



## HISTORICAL SKILLS ENDURE

Historical skills and cultural arts may be forever lost to history were it not for those who continue to practice them today.

On **June 29**, Ho-Chunk artisans will demonstrate a variety of Indigenous cultural arts. At 1:00, the Wisconsin Dells Singers & Dance Troupe of the Ho-Chunk Nation will perform. Admission is free.

Ho-Chunk Cultural Arts Day is co-hosted by the Ho-Chunk Nation Museum & Cultural Center and funded with grants from the Chipstone Foundation; the Kohler Foundation; and Wisconsin Humanities, with funds from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the State of Wisconsin.

[www.agencyhouse.org/events](http://www.agencyhouse.org/events)

Then, on **July 27-28**, Enduring Skills Weekend returns for a fourth year with

fantastic hands-on experiences, including several new ones! Visitors ages 5 through adult are encouraged to try their own hand at more than 20 historical skills and crafts. Admission is free, compliments of the Chipstone Foundation.

[www.agencyhouse.org/enduring-skills](http://www.agencyhouse.org/enduring-skills)



## A FATHER'S DAY WEEKEND TREAT

For the fifth year, we plan to host a community engagement professional archaeological excavation. This



year it will take place over two consecutive weekends in June, one of which includes Father's Day. What a unique and exciting way to make great memories with Dad or Grandpa on his special day. Ages 5 - adult may dig.

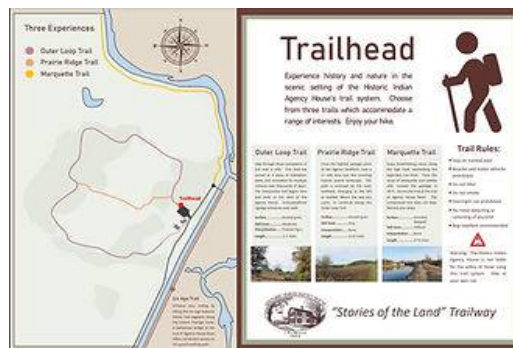
Nick Hamele will be demonstrating blacksmithing techniques while dig participants search for clues in the ground related to the 1830s Agency blacksmith shop. Special exhibits will also be available to peruse.

General Engineering Company, who has sponsored this event from the start, is enthusiastically partnering with us again to make this endeavor possible.

[www.agencyhouse.org/archaeology](http://www.agencyhouse.org/archaeology)

## HIKE OUR TRAILS

[www.agencyhouse.org/grounds](http://www.agencyhouse.org/grounds)



## FIRE + LOG = CANOE

[www.agencyhouse.org/dugout-canoe](http://www.agencyhouse.org/dugout-canoe)



### SEASON DEDICATION:

Special donations have been contributed to dedicate our 2024 season...

#### ...in memory of:

Cissy Van Dyke Scannell Bryson, Donna Macie, Carole Nye, Edward (Ted) Rebholz, Steven Sarbacher, Polly Stone

#### ...and in honor of:

Dave & Sandy Gunderson, Parker & Peylen Littlegeorge Kowalke, Barbara J. Meyer, Judge Daniel O'Connor, volunteers at HIAH, Anne Vravick, and Barbara Zaiser

### BUSINESS SPONSORS:

Thank you to the local businesses which have generously partnered with us (see all at [www.agencyhouse.org/events](http://www.agencyhouse.org/events)). Major season sponsors:

- General Engineering Company
- Miller & Miller, LLC Attorneys-at-Law
- Crawford Oil & Propane
- DAAR Engineering, Inc.
- Terrytown Plumbing



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## EVENTS

- JUNE 1-2**  
Living History Tours
- JUNE 8**  
Kids' "Trails" Workshop
- June 11**  
Speaker, Dr. M. Stevens
- June 15-16 and 22-23**  
Archaeological Dig
- June 29**  
Ho-Chunk Cultural Arts
- July 27-28**  
Enduring Skills Weekend
- August 13**  
Speaker, Dr. R. Harper
- September 6**  
Dugout Canoe Workshop
- September 6-8**  
Scouts BSA Trails Wknd
- September 10**  
Speaker, Dr. S. Kantrowitz
- September 21**  
Galena Liv. Hist. Society
- September 28**  
Wawa'ajja Walk
- October 8**  
Speaker, Dr. P. Jung

# The Historic Indian Agency House

## FOLLOW THE "TRAILS" THIS SEASON

Dear Friends,

Come along with us on an important journey of learning and discovery. Explore the theme of *Trails* through a wide array of engaging events; a thought-provoking exhibit and video documentary; a fascinating speaker series; and other meaningful programs for children through adults. Make plans to visit us this season. While you're here, slow your footsteps and meander a while. Take it all in. And then, when the season sojourn is through, let the trails bring you back home with a greater understanding of the stories which have shaped our history.

