

# Colonial Dames Adorn Indian Agency House

## Project at Portage Is Nearly Done

Plants, Shrubs and Garden of 1830 Style to Be Planted.

IRIS plants brought from Mount Vernon, where they were planted originally by George Washington; an old herb garden, fragrant in the early morning with the savories and medicinal plants of our great-grandmother's time; clumps of hollyhocks, and lilacs, and the pot pourri of sweet william, phlox and mignonette which made the garden of a hundred years ago; and a timeworn split rail snake fence—these are some of the things which will shortly make the grounds of the old Indian agency house at Portage as authentic in character, and as quaint in its charm as the interior of the little white frame house now is.

For almost two years the Society of Colonial Dames in the State of Wisconsin has been working on the restoration of the old state landmark, and now, with the interior of the house almost complete as to the decorations and furnishings, the society is making plans for the landscaping. Mrs. Alfred F. James is chairman of the grounds committee, with Mrs. George A. Carhart, Mrs. Bryant Smith and Mrs. L. Tilghman Boyd assisting her.

### Around the Fence

The old split rail fence surrounding the house will have clumps of lilacs at its front gate, flanked on either side with informal plantings of wild roses. Low shrubs and berry bushes, native to the state, will border the fence on either side, and across the back of the lot there will be a tall, swaying lilac hedge.

In the "historical memories" garden at the back of the house will be the irises from Mount Vernon and some lilies of the valley which Mrs. A. K. Kimball of Green Bay, grandmother of Mrs. George A. Carhart, had sent to her in her youth from her old home in Massachusetts. There will also be some roses, grown from plants brought from Ireland over 80 years ago, a few historical peony plants given by Miss May Houghton, and a valley lily plant of interesting history brought from Philadelphia by Mrs. Clinton Frye.

The little old fashioned flower garden at the back of the house, the wild flower garden, with a backing of tall ferns, the small herb plot, and an old-fashioned well, will further complete the picture, according to Mrs. James' plans.

### Picture of the 1830's

Even last summer, visitors to the Agency house felt that its interior represented a thoroughly authentic and quite complete picture of a home of the 1830's—but the Colonial Dames, determined not to stop until they have made the landmark homelike and livable-looking in every detail, have gone right on with their work. Visitors this summer will find several new pieces in the various rooms.

There is an old sideboard, said to have been made for Jefferson Davis, in the dining room, and, in another lower room, a small "rockee"—one of those combination chair and cradle rockers of a hundred years ago—given by Mrs. Charles Fawsett. A chest of drawers, a day bed, some small tables and chairs, quantities of old lustre ware and Lowestoft china, several copper kettles and an old wash stand, all definitely dating from before 1830, are some of the other new acquisitions.

### Bedroom Nearly Done

The Antiquarian society of Wisconsin has taken the bedroom at the head of the stairs as its special project, and is going ahead on plans to furnish it.

The upstairs bedroom being furnished by the Society of Mayflower Descendants is almost complete, and yet in no sense a museum room. Infinite small details make it thoroughly homelike. On the small table beside the bed is a copy of a book on agriculture, dated 1830, and on its opened pages lies a pair of spectacles which had once belonged to Mrs. Carl Rix's great-grandfather, and which were given by her to the house.

The bed itself is of sturdy old construction, with the old rope interlacings which used to serve in place of springs, a husk mattress, and an old quilt counterpane given by Miss Jennie Mallory, of the authentic "grandmother's rose garden" design.

All the furniture in the room, including the bed, was made in Wisconsin prior to 1830—the maple ladderback chair and chest, the cherry wash stand, and the small pine chair.

A great part of the charm in the downstairs living rooms derives from the open fireplaces, with their restored mantels. The mantel in the living room was presented to the house by the Girl Scouts of the Great Lakes

region in memory of Juliette Low, founder of the Girl Scouts of America, and a granddaughter of John and Juliet Kinzie, who built the house. The dining room mantel was given in memory of the late Mrs. James P. Brown, the first treasurer of the Agency house, and the kitchen mantel was dedicated to Ada M. Baker, from whom the Colonial Dames purchased the house in 1930.



# Grounds, With Loving Care

SUNDAY, MARCH 12, 1933



INDIAN AGENCY HOUSE, Portage, Wis., from a photo by Laura M. Maltbey.

JUNE 27, 1933  
Indian House Talk <sup>3</sup><sub>350</sub>  
on Women's Feature

One of Wisconsin's historic shrines, the old Indian Agency house at Portage, Wis., will be the subject of a talk by Mrs. John L. Barchard of the National Society of Colonial Dames when she speaks over WTMJ Wednesday on the "Woman's Point of View." The story of the origin, romance and present purpose of the house will be related by Mrs. Barchard. The "Woman's Point of View" is heard at 2:15 p. m. daily. The week's schedule follows:

Monday—Mrs. Edward J. Pillsbury of New Orleans, national chairman of radio committee of General Federation of Women's Clubs.

Tuesday—Prof. George Bojanowski, former director of the Warsaw symphony, who is in America to direct Polish musical programs at the Century of Progress. He will be introduced by Dr. Krolovna.

Wednesday—Mrs. John L. Barchard on Portage's "Indian Agency House."

Thursday—"What's New in the Art World," by Charlotte Partridge, director of the Layton Art gallery and art school.

Friday—Book Review Period, with Floyd Van Vuren, literary editor of The Journal.

Saturday—Industrial Series. "The Story of Ice Cream," by Charles Fenlon, vice president and general manager of Verifine Dairy Products.



# Century Old Book to Save H

*Vivacious Little Bride Who Was First Mistress of 'Agency House' at Portage, Wrote Account of Her Adventures, Which Now Is to Be Reprinted to Provide Funds for Landmark*

**I**F THE movement to preserve the old Agency House at Portage is successful, it will be due in great part to the personality of its first mistress.

She was Mrs. John A. Kinzie, who came as a bride in 1830 to old Fort Winnebago with her husband who had been named Indian agent. In 1831, while the Kinzies were living at Fort Winnebago, the agency house was built, part of it under direction of Mrs. Kinzie while her husband was away from home.

The girl wife who came to the log fort in the wilderness must have been an ardent, vivid little creature. For the book in which in later years she wrote her experiences in the wilder-

ness is one of Wisconsin's most colorful historical documents.

It is called "Wau-Bun," which is Ojibway for "The Dawn." Dedicated to the Hon. Lewis Cass, and illustrated with sketches by the author, it was published in 1855. For many years it has been out of print.

Now, members of the American Association of University Women plan to publish a memorial edition of "Wau-Bun," the proceeds to be applied on the purchase price of the land on which the Agency House stands.

Fort Winnebago, which was on the opposite side of the portage from the Agency House, has long since disappeared, so the house where the author of "Wau-Bun" lived, is today all that remains to recall the interesting series of events at Fort Winnebago in the early thirties.



Two stories high, 30 by 24 feet, with an attached kitchen wing, it stands exactly as it did in the days when Mrs. Kinzie moved her piano and her mahogany furniture into its long living room and felt herself a queen in the wilderness. Until a short time ago the house was occupied, and builders who have examined its rafters, sills and studding, say that with proper care the old house may be preserved for many years.

The suggestion has come from Charles E. Brown of the state historical society that the Agency House be made a repository of historical objects connected with Fort Winnebago.

If it becomes public property it will be placed in the condition and setting in which it was when Mrs. Kinzie lived in it. A circle of trees similar to the one she planted will be set out, and as nearly as possible it will be brought back to "Wau-Bun" days.



# Home of Writer



IT WAS on an October afternoon in 1830 that Mr. and Mrs. Kinzie left their little craft at Fort Winnebago after a long voyage by steamer from Detroit to Green Bay and by canoe up the Fox, accompanied for part of the journey by Judge Doty. Maj. Twiggs, in command at the fort, made them welcome and insisted hospitably, that they take up their residence for the time being in quarters on the opposite side of the hall from his own.

The lively little Mrs. Kinzie hurried to inspect her new home. She laughed over the huge bed which she said was "big enough to accommodate Og, the king of Bashan, and Mrs. Og and the children into the bargain."

It was in this sleeping room that Mrs. Kinzie found the huge "press," constructed by Lieut. Jefferson Davis and which she, an easterner and used to built-in closets instead of movable wardrobes, immediately christened a "Davis."

Almost at once she found herself in the midst of unconventional situations. The Winnebago chief, Four Legs, had just died and throughout the day and during all of the first night, "the sound of instruments, mingled with doleful lamentations and with discordant whoops and yells filled the air," she says.

"To these were added occasionally the plaintive sounds of the Indian flute, upon which the young savage plays when he is in love. Grief and whisky had made their hearts tender and the woods resounded to the melancholy strains."

Early the next morning, the be-reaved squaw and her kinswomen made a formal call upon their "Mama" as they called the young wife of the Indian agent. And after breakfast the principal chieftains of the Winnebagoes waited upon their new "mother," some of them dressed in all the finery of beads and feathers and silver bracelets that they could muster.

The little bride watched with dis-

may the ashes falling from the long pipes of the Indians as they squatted on the floor. "What is to become of my pretty carpet, if this is the way they are to act when they call upon me?" she wondered.

A little later came the Canadians and the half breed women. By this time the piano, brought on a flat boat

from Green Bay, had been unloaded and set up in the temporary quarters.

"Eh-h-h! Regardez donc! Quelles merveilles!" they ejaculated.

Mrs. Kinzie played for the astonished women. And one of them, seeing the reflection of her fingers in the name board, thought she had discovered the hidden machinery by which the sounds were produced.

IN A FEW days the boats with the furniture arrived, causing great excitement at the fort. The young officers volunteered to unload the cargoes and, eager to see once more the kind of furnishings they had left behind in their homes, opened the boxes. In place, the handsome sideboard, the soft carpet, the knick knacks on the mantelpiece, the white curtains and the dining table and chairs made the former bare room seem a palace to men hungry for the accompaniments of civilization.

The little bride, on her part, was as thrilled with the ways of the wilderness. The first Indian payment at which she was present, was like a drama, the actors not merely "Indians" but interesting people.

It was then that she became acquainted with the "Washington Woman," so called because she had once accompanied her husband on a visit to the president.

"She had a pleasant, old acquaintance sort of air in greeting me," Mrs. Kinzie wrote, "as though to say 'You and I have seen something of the world.'"

