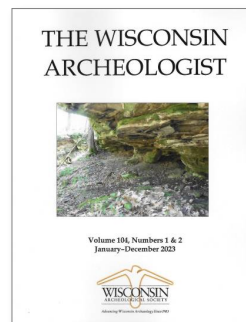


## RESEARCH PUBLISHED IN JOURNAL

“Structural Remains with Intriguing Oral History Resurface: Fort Winnebago Provenance Investigated,” by Peter Chiappori, Adam Novey, and Daniel J. Joyce, has been published in the latest edition of *The Wisconsin Archeologist* (Vol 104).

A local family story going back to at least the 1880s claimed that an unusual barn was actually a barracks which had been moved from the site of Fort Winnebago. Could a fort structure have eluded the public eye for nearly 200 years? In 2021, we investigated. Does the remarkable tale stand the tests of buildings archaeology and historical research? Visit our exhibit next season to examine the evidence for yourself. ...or dive into the details already by reading *The Wisconsin Archeologist* article! [www.agencyhouse.org/fort](http://www.agencyhouse.org/fort)



## WHAT HAPPENED TO MANAIGRE?

### *The rest of the story...*

When Cody Steele of North Dakota came for a tour, we discovered that his ancestors, Louis and Margaret Manaigre (Manaige), lived at Portage (likely on this historic site) in the 1830s. They are described in Juliette Kinzie’s memoir, *Wau-Bun*.

The Indian agency blacksmith boarded with Louis and Margaret until appx. 1832-33. Louis helped build the blacksmith’s home which served as the temporary agency house prior to the surviving structure’s construction in 1832. Juliette Kinzie taught the older Manaigre children, Peter and Josette, at her Sunday school in which she endeavored to educate her servant and the area’s Métis children. The family remained at Portage during the Black Hawk War while many others fled.

According to information uploaded to WikiTree, Louis’ parents were Canadians, while Margaret was a daughter of Portage’s Perriche Grignon and Es-chah-waukah Decorah (Ho-Chunk chief Glory in the Morning’s granddaughter). Louis and Margaret’s son, Peter, is documented living in each of the Ho-Chunk reservations up through the Blue Earth era. His sister Josette’s children were also at Blue Earth in 1857. Louis, himself, was recorded as being a baker at Blue Earth reservation in 1857 and stayed in this area until his death. Similar to Tomah Mirandeu who was featured in our July 2024 newsletter ([www.agencyhouse.org/news](http://www.agencyhouse.org/news)), many within the Manaigre family apparently chose to accompany the Ho-Chunk side of the family through the hardships of their expulsions.

Cody’s family ended up in North Dakota where he still resides. We were honored to meet this descendant of a family which had a unique place in our site’s history. Read more about the Manaigre family in *Wau-Bun* chapters 26, 27, 28, 32, and 34.



## PROGRAMMING FEEDBACK

“Genuine people who love what they do. I appreciate your enthusiasm!”

“...enjoyed it immensely. The variety of hands-on activities was much appreciated. Also, the caliber of experts and interpretation was a surprise treat. Kudos to all involved.”

“Thank you for making this an educational program for families.”

“...engaged and loved everything.”

“Excellent speaker!”

“I took my kids to the [archaeology] dig in 2023 and they still talk about it all the time. You guys do amazing programming. Exceptional experiences!”

“Not enough people know what Ho-Chunks went through—it’s important to keep teaching it. Thank you!”

“The small group leaders were so patient and knowledgeable.”

“Kids loved it! Adults loved it.”

“It was perfect...a fun event. Thanks for all the hard work!”

“Will take grandchildren next time!”

“Everyone was welcoming, knowledgeable, and patient. One of my friends has Down Syndrome and he loved all the projects and my other friend uses a walker and was able to reach every station.”

“Very educational even for me :)”

“Hearing from experts, topics not seen elsewhere.”

“Beautiful here. Peaceful (sanctuary).”

“Will be back again!”



