



THE GRIGNON GAZETTE

March 2017

UPCOMING EVENTS

Welcome!

We are back after a brief break from our newsletter over the winter. Thank you to everyone that came out for our Christmas tours and the Kaukauna Christmas Parade! We are truly blessed to be able to share the Mansion and historical holiday traditions with all of our guests!

Below are a few pictures from our Christmas activities (more pictures are on our Facebook page). Guests enjoyed candlelight tours, horse drawn carriage and sleigh rides, music, and crafts.

While we did take a brief break from our newsletter, our volunteers have been busy getting ready for the upcoming season! We are very excited to be part of some new events this year, as well as bringing

back some favorites! A calendar of events is included so you can mark your calendars! Details are still being worked out, so watch our Facebook page and website for more information.

In order to host these events and be open for tours, there are a lot of volunteers that work diligently behind the scenes. Over the past few months, we have been writing policies, planning events, strategizing for future developments, and budgeting. We are always eager to welcome more volunteers. If you are interested in joining us, please see our Call for Volunteers later in the newsletter.

We hope to see you soon!

- May 6 – September 3:** Saturday & Sunday tours
- June 10** – Little Chute Jazz Band
- June 10** – Appleton Flag Day Parade
- June 14** – Little Chute Community Band
- June 17** – Brat Fry @ Piggly Wiggly
- June 24** – Menominee & Oneida Nation Pow Wow
- July 29 to July 30** – Civil War Living History Demonstration
- August 5** – Bike to the Beat
- August 13** – Car Show and Brat Fry
- September 9** – Fall Fest
- September 16th & 17th** – Fur Trade Encampment
- December 5** – Kaukauna Christmas Parade
- December 1st to 3rd** – Christmas Tours
- December 8th to 10th** – Christmas Tours



Fur Trade Operations

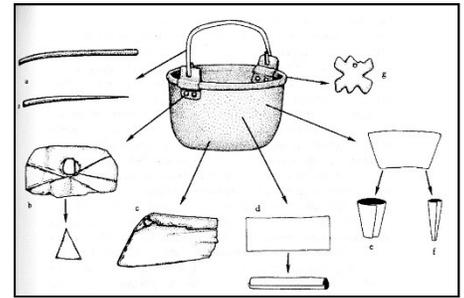
by Dick Boyd Ph.D.

As we will examine later in more detail, members of the Grignon Family were probably always involved in the fur trade, starting in the 1700s. They operated trading posts and Indian supply stores, acted as agents for huge trading agencies, and even formed independent trading companies. Many of the Grignons had Native American wives, were honorary members of various tribes, could speak their languages, and were considered highly influential and trusted intermediaries in fur trade transactions and governmental matters. Certain Grignons were significant landowners, possessing large tracts of land throughout the Territory / State.

In recent years, there has been much criticism of the fur trade business and its negative effect on the Native American way of life. There is little doubt that the introduction of European goods eventually created a dependence on such materials, often causing

Indians to lose or forget their original self-reliant skills and independent life style. Certainly, the introduction of alcoholic beverages became a prominent factor in the degradation of many tribes. On the other hand, many European products enhanced Indian life, allowing them to hunt, fish, cook, and farm more efficiently and ultimately live better.

One simple example of this is the common copper kettle, which was a ubiquitous trade item. Kettles were produced in huge quantities in Europe, designed so that sizes would fit together, making compact "nests," easy to transport into the wilderness. Historical records indicate that the early French explorer and trader Nicolas Perrot was supplying kettles to Wisconsin tribes by the late 1600s. These utilitarian devices were a precious possession to a Native American for cooking purposes and far more, as shown on the adjacent diagram. Worn out units (and occasionally new ones) were transformed into numerous useful items: Handles became awls (a), handle hinges were cut into arrow points (b), kettle rims became pendants (g), the metal bodies were transformed into knives (c), ornamental beads and cones (d,e,f), as well as metal patches for various uses.



Many trade goods were considered valuable enough to become grave goods to be used in the Hereafter. Kettles were frequently found in burials, as were a wide variety of other trade goods, especially silver items introduced into the trade in the mid-1700s. Renowned archeologist George Quimby once wrote: "An Indian woman might be buried with her brass kettle, silver brooches, necklaces of colored glass beads, an iron axe for chopping wood, a jews harp, and other furnishings considered necessary in the "after life." At the bottom line, in our enlightened 21st century, it's difficult to judge the importance of these simple items to the daily world of the Native Americans, as well as their perception of the spirit life to come and the necessities needed therein.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS!

We are always looking for new volunteers of all ages at the Mansion. Volunteers are able to choose their level of involvement and the amount of time they are able to volunteer. Opportunities include tour guides, gift shop, blacksmith, demonstrations, grounds keeping, and more. Prefer to be behind the scenes? There are also opportunities for event planning, sewing, costume making, strategic planning, advertising, and social media.

Contact us by email at info@arianonmansion.org or complete the Contact Form on our website for more information!

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