When Mrs. Kinzie displayed articles at sight of which the other Indian women clasped their hands in ecstasy, the Washington Woman's manner plainly said, "Yes, yes, children, but I have seen all of these things before."

In the first winter Mrs. Kinzie helped welcome a new baby in the family of the commanding officer across the hall and in February, with her husband, she set out for Chicago on horseback, a most difficult journey and one which tested the good sportsmanship of those who made it.

WHEN the Kinzies, several months later, returned to Fort Winnebago, they decided since there had been an influx of married officers, it was best to take up quarters in the "agency," which was the old log barracks, built for the officers and soldiers when the fort was erected two years before.

"It was surprising how soon a comfortable, homelike air was given to the old dilapidated rooms, by a few Indian mats spread upon the floor," Mrs. Kinzie wrote, "the piano and other pieces of furniture ranged in appropriate places and a few pictures hung against the logs."



But the new house for the agency was already underway, a building consisting of a parlor and two bedrooms on the ground floor, two low chambers under the roof and a kitchen in the rear. "It seemed a palace," wrote Mrs. Kinzie.

Before the new house was completed Mr. Kinzie received notice that money—some \$15,000—for the coming Indian payment, was at Detroit. He was obliged to leave at once to superintend its transportation. "Content yourself in the old quarters until I return," he said, as he bade his wife goodby. "When I come back we will soon have things in order."

But how was an eager, enthusiastic woman to wait? The canoe had hardly gotten out of sight before she ran to where the workmen were busy. "The logs are out and hauled," she said.

"The squaws have brought bark for the roof. What is to prevent our finishing the house and getting moved and settled to surprise Monsieur John on his return?"

"To be sure, Madam John," replied the carpenter, "provided the one who plants a green bough on the chimney-top is to have a treat!"

One day, before it was time for Mr. Kinzie to return, his wife received a summons to come to the new house. There was the carpenter astride a small keg on the roof, close beside the kitchen chimney on the very summit of which he had planted a green bough. "To this he held fast with one hand while he exultantly waved the other and called out to Madame John, asking for his promised treat!"

COOKING in the "new" house which is the "old" agency house of today, was done at a fireplace. In a rain the fire would become extinguished, and since the bark on the roof in a pelting rain failed to do its duty, the dwellers in the house were often deluged, beside being compelled to eat cold food. "But in spite of these adverse circumstances, we enjoyed our new quarters exceedingly," the mistress of the new house wrote.

The Indian women brought their "mother" presents, wooden bowls and venison and berries, and a fawn that became a family pet. From the new house she viewed Indian dances. She planted a vegetable garden, setting out currant bushes brought from Chicago tied in a bundle at the back of the carriage.

The first improvement that suggested itself after Mr. Kinzie's return was the removal of a circle of unsightly pickets about some Indian graves in front of the house.

"Such was the reverence in which these burial places are held," said Mrs. Kinzie, "that we felt we must approach the subject with great delicacy and consideration."

Communicating with relatives of the Indians buried there, they finally se-

cured permission to replace the pickets with a neat platform about a foot high. "It was touching," she wrote, "to witness the mournful satisfaction with which two or three old crones would come regularly every evening at sunset to sit and gossip over the ashes of their departed relatives. On moonlight nights, too, there might often be seen a group sitting there and enjoying a solemn hour for they believe that "the moon was made to give light to the dead."

WHENEVER one of the Indians died, it was customary for a deputation to visit the agent, asking for presents to "help them dry their tears."

One day shortly after the payment, Mr. Kinzie received such a request. An Indian had been fishing and having taken too much "whiskey" had fallen in the water and been drowned. Nothing had been found but his blanket.

"Their father," writes Mrs. Kinzie, "presented them with tobacco, knives, calico and looking glasses, and from some trader they procured a keg of whisky. Then, assembled in a circle about the keg not far from the scene of the catastrophe they commenced their mourning. The more they drank the more clamorous became their grief.

"In the midst of these demonstrations, a bent and muddy figure, staggered into the circle. With a countenance full of sympathy the newcomer asked who was dead.

"Who is dead?" they repeated. "Why, you're dead. You were drowned in Swan lake. Did we not find your blanket? Sit down and help us mourn." The old man did not wait for a second invitation, but proceeded to drink and weep and lament as bitterly as any of them."

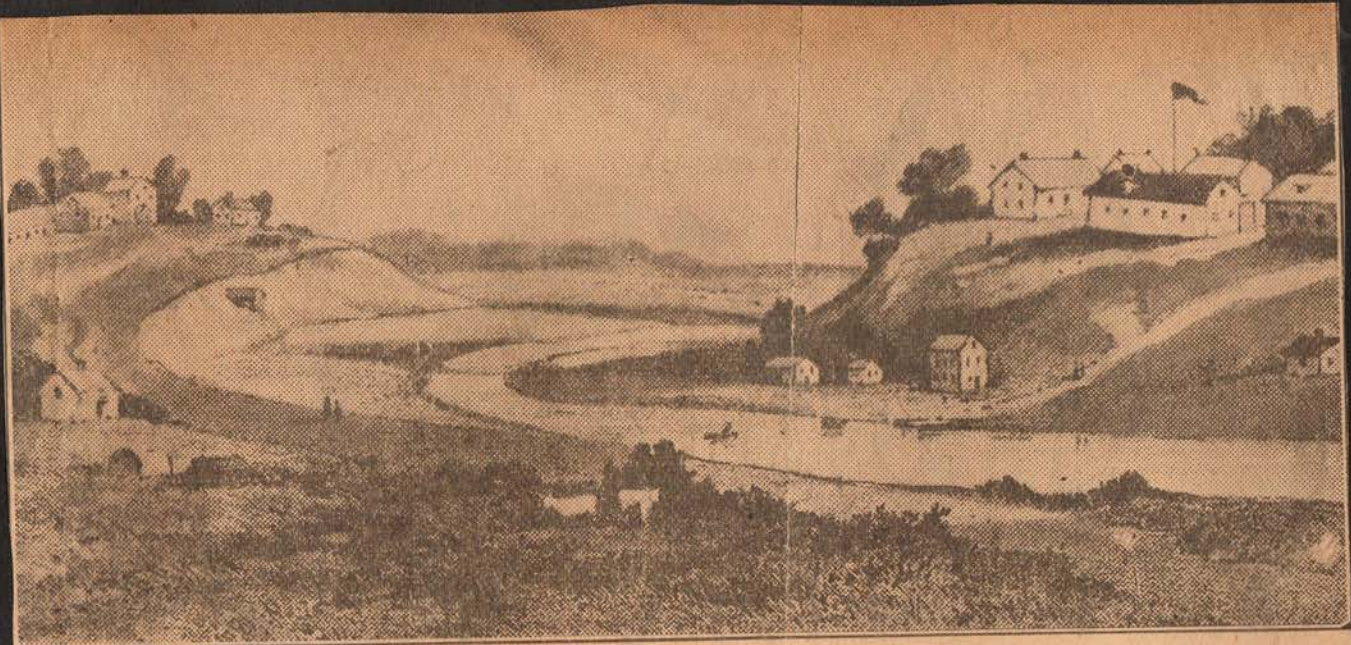
THE Sauk war took place while the Kinzies were living in their new house, and the cession of the Winnebago lands to the government, and the surrender of Winnebagoes accused of depredations, to be tried by white man's law. Mrs. Kinzie describes dramatically the picture of the Indian procession on the portage road with the prisoners, dressed in white cotton, in token of their innocence, in the midst of the train.

And she tells of a scalp dance in the moonlight in front of the agency house. And of the escape of the Indian prisoners. And of the famine that overtook both whites and Indians in the spring of 1833 when the government failed to send supplies, and of the ecstasy of people of both colors when the boats laden with corn were seen in the river.

Finally she tells of the sorrow of the Winnebagoes when on July 1, 1833, she and her husband and their baby bid goodby to Fort Winnebago and left for Chicago. "You will never come back to see your brothers again," an old chief said to the baby, tears coursing down his cheeks.

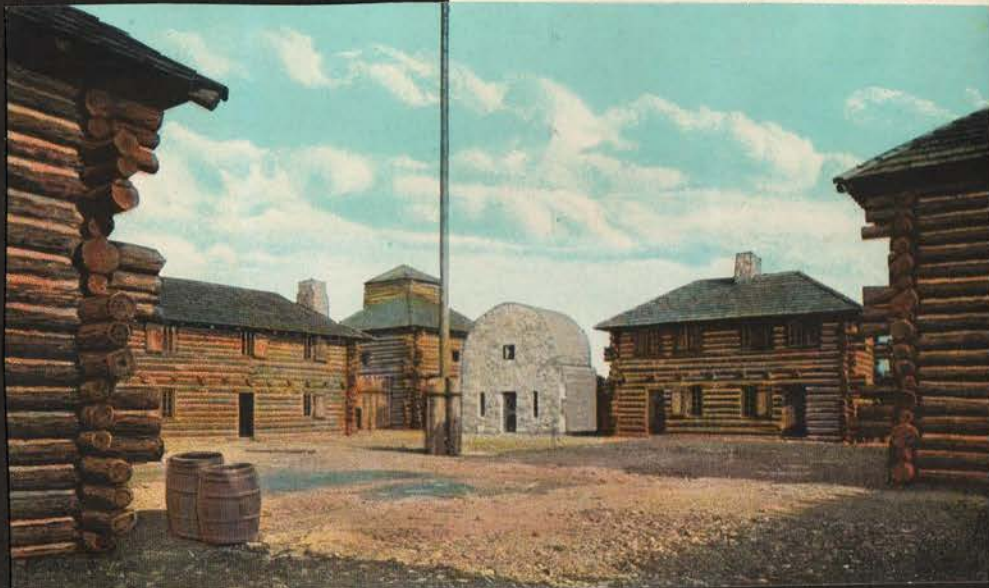
Groups of Indians accompanied their "father" and "mother" across the portage. "When we were well on our way we could see the procession winding along the road and hear their lamentations at a parting which they foresaw would be forever," is the last sentence in Wisconsin's most vivid story of pioneer days.





*Fort Winnebago as it appeared in 1831, from an illustration in Mrs. Kinzie's book, "Wau-Bun"*

INTERIOR VIEW, FORT DEARBORN, CHICAGO WORLD'S FAIR





# Historic Old Road Marked by D.A.R.

## Iron Signs Now Point Out Highway Completed by Soldiers in 1838

By SARAH W. ROBERTS

State Journal Correspondent

PORTAGE — Three iron markers, tracing the course of the old Military road through Columbia county, were placed Thursday, exactly 100 years after the building of the road was authorized by congress.

