Lake" by the Indians, from the nickname of their chief, "Maung-zet Ne-biss."

Later John Brink, government surveyor, named it Lake Geneva because he likened it to the lake by that name in New York state.

## Descendants Attend.

Descendants of the Pottawatomie tribe, who lived on its wooded shores a century ago in four villages of birch-bark lodges, are here today joining with folks from this and other states in marking the change from a redskins' paradise to a famous conference, resort, camp and permanent summer home Eden. Royalty of the

tribe in the persons of lineal descendants of Chief Simon Kahquados are here to participate mutely in the white man's celebration of his own ascendancy.

Lodges and tepees of birch have again been built among the lush verdant foliage and near the site of the homes of their fathers. If the irony of fate has dawned on these silent braves and their squaws no one has been able to detect it, for they are inscrutable as these hills. Odd, these temporary homes of a wandering freedom-loving nomadic race, contrasted with the palatial structures more than half hidden among the trees.

The story was told today by the Rev. Dr. Paul B. Jenkins, historian of the Geneva Lake Centennial, that "the century marked the change from wigwams to palaces, from savagery to science."

Three princes of the royal line of the Pottawatomie looked on this historical spectacle, a drama for the white man and a melodrama for the primitive race. A water pageant directed by Col. William Nelson Pelouze and Commodore Ernst Schmidt will move tonight around the lake in illuminated steamers, yachts, motorboats and small sailing craft. These have taken the place of the birch-bark canoe. On the highest hilltop overlooking these waters may be seen the mighty dome of one of the world's greatest astronomical observatories, the Yerkes observatory of the University of Chicago.

The two-day exposition is more historical in nature than it is theatrical. Its sponsors have spared no effort to give to the events of the celebration an authenticity that stamps it with more of reality than a mere show or carnival can have.

Lieut.-Gov. Henry A. Huber of Wisconsin opened the centennial, Gov. LaFollette having been detained at Madison by duties of the state. Interspersed with the patriotic, martial and folk music of bands and glee clubs was the wierd, profound and troubled music of the Indians, who bent forward and danced to the sometimes changing rhythm of a metrical explanation of man's relation to the universe as an old race which has lived close to nature sees it.

Old men, ancient squaws, the young and middle-aged and children gathered close within the circle and stamped out patterns and designs on the grass to the beat of their drummers, which made the ear gather something of the designs used in their basket and pottery making. The structure of their emotions expressed in their dances and music belongs to the open skies, the forests, the hunt and battle.







Jongias Rainnes came; the Rev. Mr. Dwinen, the frontier missionary, and the Phoenix families at Delavan. The stories of the adventures and accomplishments of all these are fairly known and of absorbing interest. Soon thereafter the in-rush of the remarkable tide of settlement which so speedily transformed southern Wisconsin from its ancient primeval wilderness to that "El Dorado," "the Land of Gold," that it was frequently called, and lasted until the California movement of 1849.

The first frame house to be built on the shores of the lake was begun in 1839 by the numerous Williams clan, in what is now the Village of Williams Bay, where - built as it was chiefly of black-walnut and oak - it still stands, and well merits preservation as the historic edifice that it is. Large for the place and time, it served also as a hostelry for incoming would-be settlers, and was known as the "Buchhorn Tavern," from the deer-antler trophy long in place above its door.

The subsequent story of the development of the Lake Country and all northernmost Illinois and southeastern Wisconsin is far too long and notable to even be touched on here, but it should be known to every one interested in the local history of that



# The Geneva Lake Centennial

June 26 and 27, 1931



*From Wigwams to Palaces and  
from Savagery to Science  
in a Century*



THE WORLD has changed more in the last one hundred years—within the life-time of our centenarians—than in the previous nineteen centuries of the Christian Era; or even perhaps since

“the flush of a new-born sun fell first  
on Eden's green and gold.”

Nowhere on the surface of the globe has that change been greater than about the blue waters and green hills of Southern Wisconsin's lovely Geneva Lake.

A single century ago its wooded shores and pebbly beaches were the site of but two villages of bark lodges of Potawatomi Indians; while, so far as any existing record goes, none of the white race had ever threaded its winding forest-trails or stood beside its crystal waves.