# Historic Indian Agency House

November 2024 | Vol 24 | Issue 3



## In gratitude to the NSCDA-WI

Honoring 93 years of dedication to stewarding this irreplaceable historic site...and bidding a fond farewell.

Please see **NSCDA-WI**, page 2

## END OF ERA USHERS IN NEW BEGINNINGS

As we explored the theme of *Trails* this season, our museum has taken a new path of its own. The NSCDA-WI, which has governed the Agency House for nearly a century, is in the process of dissolving. A brand-new independent 501(c)3 nonprofit, the Historic Indian Agency House Association, is carrying on in its stead.

Please see **BEGINNINGS**, page 2

Dear Friends,

Our 2024 season themed on *Trails* has now come to a close. We hope that your journey with us was educational, memorable, thought-provoking, fun, and perhaps even transformational in some way.

We are working hard to prepare a brand-new season of meaningful programming and exciting opportunities!

**As a private nonprofit museum, we rely on your support to make it all happen. Would you donate today?**

Until we meet again next season, happy “trails” to you!

Respectfully,

Adam Novey  
Executive Director and Curator

## BEGINNINGS

From page 1

Transition tasks are steadily progressing with the goal of ensuring a seamless handoff. The new organization's board consists of a core of previous NSCDA-WI board members for continuity, with the intention of building the board further in coming years. Although the leadership model has shifted, the boots-on-the-ground organizational structure and staff remain the same.

A new chapter is commencing, but our mission carries forward unchanged. We are dedicated to continuing the preservation of this historic treasure and the perpetuation of its important stories. We are privileged to be able to continue serving the community in meaningful ways. It is with optimism that we look to the future!



## KEEP DISCOVERING

*Free outdoor exhibits and in-depth online enhancements offer year-round learning*

Although our 2024 season is completed, our outdoor exhibits and supplemental web content are available every day. ...great opportunities to keep learning!

Walking Wawa'ajja outdoor exhibit and web page: [www.agencyhouse.org/walking](http://www.agencyhouse.org/walking)

A Landscape of Families outdoor exhibit and website: [www.agencyhouse.org/landscape-of-families](http://www.agencyhouse.org/landscape-of-families)

Stories of the Land trailway (educational signage): [www.agencyhouse.org/grounds](http://www.agencyhouse.org/grounds)

More: Annual online history series | learning guides: [www.agencyhouse.org/learn](http://www.agencyhouse.org/learn)



## NSCDA-WI

From page 1

As the NSCDA-WI fades off the scene, their top priority has been to ensure that the results of their near-century of steadfast care of our historic site reverberates into the future.



The National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the State of Wisconsin was established in 1896 to actively promote our national heritage through historic preservation, patriotic service, and educational projects. Its membership was limited to direct descendants of colonists who lived in America and rendered public service to the colonies prior to July 5, 1776. The Wisconsin chapter has been a powerhouse of service over its 128 years of existence, making a real and lasting impact — particularly when it committed to rescuing and restoring the Agency House during the Great Depression. These women poured themselves into this endeavor, opening the home as a museum in 1932 and overseeing its operation up to the present day. Theirs is a fascinating story with a noteworthy legacy.

With declining membership and decreasing capacity of the older generation to actively serve in leadership, the difficult decision was made to disband and plan for the independent future of the museum. Our site does, however, retain an informal partnership with the national Dames umbrella organization through its *Great American Treasures* initiative. We are deeply grateful for the foresight and dedication of multiple generations of the NSCDA-WI!