The markers, the first to be placed at any points along the historic old road, which was built while Wisconsin still was a part of the Northwest territory, was placed by Wau Bun, Portage chapter of the D. A. R. Other chapters of the organization are expected to follow suit.

The road ran from Fort Howard at Green Bay to Fort Crawford at Prairie du Chien by the way of Fort Winnebago, which was on the site of the present city of Portage.

### Road Never Marked

For years the road has gone unmarked, and unnoticed. Few who have ridden along its winding route have known that this road played a role of paramount importance in the making of Wisconsin, that it was built by soldiers under enormous difficulties, that it was completed long before Wisconsin became a state, and that it was the only means of land transportation between the three forts that were then the only outposts of civilization in a vast, new country where a few men of vision were attempting to build a state from a wilderness infested with savages.

Now that the work of preserving the traditions of the old Military road has begun, Wau Bun chapter believes that other chapters and organizations in the counties through which the road runs will take up the work and place markers so that along the entire 236 miles of the highway travellers will be aware of the significance of the route and will be reminded of the courage, the bravery, and perseverance of its builders who made the first trail through the virgin woods for the subsequent settling of the state.

### Dedication Ceremonies

Dedication ceremonies near the site of Old Fort Winnebago Thursday mark a line of two periods in the history of the road, the time of its establishment and that of its preservation.

Early travel from 1673 when Marquette and his band of explorers went through Wisconsin to the Mississippi till the building of the Military road, was solely by water. The Indians only had trails through the woods.

Years later in 1827 after three men, James Duane Doty, later governor, Morgan L. Martin one of the founders of Portage, and Henry S. Baird, pushed through the wilderness on a surveying party and found Fort Winnebago, the people of Green Bay petitioned congress to establish a road between the two forts. Three years later when the appropriation was made, Doty and Lt. Alexander Center, began surveying. They took two years to complete the laying out of the road.

Work actually started when commanders of the three forts were ordered to put soldiers to work on constructing an overland route from Fort Howard to Fort Crawford by way of Fort Winnebago. In the fall of 1835 the road from Winnebago to the Mississippi was completed. It was called a road—actually it was only two rod strips marked by stakes across the prairie and a strip the same width cut through the timber.

Rude bridges were built across creeks and rivers and the marshes were corduroyed, or filled in with logs. Great difficulties were encountered in the extreme north where the soldiers took two years to cut through the dense hardwood forests, but the road was completed and open by 1838.

Travellers over the well surfaced road today, seeing the markers, might marvel at what they called a road then. Only horsemen and foot travellers could journey over it except when the ground was frozen or extremely dry. The principal function of the route was that of a guide. In rainy weather, it was so bad once that an innkeeper, James Evans who lived along the road on what is now the principal street of Fond du Lac, after heavy rains, once threw a man's hat and boots into the mud, and called on some men near to rescue the "drowning man."

### Road a Boon

However bad, the road was a boon to early settlers for it was the only land route. For a long time as the only means of communication between posts, it played a large part in the forming and developing of Wisconsin. It was later the scene of the exciting "Green Bay Races" as settlers hurried over its rough surface to stake homestead claims at the land office which was at Green Bay.

That the road was built by soldiers, representing the use of army for civil construction, is noteworthy, and the markers were set, not only to point out a historic route but to commemorate the hardships suffered by its builders. Many lives were lost, as lonely graves along the way bear witness. Through a trackless wilderness soldiers of the three forts blazed a trail. They were attacked by savages when far from the fort and without shelter.

Swarms of insects besieged them while working through dismal swamps. Records of many desertions during the building of the road show the character of the men who accomplished the work.

The markers, if other counties follow Columbia's step, will blaze a blue and gold trail along the famous route. Made of iron, with blue coloring and gold lettering burned into the metal, they stand as permanent monuments. The color and height of four feet make them easily discernible. Mrs. H. J. Puffer, chairman of the Landmarks committee of the local D. A. R. chapter designed the mold, that of the D. A. R. emblem surmounting a cross which bears the dates of the road's completion and of its preservation.

### County Co-operates

Through the co-operation of the county board, the county highway commissioner, and their committee and J. T. Henton, county financial assistance, the landmarks committee was able to carry out its plans formulated two years ago. The three markers placed mark the road from the old fort north to the county line at Dalton. The committee expects to mark the route south to North Leeds by next year.

With soldiers from company F standing guard and fitting ceremony, the Old Military road was dedicated Thursday. A bugle call, followed by the singing of America by the assembly and invocation by the Rev. J. V. Berger, opened the program.

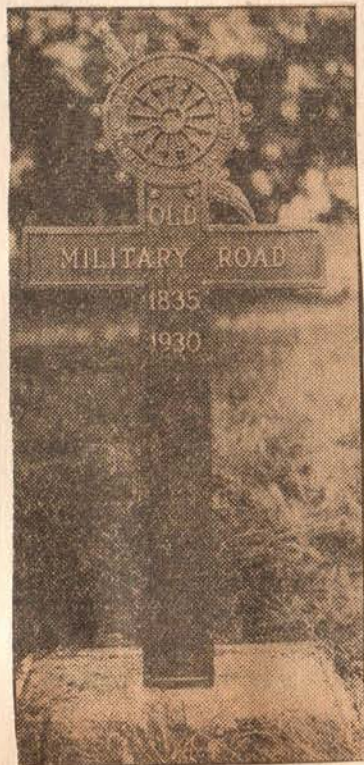


Elizabeth Paterson, daughter of one of the chapter members, unveiled the marker. H. B. Rogers gave the address and told of the history of the road, pointing out its traditions that should be preserved.

**Quartet Sings**

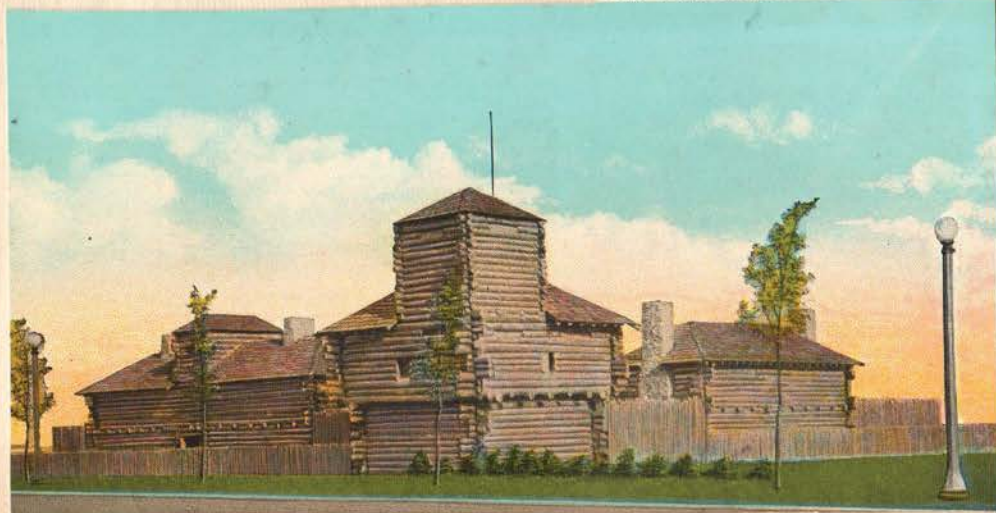
The Portage ladies' quartet, composed of Mrs. C. J. Kutzke, Mrs. D. W. Billings, Mrs. Claire Capron and Mrs. W. B. McMahon sang "Tenting Tonight" and "Star Spangled Banner."

Dr. Louise Phelps Kellog, head of the state historical library, spoke. She commented upon efforts being made in Wisconsin to preserve other roads. She also told of the significance to history of the Old Military road. Benediction by Mr. Berger closed the program.



THIS IS THE LOW HOUSE IN SAVANNAH GEORGIA, NOW HEADQUARTERS OF STATE COLONIAL JAMES THACKERY VISITED THERE IN 1855. SULLIETTE KINZIE MARRIED SON OF FAMILY AND LIVED HERE. HENRIETTA TURNER CONNECTION OF THE KINZIES SENT POSTAL

FORT DEARBORN, CHICAGO WORLD'S FAIR







The early summer was noted for a number of special occasions that gathered large groups of people for the celebrations of anniversaries, unveiling of markers, and memorial observances. The unveiling, May 18, of the marker near Appleton at the site of the Treaty of the Cedars, wherein was purchased four million acres between the Wolf and Menominee rivers was a notable event. Descendants of Chief Oshkosh, who signed the treaty, were present, one of whom unveiled the tablet. Peter La Mott made an address in Menominee, which was translated by Frank Gauthier.

He said in part:

Through me the dead chiefs speak—they who sold this land to my white brothers 100 years ago. For us the river was but a path. It was a pure path winding through the woods. There were great pine, balsam, hemlock, and spruce along our path, and also the smaller poplar and birch. The shadows of these trees fell across our path as we paddled in the river. We knew all its turnings, all its sandbars and waterfalls, the places where the beaver were plentiful, the places where the trout ran, and the places where the deer came down the woods to drink. This was our river path, and whenever we wished to drink of it we could do so, for the water was pure and there was no evil anywhere. . . . My white brothers bought our path and our woods 100 years ago, for they saw in our river not a path but a power to be harnessed for work. . . . Our tribe used the river for a path when we traveled; and your tribe used the river for power, for you need not travel. You have arrived. This is the end of the road.

As an example of Indian eloquence this address is worth preservation.







3504

*Marquette and Joliet entering the Mississippi, 1673. The discovery of the Upper Mississippi followed a long voyage of these early explorers by canoe up the Fox and down the Wisconsin river to its confluence with the Mississippi.*



Old Ft. Winnebago

Portage Wis



## Alumna Assists In Restoration of Wisconsin Landmark

The restoration of the old Indian Agency House at Portage, Wisconsin, a fascinating landmark of early days in that part of the country, was completed last fall by the National Society of Colonial Dames in Wisconsin, of which Mrs. Arthur T. Holbrook (Bertha Andrews, '96) is president.

went through five editions, and a sixth, edited by Dr. Louise P. Kellogg, is now on sale.