Today, from amid emerald lawns and brilliant gardens palatial mansions look down upon its blue, thousands of people from literally all parts of the world have permanent or summer homes beside it or attend its great conference-camps, airplanes whir above or alight upon it, the latest speed of sail or motors skims its surface, in the Spring powerful tractors plow its near-by farms or reap their crops in Autumn, and on its highest hill-top the mighty dome of one of the world's greatest astronomical observatories embodies the latest discoveries whereby modern Science searches out the secrets of the Universe! And all this in the life-time of men and women still living! Surely such a period of human progress deserves an appropriate commemoration on the very stage where its miracles have come to pass.





The area of what is now Wisconsin was of course first entered by the white man in 1634 - nearly three centuries ago - when the French explorer Nicolet steered his quaint bark through vast lakes that he took to be seas, to land where Green Bay now is; when, having no idea of where in the world he was, he fancied he might be landing in China! and put on a mandarin's robe in which to go ashore! And mightily surprised he was to see red men instead of yellow peering from the forest at the astounding spectacle of his coming.

From then on, the water-ways from Lake Michigan to the Mississippi were repeatedly traversed by the canoes of bold explorers, heroic missionaries, the bateaux of fur-traders, coureurs des bois and voyageurs, the laden "Mackinaw boats" of frontier garrisons, above their camps now the lilies of France, the scarlet of the British Union Jack, and finally the Stars and Stripes. Here Joliet first gazed upon the mighty Mississippi, with him the saintly young Marquette, who on his way back along the shores of Lake Michigan died among the savages to whom he came to bring the Cross. Here La Salle came, to build his fort on the lofty pinnacle of Starved Rock, and presently to a tragic death and an unknown grave. Frontier forts were built, Fort Howard at Green Bay, Fort Winnebago at Portage, Fort Crawford at Prairie du Chien.

In the desperate scenes of the Black Hawk War General Zachary Taylor and Lieutenant Jefferson C. Davis and Lieutenant Anderson of Sumter fame and 23-year-old Captain Abraham Lincoln of Illinois led their men, the bulky form of General Winfield Scott, head of the United States Army, hurrying to join them with the troops from St. Louis. To Solomon Juneau's trading-post beside the Milwaukee River and John Kinzie's at the mouth of the Chicago, the Potawatomi of the unknown inland brought their furs and shaggy ponies and birch-bark "mococks" of maple-sugar to trade for flint-lock guns, powder, lead, knives, brass kettles, blankets, glass beads, silver ornaments, finger-rings and ear-bells.

From these Indians there was learned the approximate location of an unvisited lake called by them "Maung-zet Ne-biss," or "Big-Foot Lake" - in the French of the traders, "Lac Gros-pied" - from the nickname of the chief of the Potawatomi whose villages were at its west end and on the western shore of its principal bay. The ancient Indian trails leading to it were known, but these no white man had traversed until in the last week in May, 1831, John H. Kinzie, son of the Chicago trader, decided to travel overland from his father's home, where he had been visiting with his bride, to Fort Winnebago, where Portage now stands. The fact that a detachment of troops from Fort Dearborn was to march by the same route to Fort Howard at Green Bay doubtless influenced him in deciding to make the trip through the wilderness.

This "Kinzie party," as it has since become famous, consisted of Kinzie and his wife; his mother and a sister, Mrs. Helm, and her little boy; two French woodsmen employees; a young half-breed Indian servant-girl and a negro boy.

Mr. Kinzie, his wife, Mrs. Helm, and one of the Frenchmen rode horseback, the others travelling in a "dearborn" wagon, with another Frenchman as driver. Allowing the slow-moving troops a few days' start, the party left Chicago about May 22 or 23, passed the troops on the third day of the trip somewhere east of the present Crystal Lake, and on the afternoon of the fourth day descended the wooded hills on the south shore of "Big-Foot Lake" near where the Glenwood Springs Hotel has long stood, and reached the Potawatomi village on the shore where Fontana now is.

They appear to have stopped here only long enough to hire a considerable number of the Indians to assist them in surmounting the steep bluffs to the west, up which the unhitched horses were led while the baggage was carried up by the Indians and others hauled the wagon to the high ground with ropes. The ascent was made up the narrow, steep, rough and rocky bed of the ravine west of Fontana beside the present Highway 36; a slow and arduous task in the condition of the country.

Fortunately for us of today, Mrs. John H. Kinzie was a young woman of alert observation, no small literary ability and even skill as an amateur artist; with the result that, as everyone knows, she later wrote a full description of their arrival at the lake, its attendant scenes and the appearance and conduct of many of the Indians, and drew an excellent sketch of the vista of the western shore and the Indian village.

