

Membership makes impact

Your partnership is vital! Your financial support is used for good, both today and for the benefit of future generations. Check out our membership brochure to see how!

agencyhouse.org/membership



Three cheers for volunteers

Become a part of an outstanding group of volunteers who enjoy contributing their time and talents at the Agency House. Whether behind-the-scenes or front-and-center, there's a niche for you! Learn how you can be plugged into some fun and essential volunteer opportunities.

agencyhouse.org/volunteer



Free guided tours

Donations appreciated



This season, our guided tours are admission-free for everyone! We welcome a donation when you come to visit if you choose to give. Our 501(c)3 nonprofit historic site relies heavily on the generosity of supporters to meet our operating needs. We deeply appreciate and carefully steward your contributions.

Events

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Speaker Series

Our Speaker Series lineup themed on "Hearth & Home" runs the gamut from childhood in the new republic, to historical courtship and weddings, to daily life at frontier forts as revealed by archaeology. Join us on select Tuesday evenings for some unique historical insights. Free. Funded in part by the Kohler Foundation and Wisconsin Humanities.*

Living History Weekends

Two free living history weekends are on the docket: One provides historical ambiance to your guided tour (Historical Timekeepers). The other, presented by The Galena Living History Society, explores in-depth the mourning and burial traditions that were such an intimate part of home and family life in the 1830s. Thank you to the reenactors who so generously contribute their time and talents each year!

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

In Grateful Tribute

Dedication & sponsorships

OUR 2025 SEASON IS DEDICATED

IN MEMORY OF:

- Cissy Van Dyke Scannell Bryson
- Robert Goodman
- Jordan Mueller
- Carole Nye
- Pierre Pauquette and family
- Edward (Ted) Rebholz
- Polly Stone
- George and Lydia Vierheilig

AND IN HONOR OF:

- Mr. and Mrs. William S. Carpenter
- A. Novey
- Agency House Volunteers

PROJECT GRANTORS:

- Alliant Energy Foundation
- C.D. Besadny Conservation Grant—Natural Resources Foundation of WI
- Chipstone Foundation
- Cissy VD Bryson Fund at the Greater Milwaukee Foundation
- Community Foundation of South Central Wisconsin
- Dennis Grady
- Kohler Foundation
- Portage Tourism - City of Portage
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service "Partners" Program
- Wisconsin Humanities, with Funds from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the State of Wisconsin*

BUSINESS SPONSORS:

- General Engineering Company
- Terrytown Plumbing

To donate in memory or honor of someone special, visit:
www.agencyhouse.org/donate



Thank you for your support!

Your generosity helps open doors as we pursue our newly independent nonprofit's mission with your partnership.

Wau-Bun Express

Historic Indian Agency House

March, 2025 - Vol 25, Issue 1



Season Theme: Hearth & Home

Dear Friends,

When 24-year-old New Englander Juliette Kinzie traveled the winding corridor of the Fox River to Portage in 1830, everything was foreign to her urban Eastern senses. Diverse cultural backgrounds were represented here: Indigenous, Métis, French Canadian, and a variety of Old World ethnicities. Juliette's words reflect how insight and understanding came from sitting around another's hearth and observing the daily rhythms, traditions, and values of home life. The glow of each culture's hearth and home experience reflected sparks of individuality, springing from the embers of shared human experience.

We invite you and your family to join us this season as we cultivate our own insights and understanding by exploring "Hearth & Home" in history.

Respectfully,

Adam Novey
Executive Director and Curator

Season Events at a Glance

May 31-June 1
Living history tours

JUNE 7
Kids' backpack workshop

June 10, 6:30 pm
Speaker: Dr. James Marten

June 14-15 & 21-22
Archaeological dig & blacksmithing demonstr.

June 28, 1 pm
Ho-Chunk singing/dancing; Indigenous basket making workshop; demonstrations

July 8, 6:30 pm
Speaker: Vicki Twinde-Javner

July 26-27
Enduring Skills Weekend

August 12, 6:30 pm
Speaker: Tamara Funk

September 13, 6:30 pm
Campfire Series: "Juliette Kinzie" (K. Crowley Conn)

September 20
1830s mourning/funerals - Galena Living History Soc.

October 4, 6 pm
Campfire Series: Voyageur (Glenn Gorsuch)

November 8, 5 pm
Campfire Series: Ho-Chunk storytelling (Andi Cloud)



Volunteer spotlight: Jeremy Ryan

Volunteers make our world go 'round here at the Agency House.

The outstanding volunteers on our team play an indispensable role in supporting our mission in a wide variety of ways, while at the same time keeping costs down through

their generous gifts of time, talent, and energy. ...and having fun doing it!

Jeremy Ryan of Cambria is one of these who volunteers in a collections and archives capacity.

Mr. Ryan, a graduate of UW-Stevens Point with a degree in history, has enthusiastically volunteered his time one day per week since last summer. It is a valuable opportunity for him to acquire the museum experience he desires as he also fulfills needs here.

Jeremy joined us when we were facing crunch time on some major projects related to cataloging and transitioning the artifact collection to the new non-profit organization. His help was instrumental in completing everything well and on time. Thank you to Jeremy and all our wonderful volunteers for all that they do!