Aside from historic interest, the house is worth preserving architecturally, with its well proportioned rooms, old time windows of twenty-four panes of glass, interesting stairways and moldings. The work of refinishing and refurnishing the old house was no slight task. Even the walls were scraped down carefully until enough of the design of the original wall-paper was uncovered to guide the artists in redesigning the

Do you know the first thing Hat-suko (Furuhashi) said as we greeted here on the pier? 'Oh, it all seems as though it were a dream.' She came in to substitute for a few weeks and after spring vacation she is to have the four year old group at Castle, Grace (Fukao) has her own school and has many children I hear. I haven't been able to get to see her, but hope to soon. She is going on to Tokyo soon. The day after Hatsuko arrived Aunt Grace Livingston had us all over. The result was all over. The original wall-paper was uncovered to guide the artists in redesigning the

ing there now. Ethel Smith and her fourth grade are doing the Orient and an exhibit of some of the animals in States. The bulletin, 1932 No. 9, may be secured from the Office of Education, Dept. of the Interior, Washington, D.C. An article by Miss Baker on the College demonstration nursery schools at Hull House and in the Children's School, Evanston, is included in the bulletin, and several photos from these schools are used.

## Old Treasures Given to Agency at Portage

Handsome Blue Bedspread of 1829,  
Pewter Lamp, Writing Desk and  
Rare Blue Pitcher Are Donated by  
Milwaukee Women to Indian Post

HISTORY in its full American panorama lives in the old Indian Agency at Portage, Wisconsin. A handsome, soft blue bedspread of 1829, a pewter candle lamp, a writing desk and a rare blue pitcher are among the old things contributed by Milwaukee women to the Indian Post. The agency was founded in 1822 at Skokie and as Billy Burke did in 1931 at Inverness, Wisconsin. But Armour and Mac Smith seem to have the inside track. Sarazen, as holder of the British American open crowns, is one of the half dozen home breads who will be caught with keen interest in their fight to keep the title a selfish home people used and handsome, soft blue bedspread, a pewter candle lamp, a beautiful old Indian Agency writing desk and a rare blue pitcher are among the old things contributed by Milwaukee women to the Indian Post. The agency was founded in 1822 at Skokie and as Billy Burke did in 1931 at Inverness, Wisconsin. But Armour and Mac Smith seem to have the inside track. Sarazen, as holder of the British American open crowns, is one of the half dozen home breads who will be caught with keen interest in their fight to keep the title a selfish home people used and handsome, soft blue bedspread, a pewter candle lamp, a beautiful old Indian Agency writing desk and a rare blue pitcher are among the old things contributed by Milwaukee women to the Indian Post.

Goodman Looks Good  
Not a long hitter as hitters go, Goodman's wood game has been helped considerably here by the baked fatways, already lined a crispy brown by the sizzling sun the last three days. Drives that were stopping little over 200 yards last week are rolling an additional 75 to 100 yards, thus simplifying the long par four holes. They're drives and irons now, whereas last week they were drives and brassies.

X. Laffon of Denver.  
his golf bag, with a 71 to tie with K. man of Omaha, hardly bigger than to Armour came wee Johnny Good-best figure recorded Tuesday. Next 69, 72, 73 and 70—the 70 being the holes he has played. Rounds were a 284 total, four under par, in the 72 are game, was panned the par for

ated Press Photo  
(III), north





### Alumna Assists In Restoration of Wisconsin Landmark

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The project was originally sponsored by the Wisconsin Federation of Women's Clubs and other allied groups, but was turned over to the Colonial Dames two years ago, and through their efforts funds were raised for the purchase, restoration and furnishing of the house, which stands on a hill opposite the site of the old frontier Fort Winnebago, facing the famous portage which connected the Fox and Wisconsin rivers and which Joliet and Marquette crossed in 1673.

The house was built by the government just a hundred years ago, for the use of U. S. Indian Agent, Captain John H. Kinzie, the son of the original white settler in the Chicago area. Jefferson Davis, William Hamilton, the son of Alexander Hamilton, Zachary Taylor, and other prominent men were frequent visitors at this home, and while living there Mrs. Kinzie obtained material for her delightful book, "Wau Bun," which in Ojibway means "The Early Day." The book, first published in 1856,

went through five editions, and a sixth, edited by Dr. Louise P. Kellogg, is now on sale.

Aside from historic interest, the house is worth preserving architecturally, with its well proportioned rooms, old time windows of twenty-four panes of glass, interesting stairways and moldings. The work of refinishing and refurbishing the old house was no slight task. Even the walls were scraped down carefully until enough of the design of the original wall-paper was uncovered to guide the artists in redesigning the wall covering. The result well repays the painstaking labor, and no one should miss an opportunity of paying a visit to this historic landmark. The house is always open and during the spring and summer months luncheon will be served daily.

The closing sentence of the prayer offered at the ceremony of dedication by the Rev. Paul B. Jenkins, expresses very beautifully the underlying thought of the undertaking:

"And so we ask Thy blessing upon our dedication of this place to the memory of our pioneer forefathers and mothers, to the preservation of the remembrance of what manner of men and women they were; and to the blessing of our children for all generations to come, that they may not forget, but may remember with appreciation and gratitude that this Nation was begotten of faith and founded in liberty and righteousness and trust in Thee."



OLD INDIAN AGENCY HOUSE, PORTAGE, WIS.

## Old Treasures Given to Agency at Portage

### Handsome Blue Bedspread of 1829 Pewter Lamp, Writing Desk and Rare Blue Pitcher Are Donated by Milwaukee Women to Indian Post

HISTORY in its full American panorama lives again in the things that people used and loved as the country grew. A handsome, soft blue and white wool bedspread of 1829, a pewter camphine lamp, a writing desk and a beautiful old blue pitcher were taken to the Old Indian Agency house at Portage on Monday by the Colonial Dames of Wisconsin and added to the other old pieces there. These new gifts of old things contribute immeasurably to the atmosphere of the old home's day and age.

The camphine lamp—one of the earliest forms of lamps used in this country—was given to the Agency house by Grant Fitch, and Mrs. Fitch gave the fine old mahogany writing desk, pearl inlaid which matches a sewing box given by Mrs. Charles H. Parsons, also of Milwaukee.

The desk belonged to Elida Denison, Albany, N. Y., a great-aunt of Mrs. Fitch's father, Robert Eliot. When Mrs. Fitch opened it, the desk contained letters written before the postal system was established. The letters had no stamps.

#### In Patriotic Design

The spread, done in floral and patriotic design, was the gift of Mrs. Howard Agnew Johnston. Worked into the spread with the American eagle is the inscription which forms part of the design—"American Independence Declared July 4, 1776. Woven 1829. W. M." The wool for the spread was grown on the sheep belonging to Mrs. Johnston's grandfather and was spun, dyed and woven under her grandmother's supervision on their farm at Burnut Hills, Saratoga county, New York.

The blue pitcher was given by Miss Alice Chapman. Also with these gifts were taken the two silver fork wedding gifts of John and Juliette Kinzie, which have been in Milwaukee since they were donated—at the house's dedication last fall—by Arthur Kinzie Gordon Savannah, Ga., a grandson of the Kinzies.

The Colonial Dames drove to Portage after a luncheon given for them by Mrs. Hobart Johnston, Madison at her Maple Bluff home. After their arrival in Portage the Dames had "open house" and tea was served in the little hostess house on the historic grounds.

#### Landscape Is Improved

A number of the women, who had not visited the agency since the Wisconsin group dedicated the restored house last November, found that its landscape is beginning to have the appearance it knew when Juliette Kinzie planted trees, shrubbery and flowers there 100 years ago. It was then that she and her husband, Capt. John, first Indian agent at the portage, came to the wilderness to make their home.

The lawn is now surrounded with an ancient rail fence, with picturesque wooden gates at the front and side entrances and on the lawn have been placed rustic chairs and a table. Lilac bushes, pine trees and flower grow near by, planted by the Colonial Dames and their friends.

Present at the open house were Meses. Bernard M. Palmer, John Rexford, Janesville; Irving Seaman, Henry E. Judd, Haskell Noyes, George Manierre, George P. Miller, Grant Fitch, Joseph W. Simpson, T. W. Spence, Ralph E. Newton, George L. Graves, George B. Miller, James Trottmann, Misses Jennie Mallory, Caroline and Bessie Greene.



# AWARD PRIZES FOR ESSAYS ON AGENCY HOUSE

## Presentations Made to Winners by Chapter Regent Mrs. H. J. Puffer

Mary Helen Murphy and Carol Heinze, whose essays on "The Old Indian Agency House," were selected as the best of all those submitted by the 8th grade class in American history, last Friday were awarded prizes by Wau-Bun chapter, D. A. R. who sponsored the essay contest.

Presentation of "Wau-Bun," Mrs. Kinzie's book about the Agency, as first prize to Marry Helen Murphy and a book "The Surrender of Red Bird," second prize, to Carol Heinz, was made by Mrs. H. J. Puffer, regent of the Portage D. A. R. chapter, at a program held at the school.

Mrs. Puffer, in a talk on the agency house, and Red Bird, made a plea for an understanding of the Winnebago Chief's motives for the massacres which preceded his famous surrender. Although a friend of the white men, Red Bird was selected against his wishes to commit the bloodshed, she said.

The details of the brave surrender of the handsome Indian chief on the spot east of Portage where highway 33 intersects the Old Military road, were described by Mrs. Puffer. She also told of the cause of the Indian wars, the indignation of the Red Men over the loss of their lead mines and the building of Fort Winnebago. Red Bird's surrender marked the end of the wars. The Indian chief, instead of being killed was confined to the prison at Prairie du Chien, where he soon died.

### Grade Pupils' Program

Pupils of the seventh and eighth grades presented an interesting joint patriotic program which follows.

Flag Salute—School.

Song, "U. S. A. Forever" Selected Group.

Lincoln's Gettysburg Address—Clinton Davis.

Wisconsin at Gettysburg—Harold Wipperman.

Recitation, "The Flag Goes By"—Gerald Hart.

Exercise, Memorial Flowers—Four Girls.

Flag Etiquette—Thomas Scott.

Recitation, "Decoration Day"—Dwight Hoppe.

Exercise, Flanders' Field and Answer—Two Boys.

Memorial Day Exercises—14 Pupils.