These are to be found today in several publications - various editions of her famous book, "Waubun, the Early Day in the North-West"; in "The Book of Lake Geneva" published by the University of Chicago Press; and in the 1930 publication of the Geneva Lake Historical Society, "History and Indian Remains, of Lake Geneva and Lake Como." Few points along the westward movement of the settlement of America have any such record of the actual first-known arrival of any of the white race in the localities. The re-enacting of the historic coming of the Kinzie party to Big Foot's village is accordingly to be one of the principal features of the coming Centennial.

No movement of settlement into the lake neighborhood occurred until after the suppression of the Indian hostilities in the Black Hawk War of the next year, 1832. While Big Foot and some of his warriors were willing - and even had agreed - to join Black Hawk's force in its brief and futile but bloody and soon annihilated uprising; a combination of diplomacy, threats, and a knowledge of the vengeance that would penetrate to their villages in the event of such participation, prevented any of the Geneva Lake Indians from joining the hostiles who thought to drive the incoming white frontiersmen out of the country.

On the close of the war, the Indian lands in southern Michigan, northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin were purchased by the United States at the great council held for the purpose at Chicago in 1833, and for the next three years there went on the removal of the Indians from these areas to reservations in the West.



## PORTAGE - "Where the North Begins"



**P**ORTAGE IS A BEAUTIFUL CITY of unusual historical interest located on a strip of land lying between the headwaters of the Fox River and the main stream of the Wisconsin. It early gained a place in the fur trading industry of the old Northwest

Territory whose history predates revolutionary times. This thriving little city located on the Heart o' the Lakes Trail just north of Madison, has taken advantage of its historical river setting and preserved beautified places of historical interest for the entertainment and

### OLD INDIAN AGENCY HOUSE

education of travelers. It was in 1673 that James Marquette and Louis Joliet came by canoe up the Fox River from Green Bay and portaged across the site of the present city to the waters of the Wisconsin from which point they continued on to make the discovery of the Mississippi River. As you come into Portage from the south on the Heart o' the Lakes Trail you will see a fitting memorial to these early explorers.

There is little authentic history covering the century following this first recorded visit but it is known that in 1819 the 5th U. S. Infantry crossed this point on its way from Fort Howard to Fort Crawford on a voyage of exploration and discovery. They found here a Frenchman, Francis LeRoy, residing be-



## Discovery of Lake Geneva, 100 Yrs. Ago, to Be Deliberated

The 100th anniversary of the discovery of Lake Geneva, Wis., will be celebrated with a historical pageant today and tomorrow. The pageant, to be presented in eight episodes, will start at 2 o'clock this afternoon at Fontana, Wis. There a boulder on the lake shore marks the site of Chief Big Foot's Indian village 100 years ago. At 4 o'clock the scene will change to the Big Foot Country club nearby. There the dedication and unveiling of a historical marker, a gift of the

Big Foot Country club to the Historical society, will take place.

Characters of a century ago to be depicted will include members of the John H. Kinzie party, as described in Mrs. Kinzie's book, "Wau-Bun," frontiersman, traders, and missionaries. Visiting Indians will reenact the ancient ceremony of worship.

Tomorrow evening there will be a parade of yachts in charge of William Nelson Pelouze and Ernst C. Schmidt, and an address by Dr. Charles E. Brown, director of the State Historical museum at Madison, Wis.

Among the Lake Geneva summer colonists assisting with arrangements for the pageant are Mrs. Robert Farant, chairman, Dr. Otto L. Schmidt, Mr. and Mrs. Kellogg Fairbank, Mr. and Mrs. William Wrigley, and Mr. and Mrs. Henry Bartholomay.

tween the two rivers, who was engaged in the business of transporting boats and baggage across the portage.

Nine years later in 1828 Fort Winnebago was built here as a gesture to the Winnebago Indians who were making trouble over the lead mines in Southwestern Wisconsin. The fort was built by three companies of soldiers under command of Major Twiggs, with Jefferson Davis one of his first lieutenants.

Standing alone today as mute evidence of the activities of old Fort Winnebago is the old Indian Agency House which was built for John Kinzie, the Indian sub-agent on the west bank of the canal.

Another well known name connected with the building of the fort is John Jacob Astor. It was through his influence with the Government that Fort Winnebago was built. Pierre Paquette, Astor's Portage representative, is perhaps one of the best known early French traders.



His name has been perpetuated in Portage by the naming of a park and the placing of a boulder near the river to mark the place where his ferry plied its trade in 1828.

