



## Historic Indian Agency House

1490 Agency House Road, Portage, WI 53901 | 608-742-6362  
historicindianagencyhouse@gmail.com | www.agencyhouse.org

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### NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Contact:** Adam Novey  
Executive Director and Curator

### **Riveting firsthand account of Wisconsin's "Early Day" takes on new life *Special edition of Juliette Kinzie's Wau-Bun published by the Historic Indian Agency House***

PORTAGE, Wisconsin—The Historic Indian Agency House celebrates the publication of its 2021 edition of *Wau-Bun: The "Early Day" in the Northwest* through a book launch event to be held on Saturday, May 8, from 1 to 3 pm at 1490 Agency House Road in Portage.

The Historic Indian Agency House was the home of author Juliette Kinzie, the wife of Indian sub-Agent John H. Kinzie stationed at Portage during the early 1830s. At that time, the Ho-Chunk (Winnebago) Nation inhabited the region but was in the midst of forced removal from their ancestral lands by the United States government.

"Mrs. Kinzie first published *Wau-Bun* in 1856," said Adam Novey, Executive Director and Curator of the Agency House museum, "but its stories and lessons remain fascinating, poignant, and relevant today."

Published by the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the State of Wisconsin (the governing board of the Agency House) through Gatekeeper Press, the Historic Preservation Edition was made possible by a grant from the Cissy VD Bryson Fund at the Greater Milwaukee Foundation in memory of Colonial Dame Cissy Van Dyke Scannell Bryson.

The 2021 edition of *Wau-Bun* is a derivative of the NSCDA-WI's 1948 version but includes several additional features. Mrs. Kinzie's 1856 appendix on the Black Hawk War is reincorporated, as well as a chronicle on the lives of John and Juliette Kinzie written by their daughter Eleanor Kinzie Gordon in 1900. An appendix outlining the sojourn of the Ho-Chunk Nation through the era of forced removal to the present day is included, and new research has resulted in the production of a substantial addendum detailing the 90-year history of the Agency House's rescue, restoration, and stewardship. An introduction and footnotes by accomplished early twentieth century historian Louise Phelps Kellogg have been carried through each of the NSCDA-WI editions since 1948.

"The story of this historic house does not end in 1833 with the departure of the Kinzies," Novey said. "It has been an intriguing subject to investigate. As the Agency House commemorates its 90th season as a museum this year, it is especially fitting to relay the rest of the story through this publication."

*Wau-Bun* is the work which originally spurred the grassroots effort to save the old Fort Winnebago Indian Agency. This surviving structure, built in 1832, served as the physical setting for the stories preserved in Kinzie's volume. The publication and sale of a 1930 edition of this same book was used to raise funds to purchase and restore the home and property. Today, Juliette's narrative remains the driving force behind the preservation of this nationally significant historic site. Proceeds from the sale of the 2021 edition will be used toward the continued preservation of the Agency House for the benefit of future generations.

*Wau-Bun* relays a firsthand account of the upper Midwest frontier spanning garrison life, indigenous societies, everyday affairs and extraordinary frontier exploits, wars, struggles for survival, and a rich and complex convergence of cultures. Weighty issues with critical decisions that would reverberate for generations were faced at the site and recorded for posterity by Juliette Kinzie.

The Agency House gift shop is selling the paperback on-site for \$20 and the hardcover for \$30. The eBook is available through Barnes & Noble, Google Play, Kobo, and Amazon for \$9.99. Major online book retailers such as Barnes & Noble, Amazon, and Book Depository also carry both the hardcover and softcover versions, and the Indie Bound website enables customers to find independent bookstores in their own local area that carry the volume.

Details on the Historic Preservation Edition of *Wau-Bun* and the book launch event may be found at [agencyhouse.org/wau-bun](http://agencyhouse.org/wau-bun).

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