Recitation, "Love of Country"—Margaret Staudenmayer.

Recitation, "No Red Without the White and Blue"—Roger Lueck.

Exercise, Flowers for our Heroes—two boys and one girl.

Son, "The Home Road"—Selected Groups.

Talk—Mr. Henkel.

Reading of first prize essay.

Reading of second prize essay.

Presentation of prizes—Mrs. Puffer.

Singing of "America."

The D. A. R. committee in charge of the contest consisted of Mrs. J. R. Paterson, chairman; Mrs. T. H. Sanderson and Mrs. H. B. Rogers. From the large number of excellent essays submitted by the eighth grade students, it was difficult to select the two best essays, the committee reported. Each student's work was almost equally as good as the next, and the task of choosing only two was almost despairing, members of the committee said, however, their choices were a shade better than the others, they finally decided.

Historical essay contests similar to this are annually conducted by Wau-Bun chapter.

## Historic Pieces Will Be Placed In Agency House

PLANS for the interior decoration of the small room which they are in process of "doing" at the Old Agency Indian house at Portage advanced another step when the members of the Wisconsin Antiquarian society held a meeting Tuesday at Mrs. Arthur Nye McGeoch's country home at Eagle, Wis. Within the next two weeks, according to the members of the committee in charge, definite action will be taken on acquiring several authentic old pieces, dating from the 1830's, the period in which the old Wisconsin landmark is being furnished throughout.

Those who were entertained by Mrs. McGeoch at luncheon Tuesday were Mes. Charles Fawcett of Oconomowoc; Mrs. Joseph Thiele of Whitewater, Mrs. William Fulton of Burlington, Mrs. Bernard Palmer, Mrs. John Haumerson and Mrs. Louis Avery of Janesville, and Mrs. Edward S. Tallmadge, Mrs. John Douglas, Mrs. Gustave Pabst Jr., Mrs. Elliott M. Ogden, Mrs. John Cudahy, Mrs. John L. Barchard and Mrs. Tessie Lou Sargent of Milwaukee.

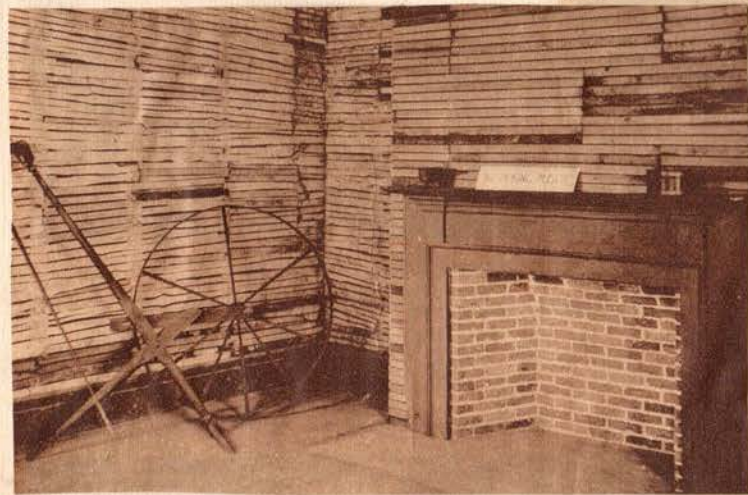




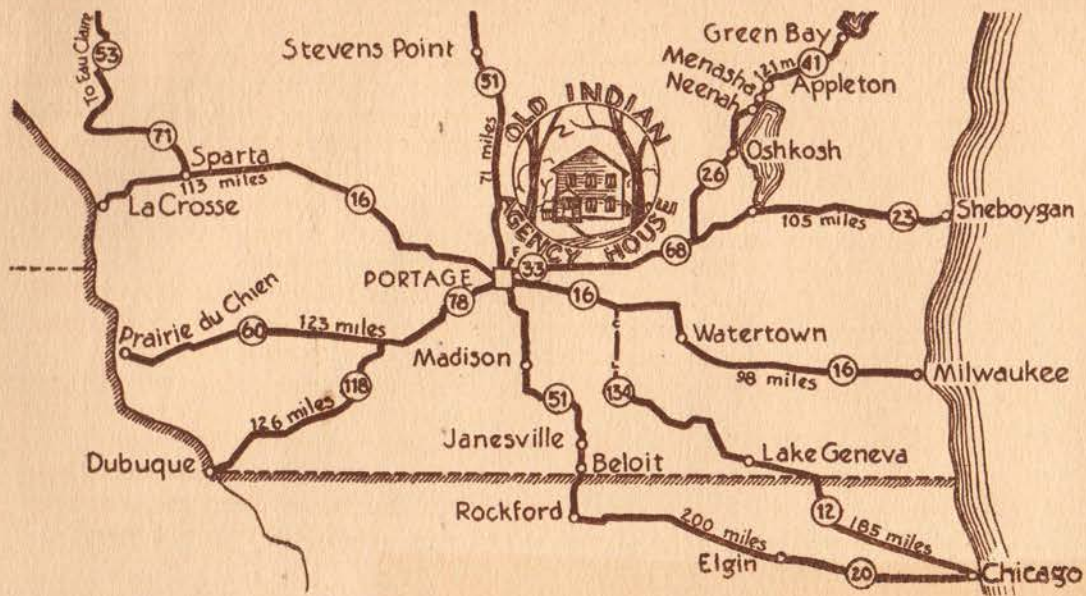
**OLD INDIAN AGENCY HOUSE, PORTAGE, WISCONSIN, BUILT IN 1832**  
Restored by The National Society of Colonial Dames in the State of Wisconsin

Dames of America have been restoring the house to its former appearance. Two interior views show the progress being made.

—Photos from Emery G. Gregory—All Rights Reserved







BUILT in 1832, the Old Indian Agency House, on Wisconsin, still holds the inimitable charm of one of its first occupants—Captain John Kinsie—Indian agent and his wife—Juliet Magill—who wrote “WAU-BUN”, the early pioneer life, made it their home.

The house stands opposite the site of the old frontier the famous old portage which connected the Fox and Wisconsin which Louis Joliet and Father James Marquette crossed.

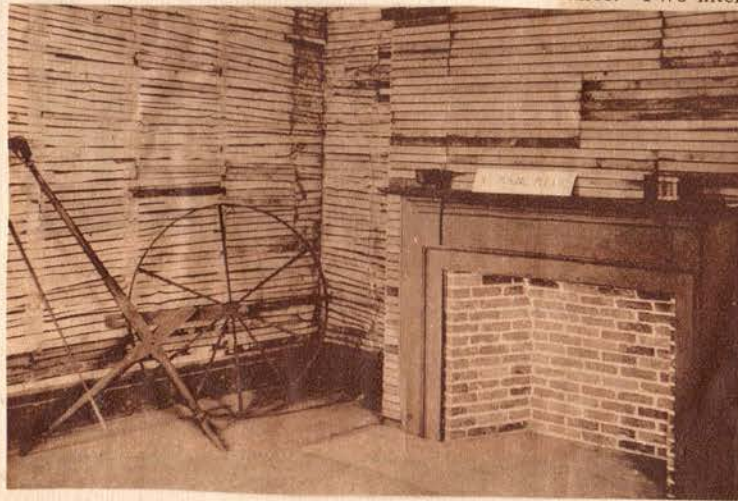
Most people love old houses, especially white ones with the locks and hinges on doors and windows, huge open fireplaces—picture those sturdy pioneers seated before burning logs.

Here, a century after their building, the charmingly old house is still so welcome. Many fine antiques are scattered about the house, maintained by the National Society of Colonial Dames in the State of Wisconsin.

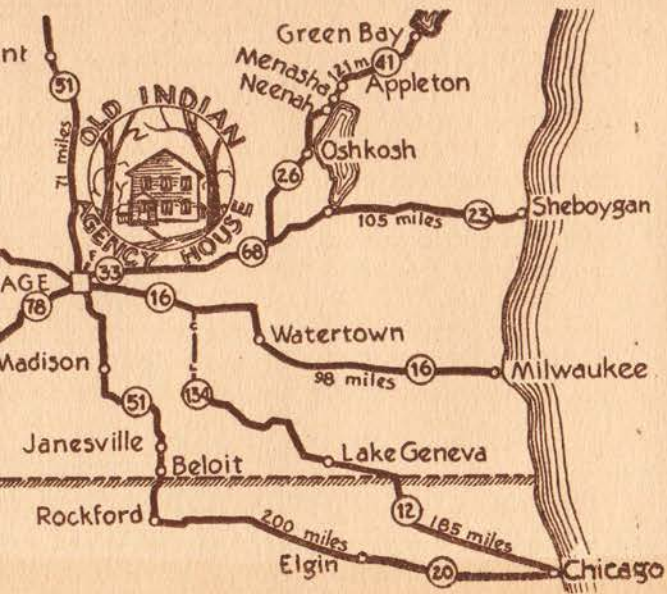
Open at all seasons of the year, situated off Highway 16 from Portage. Do not miss seeing this interesting Old House. Luncheon and afternoon tea served at a Tea-House.

TWO YEARS HAVE SHOWN A MARKED CHANGE in the Indian Agency House at Portage where the Colonial Dames of America have been restoring the house to its former appearance. Two interior views show the progress being made.

—Photos from Emery G. Gregory—All Rights Reserved







**B**UILT in 1832, the Old Indian Agency House, on the Fox River at Portage, Wisconsin, still holds the inimitable charm of one hundred years ago, when its first occupants—Captain John Kinsie—Indian agent at the Post, and his charming wife—Juliet Magill—who wrote "WAU-BUN", that interesting account of early pioneer life, made it their home.

The house stands opposite the site of the old frontier fort—Winnebago—facing the famous old portage which connected the Fox and Wisconsin Rivers, and over which Louis Joliet and Father James Marquette crossed in 1673.