HISTORIC WAUONA TRAIL



# COMING AND GOING TO THE DELLS

Stop and Visit at the

## OLD INDIAN AGENCY HOUSE

Near Portage---Routes 16-51-33-88

*FOR INFORMATION INQUIRE AT DESK*

### Agency House Attracts Visitors From Far Off

NOT since the Colonial Dames renovated the Old Indian Agency house at Portage two years ago, and opened it to the public, has it attracted as many visitors from as many different sections of the country as in the last two weeks. In the last three days alone, there have been registrants, among others, from Washington, California, Maine, Pennsylvania, South Dakota and Florida.

Among Milwaukeeans who stopped to inspect the old house which Capt. John Kinzie built 100 years ago for his bride, Juliet, were Mrs. Herman Vihlein, Miss Virginia Uihlein, Mr. and Mrs. George Hochstein, Mrs. W. J. Klumb, Rose A. Ryan, Mrs. Lynn Heffron, Miss Mary Lindsay, Mrs. Charles Paeschke Jr., Mrs. R. M. Van Vleet, Miss Mary E. Van Vleet, Mrs. M. B. Pittman, Mrs. E. J. Hughes and Miss Annie S. Pitkelkow.



# t of Season Monday Night Agency House

## Spirit of 1830 Captured In Indian Agency House

THE little frame house near Portage which John Kinzie, Wisconsin pioneer, built for his young bride, Juliette, when he brought her here from cultured Boston to the western wilds in the first decade of the Nineteenth century, is beginning to revive its perished past, its dreams of vivid frontier life, as the work goes forward to make of it again a home of the 1830's, ready to speak and tell its tale to us today.

This summer, when groups of society folk, members of the Society of Colonial Dames, which is making the Old Indian Agency house its project, and their friends, go out to Portage to have luncheon at the charming little guest house and then go through the Kinzie home, they will find much that is changed from last year. By June 14 Mrs. Charles J. McIntosh, chairman of the furnishing and gift committee of the house, and her assistants, hope to have all the donated furniture, bric-a-brac and rugs installed, in a way that will recapture the flavor of a century ago.

*Spirit of 1830*

No gifts are being accepted of a period later than 1830, and which will not in some way add to the impression the society wants to give—of a house which will be so much a part of the period that modern conversation will seem amiss, but that yet will be so homelike that all the pleasant causeries which have taken place in those rooms, all the happy in-

formal evenings there, will seem to live again.

In the words of Mrs. McIntosh, when she presented her report of the past year's work before the annual meeting of the society held a week or so ago in the Milwaukee Country club: "The aim of the committee . . . is to create a house in keeping with the spirit of 1830, reflecting the pioneer life given to us by Juliette Kinzie through the pages of Wat-Eun, and trying not to make it just a period house . . ."

*Old Pieces Donated*

The walls were, necessarily, the starting point. The only touch of paper in the house, says Mrs. McIntosh's report, was found in the living room—a small faded piece of paper which may be seen under glass at the agency house. There is unmistakable evidence that this is the original paper, and at the present time the society is considering having the design stenciled on paper at the Layton School of Art, which then could be placed on the living room walls.

She commented, "It seems as though having a copy of the original would give atmosphere and add a more interesting touch to the room, which was the center of life in those days . . . rather than use some other paper which might be considered by some more attractive."

Many of the fine old pieces which will be placed in that room have been in Milwaukee families for generations. Mrs. Charles M. Morris has given a very lovely old mahogany love seat, and Mrs. Edgar Mark Williams of New York, the former Helen Sexton of this city, is sending from the East a most attractive mahogany secretary, made in 1800.

*Fireplace to Room*

There is a fireplace in every room of the house (what a bane that must have been to the tidy housewife), and one of them will be dressed up with the set of wrought iron implements donated by Mrs. Irving Seaman—a crane and kettle, tongs, and a long handled skillet, dating back to the days when to prepare a meal was to sit by the fire for hours watching the food. Mrs. Jackson Kemper of Whitewater has sent an interesting old brass skimmer, with a wrought iron handle, which has been in her family over 100 years.

An iron kettle made of melted bullets and a metal spice bowl are Mrs. William McLaren's contribution to the huge old kitchen, and Mrs. Hobart Johnson of Madison has given some simple old chairs. A large spinning wheel and an exquisite little turned bookcase have been given by Frank G. Bowen of Madison.

Mmes. Loyal Durand, Arthur T. Holbrook, George P. Miller, Charles M. Morris and Ferdinand Bartlett make up the advisory committee which passes on the gifts.