HIAH is a GAT

The Historic Indian Agency House is part of a national museum alliance consisting of 75+ historic sites recognized as Great American Treasures (GAT) which offer an inside look at the big picture of America's past.

GAT is currently hosting a monthly "Treasure Hunt" with virtual tours and lectures exploring the unique stories and historical significance of some of their partner sites. The Agency House will present a virtual tour on May 14 at 6 p.m. www.greatamericantreasures.org/home/treasure-hunt/

On April 1, GAT is also releasing a book, titled *Great American Treasures*, on the stories and material culture of sites contributing to the development of America as a multicultural nation.



Something for everyone

Unique events for the whole family



Visit www.agencyhouse.org/events

Whether you're 5 or 105, you can look forward to some fantastic experiences at the Agency House this season!

Kids' Workshop

Have a blast learning and discovering hands-on with our second annual kids' "backpack" workshop. This year's theme and activities are brand-new, so if you came last year, you can come again. Each child receives a free backpack loaded with tools and resources, compliments of The Kohler Foundation; and Wisconsin Humanities, with funds from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the State of Wisconsin.* Preregistration is required. Author and retired teacher Susan Apps-Bodilly will be running one of the stations this year! Free event.

Archaeological Dig

The archaeological dig and blacksmithing demonstration weekends are scheduled to return in June. (Hint: If you're looking for something awesome to do for Father's Day weekend, this is it!) Thank you to General Engineering Company for supporting this project for six years running.

"My kids...still talk about it all the time. You guys do amazing programming. Exceptional experiences!"

History lies beneath the surface

Free video documentary investigates historic house

"This tour was great. I really recommend it to others down the line."

In 2023, we produced a video documentary in conjunction with special behind-the-scenes tour opportunities. "This Mysterious Old House: History Beneath the Surface" is now fully available for free public viewing to supplement our 2025 season theme.

Venture into intriguing areas of the 1832 Agency House that are not seen during regular tours. Investigate nooks and crannies that have fascinating stories to tell. At times, it's like opening a time capsule from almost two centuries ago.

Nearly 200 years of time and change have elapsed since this home was used as an Indian agency, but the his-

tory which was forged here still reverberates in the lives of people today. Walls of plaster and pine will never talk, but ours do stand in silent witness of critical stories of our past.

As we investigate the fascinating details of this house and its construction, it is notable to consider that this structure is intertwined with a bigger story. There is history to be discovered beneath the surface.

The 39-minute video documentary is divided up into the following segments:

- Introduction
- Part 1: Fingerprints of the Builders
- Part 2: The Winds of Time
- Part 3: Preserving Surviving Relics
- Part 4: Reconstructing Lost Details
- Part 5: Detective Work
- Part 6: The Layers of the Cake



Now FREE on our YouTube channel!

- Part 7: Pondering and Puzzling
- Conclusion

Explore and enjoy all of our annual history series postings designed to deepen and enrich our understanding of the historical context of our site.

agencyhouse.org/explore-history

Free learning & activity guide

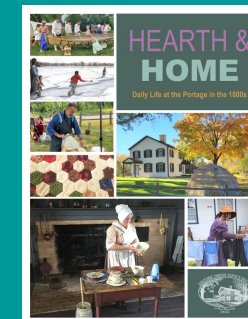
Our annual thematic learning guide is now available for 2025! The hands-on content is readily adaptable for children through adults.

The 2025 "Hearth & Home" guide explores the daily rhythms and traditions of home life among the culturally and ethnically diverse residents of the Fox-Wisconsin portage in the 1800s. Ho-Chunks, Menominees, Métis, and settlers from various Old World backgrounds called this place home when the Indian agency house was constructed in 1832.

The educational guide is divided into activity suggestions for each season so you can have fun exploring together all year long. We hope you will come to look forward to these special family times of learning and discovery!

Download the "Hearth & Home" pdf free from our website, or pick up a free printed-and-bound version when you come for a tour or event, thanks to funding from the Kohler Foundation and Wisconsin Humanities.*

agencyhouse.org/resources



Enduring Skills Weekend

This unique event features dozens of exciting hands-on historical experiences for kids through adults. There are many new stations this year! Free, compliments of the Community Foundation of South Central Wisconsin; the Kohler Foundation; and Wisconsin Humanities.*

Ho-Chunk Singing & Dancing, Basketmaking, More

In June, the Wisconsin Dells Singers and Dance Troupe of the Ho-Chunk Nation is set to perform at the Agency House, and renowned Ho-Chunk basket weaver, Kimberly Crowley, will offer a FREE workshop (a \$75/person value) to help you make your own black ash basket! Pre-register. Ho-Chunk artisans will also exhibit their skills. Free event, thanks to grants from the Kohler Foundation and WI Humanities.*

Campfire Storytelling Series

We are delighted to offer a brand-new event series suitable for all ages. Join us around cozy autumn campfires to hear fascinating tales told by "Juliette Kinzie" (Kathe Crowley Conn), "Jacques Largillier" (Glenn Gorsuch), and Niizuwii (Andi Cloud: "Rain Woman"). Thanks to funding by the Kohler Foundation; the Community Foundation of South Central Wisconsin; and Wisconsin Humanities,* this event series is free to all.

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