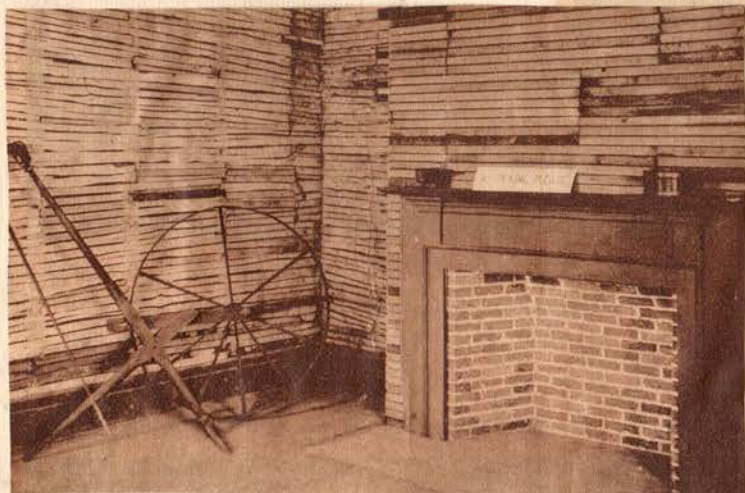
Most people love old houses, especially white ones with green shutters, old locks and hinges on doors and windows, huge open fireplaces where one may picture those sturdy pioneers seated before burning logs of birch or pine.

Here, a century after their building, the charmingly preserved rooms bid you welcome. Many fine antiques are scattered about the house, which is being maintained by the National Society of Colonial Dames in the State of Wisconsin.

Open at all seasons of the year, situated off Highway 33, one mile and a half from Portage. Do not miss seeing this interesting Old House when you visit Wisconsin. Luncheon and afternoon tea served at a Tea-House on the grounds.

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OLD INDIAN AGENCY HOUSE  
PORTAGE, WISCONSIN  
BUILT IN 1832

COURTESY OF MILWAUKEE JOURNAL  
RESTORED BY THE COLONIAL DAMES OF WISCONSIN  
IN 1932

EVERY summer thousands of people come to Wisconsin to enjoy its good roads, its refreshing lakes and streams, its green hills and valleys. They mostly carry away pleasant impressions of its countryside. Beyond such aspects of shore, hill and dale lies another appeal—the history and traditions of the strong and sturdy pioneers who made this country their own. These are essentially reflected in the character of this institution as its true heritage—the old-time, enduring standard of excellence through any and all conditions.

Guided by a fixed concept of insurance and trusteeship which has lately withstood the severest test of its lifetime—more than sixty-three years—this Company offers the facilities of all its Departments and an efficient Agency Staff for complete and ready service to Property-Owners.

## Wisconsin's Historic Agency House

THE illustration below is a restoration of the Old Indian Agency house at Portage, Wisconsin, built in 1832 by the United States Government for the Indian agent, Captain John Kinzie, and his charming wife Juliette. The old house overlooks the old portage between the Fox and Wisconsin rivers which was the only strip of land on the waterway between the Gulf of the St. Lawrence and the Gulf of Mexico. The portage was used by many explorers and voyagers including Louis Joliet and Pere Marquette as early as 1673.

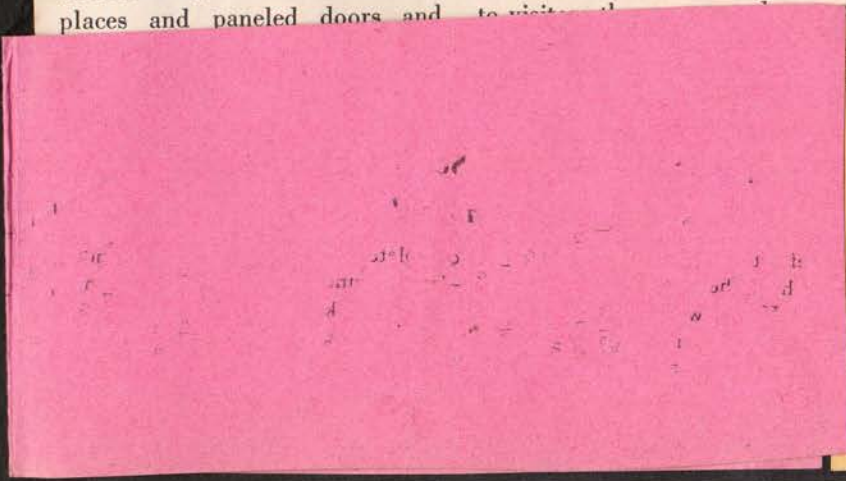
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Historic Agency House, Portage

windows, is a typical pioneer home made for gentlefolk. Although Fort Winnebago has long since gone, the home still remains and the restoration of it to its original form was accomplished by the Society of Colonial Dames with the help of Frank W. Riley, Madison, well-known authority on Colonial architecture. The home is described by Mrs. Kinzie in the book "Wau Bun" in which she wrote of her experiences upon arrival in Wisconsin Territory in 1830 to join her husband. The house is open to visitors.

KOHLER OF  
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NEWS  
JUNE  
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The restoration of the old Indian Agency House at Portage, Wisconsin, a fascinating landmark of early days in that part of the country, was completed this fall by the National Society of Colonial Dames in Wisconsin, of which Mrs. Arthur T. Holbrook (Bertha Andrews, '96) is president.





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# Historical Play of Early Wisconsin Is Given by Local Cast at Woman's Club Meeting; Mrs. Day in Charge of Program

A large crowd attended the meeting of the Woman's Club which was held in the High school auditorium Tuesday afternoon, with Mrs. C. E. Day in charge.

A dramatization of Mrs. John Kinzie's book "Waubun," was given by members of the club. Much credit is due these ladies for the able manner in which they interpreted their parts.

Mrs. Kinzie, a cultured young woman from Boston, came to Wisconsin, a bride in 1830. Among the many fine things which she brought with her was the first piano to be brought to Wisconsin. Mrs. Kinzie was so thrilled with her experiences on her trip to Fort Winnebago and the wild life she found that she later wrote "Waubun," depicting life in Wisconsin one hundred years ago.

This is the centennial of the building of the Indian Agency House Portage. A movement is on foot to repair this house and establish it as a Museum as has been done with the Sibley house at Fort Snelling. Under the auspices of the D.A.R. assisted by the Woman's Club funds are being raised for this project.

This playlet "Waubun" was given in three episodes.

First episode in the home of Judge Doty at Green Bay in 1830, included the following cast: Juliette Kinzie, Mrs. Harold Weatherhead; John Kinzie, Mrs. Harry Sutherland; Judge Doty, Mrs. Hardy Harding; Mrs. Doty, Mrs. L. L. Petersen; Mrs. Cadle, Mrs. C. E. Webster; Miss Cadle, Mrs. Theo. Clymer; the Misses Grignon, Mrs. Frank O'Connell and Mrs. Harold Nygard; Mrs. Beull, Mrs. Carl Lovett; Mr. Rolette, Mrs. T. Hurst; Mr. Alfons, Mrs. L. M. Brooker; officers, Mrs. Kenneth Ostby and Mrs. Andrew Homan.

The second episode, a camp beside the Fox River between Green Bay and Portage, included the following cast of characters: Juliette and John Kinzie and Judge Doty, introduced in the 1st episode; Captain Harvey, Mrs. W. Leykom; Rev. Marsh, Mrs. Arthur Olson; Eliazor Williams, the supposed son of Marie Antoinette and Dauphin of France, Mrs. John Defenbaugh; Krissman, Mrs. Harry Hellweg; two voyagers, Mrs. John Hughes, Miss Marion Crary. The voyagers assisted by Mrs. A. Olson, sang "The Volga Boat Song" and "The Boating Song." Miss Crary sang a French song.

The third episode, a scene near the barracks of Fort Winnebago, Portage, on the day following the arrival of the Kinzies, had the following cast of characters: Juliette and John Kinzie; Major Twigs, Mrs. Ed. Jones; Mrs. Twigs, Mrs. Thos. Johnston; Lieut. Jefferson Davis, Mrs. Thos. O'Brien; Mrs. Washington, Mrs. Harry Miller, Madame Four Legs, Elizabeth Harding; other Indians, Virginia Day, Isabelle Hurst, Margaret Dorwin, Virginia Bowers, John Hoyer, Tommy O'Brien.

The playlet was directed by Mrs. Harry Harding assisted by Mrs. Day, Mrs. Carl Lovett, assisted with the wardrobes, Mrs. Elliot Jones and Mrs. Tom Hurst, assisted with Virginia Reel and Indian Dance.

Mrs. B. C. Bunker and Mrs. Alfred Schultz were the committee on stage properties.

At the last minute Mrs. Harding substituted for Mrs. Lilley as Judge Doty.

Some of the furniture used was over 100 years old, a shawl was one hundred years old and the interesting dresses ranged from fifty to eighty-five years.

A social hour was enjoyed in the gymnasium with the following hostesses: Mrs. Clarence Wright, Mrs. T. J. Evans, Mrs. Peter Holden, Mrs. R. R. Means, Mrs. Con O'Brien, Miss Charlotte Olds, Mrs. C. J. Reiter and Mrs. Lyle Udell.

## Historical Playlet to be Given at Next Woman's Club Meeting at High Feb. 17

The next meeting of the Women's Club which is in charge of the History Department, will be held at the High school auditorium on Tuesday, February 17th, at 2:30 p. m.

At this meeting a three act playlet, "Episodes of a Voyage up the Fox River in 1830," will be given under the direction of Mrs. Harry Harding. These episodes are taken from the book "Waubun," and depict actual happenings in the

early days of Wisconsin.

Members of the club are invited to bring one or two guests and members of the neighboring clubs have also been invited.

There is no admission charge, but anyone desiring to contribute toward the Woman's Club fund for preserving the old agency house at Portage may bring a dime free-will offering. Light refreshments will be served by a committee in charge of Mrs. Clarence Wright.



Among the familiar characters who come into the story are Governor James D. Doty, Jefferson Davis, John Lawe, Col. Wm. S. Hamilton, son of Alexander Hamilton, Eleazar Williams, Augustin Grignon, Jacques Portier, Chief Four Legs and many others.

The garrison life at Forts Howard and Winnebago, the dangerous passage of the rapids of the Fox River in the Mackinac boats and the customs of the Wisconsin Indians of the period are vividly told.

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*This Edition of*  
**WAU-BUN**

*is published for the  
benefit of*

**THE OLD INDIAN AGENCY  
HOUSE ASSOCIATION**

through whose activities the only remaining building of Old Fort Winnebago at Portage has been preserved. The profit from the sale of WAU-BUN will be used to help swell the fund used for the purchase of the property and all those interested in the project can aid it by furthering the sale of this book.