*Hope to Get Piano*

By June, also, Mrs. McIntosh's committee hopes to have enough of a fund to purchase a Nunn & Clark piano, dated 1825, which Hugh Randall discovered for them in the East, which would be exactly similar to the one Juliette Kinzie brought with her from Boston.

Mrs. McIntosh's charming report also contained a note on Juliette Kinzie's ancestors, which should be of interest. She said, "Juliette Kinzie, in direct line through two Alexander Wolcotts, was the great-great-granddaughter of Gov. Roger Wolcott of Connecticut, a connection of the two Governors Oliver Wolcott, of the two Governors Griswold of Con-

necticut, and many others of distinction. That may make the Old Indian Agency House seem our very own, for there are several in this society, and in our community, whose ancestors and those of Juliette Kinzie are the same."



# Home of Century Ago Is Reproduced in Portage Indian

## Spirit of 1830 Captured In Indian Agency House

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Many of the fine pieces which will be placed in the house have been in Milwaukee for generations. Mrs. Morris has given a very old mahogany love seat and Edgar Mark Williams of New York, the former Helms of this city, is sending a most attractive secretary, made in 1830.



One of the first events of the season is the benefit bridge party to be given by the Colonial Dames of Wisconsin at the Athenaeum Thursday at 2:30 p. m. The privileges of the Woman's club for luncheon will be extended to those who attend the bridge. Proceeds of the party will be used for the restoration of historical landmarks of Wisconsin and for the decoration of the interior of the old Indian Agency House at Portage, Wis. Mrs. Irving H. Reynolds is general chairman of the affair. Among those who will direct the various committees are Mmes. James P. Brown and Henry M. Ogden, finance; Loyal Durand, James F. Trottman, Frederic W. Fitzgerald, Alfred P. Wettstein, tickets; G. A. Carhart, John L. Barchard, Mitchell Mackie, publicity; Irving Seaman, prizes, and Ralph Newton, Loyal Durand, George Manierre, Robert A. Williams, card table arrangement.

Early reservations have been made by:

Mmes.:	John F. Barnham
Ralph Newton	Washington Young
Albert Houghton	James P. Brown
Henry F. Tyrrell	G. A. Carhart
J. Henry Booth	Henry M. Ogden
E. L. Dingwall	Irving Seaman
Frederic W. Fitzgerald	C. M. Allis
Grant Fitch	Arthur T. Holbrook
Joseph W. Simpson, jr.	Robert A. Williams
John Wilkinson,	Henry M. Thompson
Oconomowoc	John L. Barchard
George Manierre	Alfred P. Wettstein
Frederick H. Crombie	Chester Roberts
Irving H. Reynolds	E. A. Conrad
Max Rotter	Misses:
Harry Stratton	Elsie Patterson,
Charles Ray McCalum	Wilmington, Del.
Emil Schandeln	Gertrude Sherman
Mitchell Mackie	Margaret Conway
Milton C. Potter	Dorothy Conway
	Jennie Mallory
	Jessie Griffin
	Edith Crombie

## Colonial Dames to Raise Agency Fund

SOCIETY folk are looking forward to the bridge party which the Society of Colonial Dames is to give Thursday at the Athenaeum to raise funds to plaster and redecorate the Old Indian Agency house at Portage. The privilege of lunching at the Athenaeum will be open to all those purchasing tickets.





—Journal Staff Photo

Among those who are active in plans for the benefit card party to be given by the Colonial Dames of Wisconsin at the Atheneum Oct. 1 are Mrs. Irving H. Reynolds, Mrs. G. A. Carhart and Mrs. Loyal Durand. They were photographed Wednesday at a meeting of the committee in charge of the event. Mrs. Reynolds (left) is chairman of the committee, Mrs. Carhart (center) is in charge of publicity and Mrs. Durand (right) will assist with the sale of tickets. Preceding the card party at 2:30 p. m., luncheon will be served at 1 p. m. Proceeds of the affair will be used for the restoration of historical landmarks and the furnishing of the interior of the Old Indian Agency house at Portage, Wis.