Respectfully,

*Adam Novey*

Adam Novey  
Executive Director and Curator

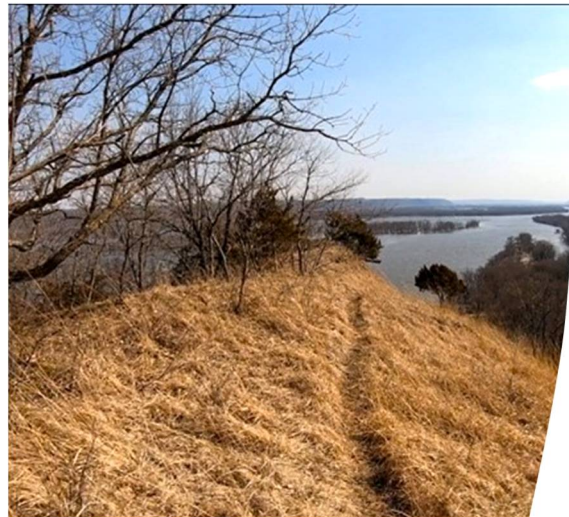
[www.agencyhouse.org/events](http://www.agencyhouse.org/events)





# The Historic Indian Agency House

[www.agencyhouse.org](http://www.agencyhouse.org) | [www.facebook.com/historicindianagencyhouse/](https://www.facebook.com/historicindianagencyhouse/)  
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## WALKING WAWA'AJJA EXHIBIT

The Historic Indian Agency House was established in 1832 at Wawa'ajja — the ancient portaging trail which once connected the Fox and Wisconsin rivers. Wawa'ajja (pronounced *Wau-wau-on-eeen-jau*) opened up a vast super-highway of travel, trade, and cultural interaction. Similarly, the portage has the capacity today to reconnect us with the weighty events of the past, as well as provide a broader perspective on the present.

Wawa'ajja stood witness to the complex stories of our region's past. It served as the backdrop for a number of historically consequential affairs, perhaps the most directly significant to our historic site being the forced expulsion of Ho-Chunk families from their

ancestral lands.

The Fox-Wisconsin portage was a key location at which the Ho-Chunk Nation grappled with forced displacement. Although inseparably woven into the fabric of Wisconsin's history, the particulars of this chapter remain largely unexplored. Contrary to years of historical interpretation, Ho-Chunks were not silent during those pivotal years of upheaval and sweeping change. A substantial body of primary sources survive, including transcripts of evocative speeches by Ho-Chunk elders.

This history is the foundation of a new permanent outdoor exhibit slated to open this spring at our trailhead. It is a means by which the voices preserved in the historical record may again speak.

Uniting a historical narrative with the very place at which it occurred is powerful.

While our online video series highlights the "Treaty Trail" of Ho-Chunk families who were pushed hundreds of miles beyond their homeland, this exhibit expands on the experiences of those who remained in or returned to Wisconsin during the era of forced displacement. These families lived as fugitives in their own homeland. An online enhancement to the exhibit will allow visitors to go further in-depth.

"Walking Wawa'ajja" is produced by the Historic Indian Agency House in collaboration with the Ho-Chunk Nation Museum & Cultural Center, and is funded in part by the Chipstone Foundation; the Kohler Foundation; the Edward C. Lenz and June M. Lenz Charitable Trust; and Wisconsin Humanities, with funds from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the State of Wisconsin.\*

[www.agencyhouse.org/exhibits](http://www.agencyhouse.org/exhibits)



## TREATY TRAIL

The Ho-Chunk Treaty Trail is the focus of this year's online history series which takes the form of a video documentary with six episodes. This experience was marked by a succession of treaty-mandated reservations where families were forced to relocate, adapt, and carry on their lives in the midst of trauma. Retrace this path with us from Wisconsin through Iowa, Minnesota, South Dakota, and Nebraska. Remember and reflect with us: "On Location: The Ho-Chunk Treaty Trail."