**WAU-BUN**  
The  
**EARLY-DAY**  
in the  
*North West*

MRS. J. H. Kinzie



**B A N T A**

*A Book*

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WAU-BUN

The  
EARLY-DAY  
in the  
North West

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B A N T A

*A Book for all History Lovers*

# WAU-BUN

THE "EARLY-DAY" IN THE  
NORTH WEST

By MRS. JOHN H. KINZIE

This is a new edition of a classic of early Wisconsin history. It is more historical than many histories, more interesting than most novels. It relates the experiences of an educated Eastern woman, when as a bride she came to unnamed Wisconsin, and shared the experiences of her husband, the Indian agent at Fort Winnebago. Her description of the Indians, the army officers, the traders, the modes of travel, the hardships and difficulties of life on the frontier, are all enlivened with a sense of humor, a vivid feeling for Nature, and a just sense of values. She also gives a picturesque account of the terrible massacre at Chicago in 1812 as she received it from her husband's family; and her account of a visit to Chicago in 1831 is attractive and amusing. The book has been edited by Dr. Louise Phelps Kellogg of the Wisconsin Historical Society, and contains notes and an introduction, adding much to its historical value.

\$2<sup>50</sup><sub>—</sub>

WAU-BUN

(1830-33)

☞ A New Edition of an old classic originally published in 1856. This edition has been printed following the format of the first edition as closely as possible.

☞ The illustrations are reproductions of sketches made by the author on the ground at the time and are the only existing pictures of the particular scenes. They are artistic as well as accurate.

(Continued on other flap)







## The Agency House at Fort Winnebago

*Louise Phelps Kellogg*

IN 1828 three companies of the First United States Infantry were sent to erect a fort at the Fox-Wisconsin portage. The site chosen was at the east end of the portage path on Fox River, where by the close of the year Major David E. Twiggs had completed temporary buildings. He wrote that he purposed keeping six saws occupied during the succeeding winter in preparation for the erection of a post of frame buildings. Lieutenant Jefferson Davis just from West Point was sent up the Wisconsin to get out pine logs for the fort and for the officers' dwellings. The officers' quarters were double frame houses, two rooms each side of a central hall, heated by large fireplaces in each room. Some of these houses were three stories in height, with a separate kitchen in the rear or in a basement for the married officers, while the bachelors had a general mess room for themselves. These houses "having been constructed of the green trees of the forest, cut down and sawed into boards by the hands of the soldiers, they were considerably given to shrinking and warping, thus leaving many a yawning crevice. Stuffing the cracks with cotton batting, and pasting strips of paper over them, formed the employment of many a leisure hour."

One of the most popular officers at Fort Winnebago was the Indian agent John H. Kinzie, who brought his bride there in September 1830; they occupied for the first months of their stay one of the officers' quarters, there being no house prepared especially for the agent and his family. In April, 1831, there was a shift in the garrison; the three companies of the First United States Infantry under command of Major Twiggs were relieved by a contingent of the Fifth Infantry, commanded by Colonel Enos S. Cutler. Several of the new officers were married men, and the Kinzies thought that they should vacate their home in the fort and take up their residence at the Agency. The Agency quarters were across Fox River on a knoll opposite Fort Winnebago. Mr. Kinzie had already made application in his report of Agency affairs, December 31, 1830, for an appropriation of \$1,500 for a house for the agent and \$400 for a blacksmith's house and shop. The only building then at the Agency was an old log barracks, part of the earlier temporary quarters at the fort, which had been removed and put up again on the Agency hill. For the convenience of the Kinzies logs were cut in the neighboring tamarack swamp and a dairy, stable, and smoke house were added to the barracks. To this makeshift Agency House, the Kinzies removed in the summer of 1831 and arranged their fine furniture and made for the time and place a delightful home. "It was surprising," wrote Mrs. Kinzie, "how soon a comfortable, homelike air was given to the old dilapidated rooms, by a few Indian mats spread upon the floor, the piano and other furniture ranged in their appropriate places, and even a few pictures hung against the logs. The latter, alas! had soon to be displaced, for with the first heavy shower



the rain found entrance through sundry crevices, and we saw ourselves obliged to put aside, carefully, everything that could be injured by moisture." The mistress of the house found her roof so leaky that she wore her bonnet around the house to protect her hair.

The government in the spring of 1831 sent word that \$500 had been appropriated for a blacksmith's house. This was built that summer under contract by two Americans from Green Bay, with the aid of the Kinzie helpers and servants. Kinzie afterwards asked the government to reimburse the builders who stated that they had lost \$200 on the work and that the buildings were easily worth \$700. This house the Kinzies appropriated for themselves: "It was not very magnificent, it is true, consisting of but a parlor and two bedrooms on the ground floor, and two low chambers under the roof, with a kitchen in the rear; but compared with the rambling old stable-like building we now inhabited, it seemed quite a palace."

June 1, 1831 the government made an appropriation for an agent's house, and Kinzie set to work to plan a permanent and satisfactory house, as a home for himself and the charming woman he had brought to this wilderness from the eastern states. We should like to know who was the architect for the Agency House, still standing on the original site on the hill above the portage canal that connects Fox River with the Wisconsin. Every trace of Fort Winnebago has vanished, but the house planned in the winter of 1831-32 and finished by November, 1832, still stands four square to all winds and in its sturdy strength bids fair to last for another century. It may be that John Kinzie drew the plans himself; if so, he must have had advice and assistance from some one more expert in building than himself, probably some of the younger officers at the fort. Most of these were West Point graduates, who had had courses in drawing, probably with some architectural details. It could not have been Lieutenant Jefferson Davis for while his lumbering and cabinet-building operations were utilized for the houses and furniture of the fort, Captain W. H. Harney's company to which he was attached, left the fort in the spring of 1831. Of the incoming officers, Lieutenants Camillus C. Daviess, Horatio P. Van Cleve, Alexander S. Hove, and Edgar M. Lacey were all West Point graduates. Captain Gideon Law, who came with the companies of the Fifth, was not a West Pointer, but he may have had some experience in building; he is said to have erected the first inn at what is now Portage about 1838. Of these officers Daviess and Van Cleve were brothers-in-law and Van Cleve was a native of Princeton, New Jersey; Hove was a Virginian who lived and died at Fort Crawford, where young Lacey was also buried after his premature death in 1839. Mrs. Kinzie mentions all these officers in her *Wau-Bun*, but not in such a way as to indicate any talent in building. The designer of the Agency House, therefore, must probably always remain anonymous.

We have more information concerning the actual building of the house, if not about its designer, for the reports of Agent Kinzie to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs at Washington are still extant and from them we learn some interesting details.

With the first appropriation of \$1,000 went the recommendation that the commanding officer at Fort Winnebago should assign soldiers from the garrison to build the house for the agent. August 11, 1831 Kinzie wrote that the commandant, Captain Plympton could not detail soldiers for this purpose, since the fort needed more bar-

racks and all the soldiers that could be spared were required for that purpose. Kinzie feared that this would delay his home for several years; he therefore asked Cass, then secretary of war, to obtain for him an appropriation of a second thousand dollars, stating that his family was much crowded in the blacksmith's house. "I shall not make any preparation for building," he concluded, "until I hear from you, which I hope will be soon." He must have received encouragement from Cass for in his report at the close of 1831 he placed an estimate for \$1,200, which would be necessary "for the completion of the house which is in progress for the Agent, and from the difficulty of obtaining materials and mechanics will require at least that sum."

According to Governor Porter's report to the commissioner of Indian affairs, Kinzie informed him in the spring of 1832 that he had started the house and had sent in a report of the cost of the foundation, which was \$92.50. It took a mason and one other person nineteen days to finish it. They did the work for \$34.00; the materials were forty-six loads of stone at a dollar per load and ten barrels of lime at \$1.25 a barrel.

This was the summer of the Black Hawk War and Kinzie was not able to secure any assistance whatever from the garrison which was constantly out on duty. The frame of the house had been raised before the war became acute around Fort Winnebago. It was thought at first it would be confined to northern Illinois; even after the hostiles had pushed into what is now Wisconsin and the pursuing troops under General Henry Atkinson had built Fort Atkinson on Rock River, Fort Winnebago seemed many miles from the scene of the conflict. Kinzie himself rode out often to the south, seventy miles or more, to quiet the Winnebago Indians on Rock River, while the women of the Agency every evening crossed the small bridge leading to the fort and passed the night within its protecting walls. Finally in July it was found necessary to send the women and children to Fort Howard for safety. This flight suspended all building operations until the close of the war. The last battle was fought August 2 and soon all again was security at the Portage.

On the first of October the agent wrote: "Accompanying this you have an estimate, as required, of the probable cost when completed of the Agency buildings now erecting at this place. The buildings consist of a Frame dwelling house, 30 by 34 feet:—two stories high; with a kitchen attached thereto of 16 by 20 ft., 1½ stories high and stone cellar underneath; also an Out-house of 6 by 8 feet. These buildings will be finished, on or before the 15th proxo.—The Amount of the Estimate seems high; but when the difficulty of procuring the mechanics, the Lumber and other building material is taken into consideration the price will be considered as low as possibly can be expected. No one could have used greater economy in the construction of the house than I have done." Accompanying this letter was the following estimate:

For square timber, plank, boards, lathing, shingles, etc. -----	\$972.59
For Carpenter and Joiner Work -----	1,208.00
For Mason-work—viz: Stone and brick, lime, erection of chimneys, making cellar, and foundations of house -----	602.50



For paints and oil, putty, setting of glass and painting outside and inside (2 coats)-----	197.00
For Glass, nails, Locks &cs &cs -----	175.87
	\$3,155.96
Amount received towards payment of above (June 1831)	1,000.00
	\$2,155.96
Balance that may be required -----	\$2,115.96

The same time the agent told of the difficulties he had experienced in building. "Mechanicks," he wrote, "could not be had short of St. Louis, in Mo., and it was with great difficulty that I succeeded in getting them, as the Indian War, which had just commenced operated greatly against me." In all probability it was during Kinzie's visit with his mother to Prairie du Chien in the fall of 1831 to consult Dr. William Beaumont that he made arrangements for these workmen from St. Louis. He may even have gone down on a quick trip himself; more probably he entrusted the commission to some of his friends among the fur traders, to Joseph Rolette, Hercules L. Dousman, or one of the Brisbois family, with orders to send up carpenters and masons for the work.