SUNDAY, MARCH 13, 1932

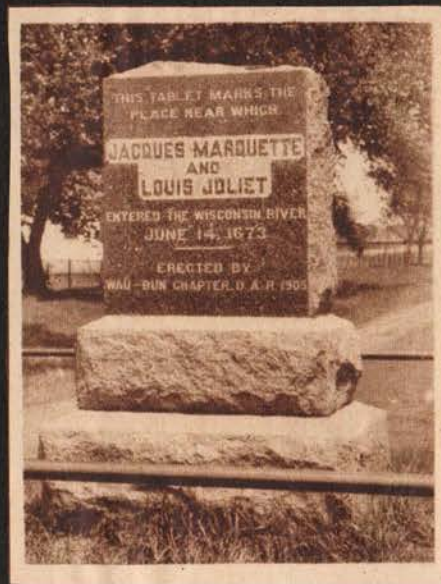


THE INDIAN AGENCY HOUSE at Portage, Wis., which has recently been restored by the Colonial Dames of America. Portage is one of the most historically important cities in Wisconsin.

Today We Pay Tribute to PORTAGE

in a special "Tribute to Wisconsin Cities" program broadcast over WTMJ, The Milwaukee Journal station, from 5 to 5:30 o'clock this afternoon.

—Photos by Rhyme, Portage, and the E. C. Kropp Co., Milwaukee



JACQUES MARQUETTE AND LOUIS JOLIET, early French discoverers, entered the Wisconsin river at "the Portage" June 14, 1673. This tablet commemorates that event.





THE PORTAGE CANAL, looking east from Wisconsin st., is a delightfully picturesque feature of the city.

—National Photo Co. Photo



# Old Indian Agency House Is the

## 500 June Visitors Go To Portage

Restoration of House by Colonial Dames Is Finished.

GLEAMING through the trees which form its lovely natural setting, the Old Indian Agency house at Portage is proving as much a lure for society this summer as it did in 1931, when the Colonial Dames had just begun work on its reconstruction.

So steadily and so carefully has that work of reconstruction gone on that the visitor who sees the house today feels almost as though he were transported back to the 1830's, when Capt. John Kinzie, the government agent, and his young Eastern bride, Juliette Kinzie, made of the little frame house the center of the social and the official life of the surrounding district.

During June, over 500 visitors went through the house, stopping before the broad open fireplace, around which so many distinguished guests must have gathered, lingering at the wide open staircase, and pausing to chat in the homelike rooms, made so completely in character by the authentic antiques of the period of 1830 which have been acquired by the Colonial Dames.

### Luncheon on the Lawn

Many of the guests brought their own picnic luncheon, and ate it out on the wide lawns, in the very shadow of the dignified white clapboarded structure. Others had luncheon in the little hostess house, constructed last year in the same early Wisconsin architecture, reflecting colonial influence.

Friday Mrs. Arthur T. Hol-

## Old Indian Agency at Portage, Restored Now, Draws Many Folk

*Continued From Page 1.*

brook, president of the Colonial Dames in Wisconsin, drove out to Portage for luncheon with a party of friends. Thursday Mr. and Mrs. George B. Miller, with Phyllis, George Jr. and Dickie Miller, went out for the day. Other Milwaukeeans who have been out there recently for luncheon are Mmes. Carl Henry Davis, C. J. McIntosh, Phelps Wyman, George Manierre, Henry E. Judd, Charles H. Palmer; Misses Fannie B. Jenkins, Isabel Miller and Alice Ogden and George Merrill Chester.

A great many Madisonians have been making pilgrimages to the historic spot. Mmes. Frank Bowman, F. W. Jacobs, Knight Cochrane, C. L. Christensen, J. F. P. Pyre; Miss Frances B. Chapman and Frank Riley were there recently for luncheon. Mr. Riley is the architect who is reconstructing the house, from the original government specifications, which were uncovered last year in the files at Washington.

One of the new pieces in the house which has been attracting

a great deal of interest is the Nunn & Clark piano, dated 1825, discovered by Hugh Randall in the East, which is exactly similar to the one which Juliette Kinzie brought with her from Boston.

The lovely old family antiques which have been donated to the Colonial Dames for the house are being moved out daily, and by the end of the summer, it is hoped, the house will be in readiness for its formal opening. By then the block printed paper which is now being made at the Layton Art school in exact reproduction of the original paper will be on the living room walls, the downstairs rooms will be completely furnished, and the upstairs bedroom which is being furnished by the Society of Mayflower Descendants will be well on the way.

Mrs. Charles J. McIntosh is in charge of the furnishing and gift committee for the house, and Mmes. Loyal Durand, Arthur T. Holbrook, George P. Miller, Charles M. Morris and Ferdinand Bartlett make up the advisory committee which passes on the gifts.

**MILWAUKEE SENTINEL**

MILWAUKEE, SUNDAY, JULY 10, 1932



# Goal of Many Summer Pilgrimages