[www.agencyhouse.org/treaty-trail](http://www.agencyhouse.org/treaty-trail)

## WAWA'AJJA WALK

Walk wawa'ajja (under 2 miles) in the footsteps of those who came before in commemoration of the forced expulsion of Indigenous families and in recognition of the resilience of the Ho-Chunk Nation. We plan to have accommodations available to allow those with mobility challenges to participate, as well. A keynote speaker will address participants along the bank of the Fox River. Details are in the works, so keep an eye on our website.

The stories and lessons of the past are vital to remember. Meet us at the portaging trail this September.

[www.agencyhouse.org/events](http://www.agencyhouse.org/events)

## INTRIGUING SPEAKER SERIES AHEAD

Explore "Trails" from a variety of fascinating and thought-provoking perspectives via our 2024 speaker series, which will be held on select Tuesday evenings at 6:30 pm between June and October. Admission is free.

Dr. Michael E. Stevens kicks off the series June 11, sharing firsthand accounts of pioneers who followed the trails west to Wisconsin in the 1830s-1850s.

On August 13, Dr. Rob Harper will discuss the role of Wisconsin's riverine network in Indigenous survivance despite government removal efforts.

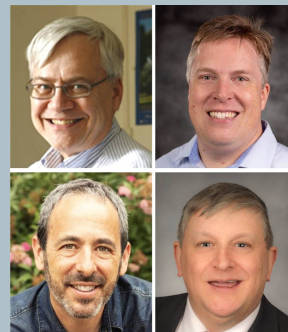
September 10 features Dr. Stephen Kantrowitz's talk on the Ho-Chunk Nation's experiences as citizens of a stolen land.

Dr. Patrick Jung will speak on the old Military Road as a key

frontier thoroughfare with weighty ramifications.

The series is funded in part by the Chipstone Foundation; the Museum at the Portage; and Wisconsin Humanities, with funds from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the State of Wisconsin.\*

\*Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this project do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.



## THE TRAIL OF LIVING HISTORY WINDS THROUGH TIME

The Galena Living History Society is producing a fantastic living history presentation to supplement our season theme. On September 21, come and "travel" with these skilled reenactors on the trail of history, exploring the Agency House's intriguing journey through time.

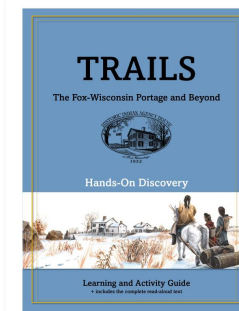
On June 1-2, the Historical Timekeepers will provide on-site living history ambiance as you tour the Agency House.

These living history enhancements are included in regular tour admission (free for members, veterans, and active military).



## HANDS-ON DISCOVERY

What's so special about the Fox-Wisconsin portaging trail? What were Wisconsin's Native trails like in 1832? What happened on the Ho-Chunk Treaty Trail? Find out with our free online learning and activity guide:



[www.agencyhouse.org/trails-curriculum](http://www.agencyhouse.org/trails-curriculum)

Families and educators who visit for events or tours may pick up a free printed and bound copy of the *Trails* learning guide, funded with a grant from the Community Foundation of South Central Wisconsin.

## PRESERVING THE PAST

We are grateful to those who are supporting our ongoing preservation efforts. The Wisconsin Federation of Museums funded vital collections preservation supplies. A specialty museum vac for cleaning our historic textiles was procured with funds from the WI Historical Society (Council for Local History) and the Community Foundation of South Central Wisconsin. A large grant from the Cissy VD Bryson Fund at the Greater Milwaukee Foundation in memory of Cissy Van Dyke Scannell Bryson came at just the right time to help us address several of the most pressing preservation demands of our 192-year-old historic house. Thank you!

## KIDS' TRAILS ADVENTURE



Kids ages 5-10 will have a blast learning, exploring, and discovering at our "Trails" outdoor workshop for kids on June 8 from 1-3 pm. Volunteer educators will guide kids (and their accompanying responsible adults) through various areas of our trail system, investigating ecology, history, and even art. Wear clothes that can get dirty, as well as comfortable shoes for hiking. Pre-registration for this free event is required, as spaces are limited. Plus...

### ...FREE EXPLORER BACKPACKS

Children who participate in the "Trails" workshop will each receive a free backpack filled with fantastic explorer tools and resources, such as binoculars, magnifiers, a comprehensive field guide, art materials, and more. These STEAM backpacks have been generously funded with grants from the H. L. Palmer Masonic Angel Fund and the Kohler Foundation.