Video: [www.agencyhouse.org/nscda-wi](http://www.agencyhouse.org/nscda-wi)  
Scrapbook: [www.agencyhouse.org/history-rediscovered](http://www.agencyhouse.org/history-rediscovered)  
The full story (addendum): [www.agencyhouse.org/wau-bun](http://www.agencyhouse.org/wau-bun)

## WE'RE INVESTING IN MAKING A DIFFERENCE...TOGETHER!



## THANK YOU

### 2024 grantors & sponsors

- Alliant Energy Foundation
- C.D. Besadny Conservation Fund (Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin)
- Chipstone Foundation
- Cissy VD Bryson Fund at the Greater Milwaukee Foundation in memory of Cissy Van Dyke Scannell Bryson
- Community Foundation of South Central Wisconsin
- Crawford Oil & Propane
- DAAR Engineering, Inc.
- Dennis Grady (*Trails* book sponsorship)
- Edward C. Lenz & June M. Lenz Charitable Trust
- General Engineering Company
- George L.N. Meyer Family Foundation
- H.L. Palmer Masonic Angel Fund
- Kohler Foundation
- Miller & Miller, LLC attorneys-at-law
- NSCDA-WI
- Pflanz-Mendrala Funeral Homes
- Portage Historical Society
- Portage Tourism - City of Portage
- Sean Malone State Farm Insurance
- Smiley Law Office
- Schultz Small Engine
- Terrytown Plumbing
- William O'Connor & Krista Roys
- Wisconsin Federation of Museums
- Wisconsin Humanities

**...and thanks to all of YOU...**  
whose steadfast financial partnership enables us to meet essential needs.

### SEASON DEDICATION

In memory of Cissy Van Dyke Scannell Bryson, Marilyn Grady, Nancy Kamlukin, Donna Macie, Carole Nye, Edward (Ted) Rebholz, Steven Sarbacher, Polly Stone and the Stone family.  
In honor of Bobbie Goodman, Dave & Sandy Gunderson, Parker and Peylen Littlegeorge Kowalke, Barbara J. Meyer, Judge Daniel O'Connor, volunteers at HIAH, Dr. Anne Vravick, and Barbara Zaiser.



# Will you partner with us today?

The Historic Indian Agency House is a nonprofit 501(c)3 museum. We need you!

## DEDICATE THE 2025 SEASON TO SOMEONE YOU LOVE

### A THOUGHTFUL GIFT for loved ones this holiday season

When you support the Historic Indian Agency House, you may choose to designate your contribution in memory of or in honor of someone special to you. We will be pleased to dedicate the 2025 season to your loved one. His or her name will be posted in various venues, including on our events web page ([www.agencyhouse.org/events](http://www.agencyhouse.org/events)) and newsletter. Your donation is tax-deductible. If you would like us to send you a special card to present to someone regarding your donation, simply check the box on the form on the back.

Your donation is two gifts in one: a kind gesture to the one honored/remembered, as well as a means to help us preserve our historic site and serve the community. Thank you for your generosity.



## HOW YOUR SUPPORT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

### EDUCATION



Tours | Exhibits | Events | Curriculum | Programming | Online History Series | School Programs

### OPERATIONS



Staffing | Utilities | Buildings & Grounds | Insurance | Basic Operating Costs | Supplies

### PRESERVATION



Artifact Curation | Preservation of House & Site | Collections Care | Stewardship of Kinzie's Wau-Bun

### RESEARCH



Original Historical Research | Archaeological Inquiry | Collaboration with Other Professionals

### OUTREACH



Mobile Museum | Internships | Speaking Engagements | Newsletters | Community Initiatives

# THANK YOU!

## Thank you for your support!

Mail in this form, OR donate online: [www.agencyhouse.org/donate](http://www.agencyhouse.org/donate)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_



DONATION DETAILS	AMT
Your donation is tax-deductible.	\$ .00

I would like to pay by:  Check  Credit Card



*Make check payable to Historic Indian Agency House*



Name on credit card (if different than above): \_\_\_\_\_

Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ 3-4 digit Code: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like a receipt for tax purposes:  Yes  No

My donation is in  Memory  Honor

of \_\_\_\_\_

(Be sure to print clearly.)

The 2025 season will be dedicated in his/her memory/honor.



Please send me a card I can share with those honored by this gift  Yes  No

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please sign me up for the e-news mailing list (newsletters & program updates, 1-2/mo.)

Return this form (and check, if applicable) to:  
Historic Indian Agency House, 1490 Agency House Road, Portage, WI 53901