As for materials Kinzie wrote: "Lumber, altho' bad, was as reasonable as could be expected here—a part of it had to be brought here from Green Bay, and the rest, from 70 to 80 miles above this place down the Ouisconsin river. The person who furnished me with lumber, has sustained a loss by his contract." This person could have been none other than Daniel Whitney of Green Bay, who in 1831 requested and obtained permission to build a mill on the upper Wisconsin, at what were known as Whitney's Rapids just below what is now Port Edwards, in Wood County.

"Brick," wrote Kinzie, "cannot be made nearer than two miles from this place, and we have to go 2½ miles for stone. Lime is not to be had less than 8 to 10 miles from here, which with the scarcity of Labourers, makes these items very high." The bricks were burned near the Wisconsin River bridge in what is now the city of Portage; stone came from Stone Quarry Hill, much used for building in Portage; the lime was burned at Pauquette's farm, called Bellefontaine, twelve miles northeast of the fort on the military road.

"I have more brick than is necessary for the chimneys," continues the agent, "the residue is used in filling in, to make the House warmer and more substantial, which is necessary in so exposed and windy a place as this. The house is well built—the work inside is plain and substantial, and very convenient for a family. There are on the ground floor, one room 19x19 ft.; one 14x19; one 10x14 and a small Hall. On the upper floor there is one room 19x19 ft.; one 14x19 ft.; two 10x10 and a small hall. The buildings are on Indian land, and well situated for an Indian Agency." Indian land stretched north from the Portage indefinitely; the land was claimed by the Menominee and sold by them to the government in the treaty of 1836. The Winnebago, for whom the Agency was established were forced to sell in the autumn of 1832 all their lands south of the Fox-Wisconsin waterway and to remove north of that boundary. "They intend to make their villages, for their future homes, on the west bank of the Ouisconsin, from 20 to 30 miles below this place, at Prairie des Sacs, and some of them will make their villages on the Barribault

river, where there are now 4 large villages, between 8 and 20 miles from here. The Indians of Fox river, Winnebago and Green Lakes will remove to the Barribault." All these changes made Kinzie believe that the agency would be the center of the largest Indian population in the Northwest, except Chicago, and that it would be raised from a sub-Agency to a full Agency. His house he thought would be adequate for many years.

The Kinzie family occupied their new home, which was to them a splendid mansion, in early November, 1832. Mrs. Kinzie says: "Notwithstanding the Indian disturbance, the new Agency House (permission to build which had, after much delay, been accorded by the Government) had been going steadily on, and soon after the departure of the Governor [Porter] and his party, we took possession of it to our no small satisfaction."

Governor Porter was very much pleased with Kinzie's efficiency and with the way he built the house. He wrote March 25, 1833 that the agent "deserves the thanks of the government for expending their money judiciously, economically and well. The buildings are now worth much more than they cost." The final estimate of the cost, forwarded December 31, 1832, was as follows: "The Agency buildings at this place, consisting of a dwelling house &ca. Blacksmith's house & shop are now completed:—the expenses amount in all to \$3,997.18; received on above buildings \$1,500.00; balance required \$2,497.18 being \$341.22 more than the estimate of Oct. 1." Deducting the 500 for the blacksmith's house, we find that the complete cost of the Agency House was \$3,497.18. The additional sum was paid by Governor Porter out of the allowances made him for Indian supervision. He spoke in the warmest terms of Kinzie's well known character for justice, probity, and efficiency, and stated that having visited the fort and the Agency he could affirm personally that the house was an exceedingly good one and one that the government might be proud to own.

The Kinzies lived in their new home only about eight months after its completion but they were months fraught with tragedy for their Indian wards. Having planted no fields during 1832 and now having sold their lands, and promised to evacuate them by June 1, 1833, the Winnebago were in great straits for food. They crowded around the doors and windows of the new house, peering in anxiously. "We were soon obliged to keep both doors and windows fast, to shut out the sight of misery we could not relieve. . . . It was in vain that we screened the lower portion of our windows with curtains. They would climb up on the outside, and tier upon tier of gaunt, wretched faces would peer in above to watch us, and see if indeed we were as ill provided as we represented ourselves to be." At last the boats came with the promised corn and the lawn in front of the house was a scene of wild hilarity. "We could scarcely refrain from laughing, to see old Wild-Cat, who had somewhat fallen off in his huge amount of flesh, seize 'the Washington Woman' in his arms and hug and dance with her in the ecstasy of his delight."

In the spring the fort was reinforced by several officers and their families. Among them came from her school in Cincinnati, young Charlotte Ouisconsin Clark, daughter of Captain Nathan Clark. She was often present at the "weekly musicals at John Kinzie's pleasant agency" and mentions delightful horseback rides over the portage road to the site of the present city of Portage. These were courting days also and Charlotte soon became betrothed to Lieu-



tenant Van Cleve, whom she married at this post early in 1836. The Rev. and Mrs. Aratus Kent of Galena visited the fort the spring of 1833 and held there the first Protestant religious services ever celebrated in this part of Wisconsin.

The Kinzies now decided that the time had come for them to leave the Agency and vacate the new house. The government refused to raise the sub-Agency to a full Agency or to increase the agents salary. Kinzie saw himself reduced to a round of routine duties, with an ever increasing horde of Indians to guard and satisfy. Moreover, his old home beckoned him, Chicago was growing fast and promised a great future. Kinzie determined to throw in his lot with the new metropolis; he resigned his Agency to take effect July 1, 1833. The last paragraphs of *Wau-Bun* recount the farewells of the agent and his wife and the regret they felt to leave their Indian children and their Agency home.

The next occupant of the Agency House was Captain Robert A. McCabe, who resigned from the army to take the appointment. McCabe, "a fine jolly man," suffered a stroke of paralysis and left the Agency in the late summer of 1834. Thereafter for some years the commanding officers of the post were required to perform the duties of Indian agent, much against their will and despite frequent protests. This arrangement left the Agency House without a tenant and various subordinates were allowed to occupy portions of the building. The blacksmith and his assistant lived in the kitchen part for a time and an ex-service man, an Italian named James Ubaldine with an Irish wife, opened a tavern and sold whiskey there. Complaint was made to the authorities of this misuse of the fine house and Ubaldine was dismissed.

In 1837 the Winnebago were induced to sell to the government all their lands east of the Mississippi; they had, according to their understanding, four years to remove and in 1838 interceded with the authorities to allow their former "Father" to make their annual payment at Fort Winnebago. Kinzie came up from Chicago and five years after leaving his home met his whilom wards on Agency Hill once more and advised them to depart peaceably for their new reservation west of the Mississippi. At the time of Kinzie's visit the house he had built was being used by Satterlee Clark as a trading emporium. When the Winnebago were finally removed in the summer of 1840, Clark abandoned the place as no longer a profitable stand.

After the removal of the Winnebago Indians, we have no record of the occupancy of the house for several years. Fort Winnebago was evacuated in 1845 and left in charge of a single soldier until, in 1853, the property was sold by order of Jefferson Davis, then Secretary of War. The next year the land on which the Agency House stood was patented to James Martin who after three years sold to George C. Tallman. From Tallman the land, now become 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 October 3, 1928.

During all these vicissitudes the house has changed but little from its original form. It has now been purchased by the National Society of Colonial Dames in the State of Wisconsin to be restored and maintained as a memorial to early day Wisconsin and a shrine for historic memories of its pioneers.



Mrs. Fernes Jr.  
Rt 5 West side  
Mrs. Conson

MILWAUKEE  
AUG 11  
7 30 PM  
1931  
WIS.

Mrs. Arthur J. Holbrook.  
Pres. Colonial Dames Soc, Wis.  
Burl, Douglas Co.  
Wisconsin



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1931

Radio Exhibit  
Coming Oct. 2

Big Question

### Boys and Girls of Social Centers Enjoy Visit to Old Agency

Nine boys and nine girls, champion essayists on Wisconsin historical subjects, were all-day guests Saturday of the Colonial Dames. The prize winners, a boy and a girl from each Milwaukee social center, were taken to Portage, Wis., to visit the restored Indian agency house, built in 1832 and first used by Capt. John Kinzie.

At Portage the group heard an historical talk by Dr. Louise Kellogg of the Wisconsin Historical society, visited the locks of the old canal between the Wisconsin and the Fox rivers, examined the portage used by the Indians and by Joliet and Marquette in 1673, and the house of John Muir, the naturalist. On the way out they visited the first kindergarten started at Watertown in 1856 by Mrs. Carl Schurz.

Hostesses for the day were Mrs. A. T. Holbrook and Mrs. Carol M. Allis. The prize winning guests were:

Robert Luedtke and Irene Murphy, Dover Street center.  
Ignatius Maglio and Pauline Eugenia, Andrew Jackson center.

Stanley Rosiak and Wanda Butkowski, Forest Home Avenue center.

Edward Sierpinski and Helen Sepowich, Oklahoma Avenue center.

Theodore Silberman and Mary Strawitz, Lapham Park center.

Norbert Steinegar and Viola Busack, Clarke Street center.

Mike Sekar and Mary Premeau, Wisconsin Avenue center.

Carol De Grace and Dolores Starke, Beulah Brinton center.



West Allis, Wis.  
August 11, 1931

Mrs Arthur J. Halbrook  
Pres. Colonial Dames Soc.; Wis.

Dear Mrs Halbrook: —

I want to let you know how much I appreciate your kindness in writing me about the sketch of the old agency house.

Knowing that you were able to use the sketch has given me a lot of encouragement. I am also very glad to have been able to do something to help you and your work.

If I can do more to help you do not hesitate to call on me.

Thank you again for your kind letter.

Yours respectfully  
Max Terneberg

R. R. #5  
West Allis, Wis.



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1933

MILWAUKEE  
AUG 11  
7 30 PM  
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WIS.



Mrs. Arthur T. Holbrook,  
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# Essayists Win Portage Trip

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- Mike Sekar and Mary Premeau, Wisconsin Avenue center.
- Carol De Grace and Dolores Starke, Beulah Brinton center.

A. Stanke and Elfrieda Gardow, Siefert center.

Accompanying the group were the following members of the staffs of the social centers and the school board extension department: Philip Kolb, Willis Colburne, Kenneth Beers, Harold Severance, L. H. Kott-

nauer, Margaret Sykes, Marion Preece and Dorothy Enderis.

### Talk on Optimism

Dr. Arthur T. Holbrook will talk on "Optimism and Good Health" at a meeting of the Optimist club Monday noon at the Athletic club.



