



# THE GRIGNON GAZETTE

## November 2016

### UPCOMING EVENTS

## Welcome!

Since our last newsletter, our volunteers have been busy preparing for the holiday season. We are very excited to once again offer Christmas tours at the Mansion! We hope you can join us as we share the history of the Grignon family and Victorian traditions that were common during the year 1848. Check out our website or Facebook page for tour details.

In addition to the Christmas tours, we are excited to be part of the Kaukauna Christmas parade! Volunteer Lyle Hansen has been busy working on our float since July and it looks fantastic! Below are a few sneak previews. Be sure to see the finished float at the parade on December 6<sup>th</sup>!

Once again, we want to thank all of our volunteers and sponsors for your support.

Have a happy and blessed Thanksgiving!



### Christmas Tours

December 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
 Friday 4pm – 7pm  
 Saturday 1pm – 7pm  
 Sunday 12pm – 4pm

December 9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
 Friday 4pm – 7pm  
 Saturday 1pm – 7pm  
 Sunday 12pm – 4pm

Admissions:  
 \$8 Adults, \$5 Ages 6-17, Ages 5 & Under Free

Join us in the Christmas celebration! Come learn about Christmas traditions in the year 1848 and the Grignon family. Tours will feature candlelight tours after dark, live music by Holy Cross and St. Katherine Drexel choirs, crafts, cookie decorating, and wassail (hot spiced cider) and milk punch (eggnog) samples. There will be trolley rides on Saturday from 4pm – 7pm and horse-drawn carriage or sleigh rides on Sunday from noon – 4pm. For more information, visit [grignonmansion.org](http://grignonmansion.org) or find us on Facebook.



# Conflicts from Regime Change

by Dick Boyd Ph.D.

As explained in *Gazette #2*, control of the fur trade on the Western Lakes shifted from the French, to the English, to the Americans during the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. These regime changes led to land ownership disputes and oppressive actions by the respective controlling power. While land ownership problems were often settled amicably, not so with business matters, particularly within the fur trade. So critical was dominance of this business that it was considered a vital national interest by each prevailing power. (See map for territorial status as of 1750 at the height of the fur trade).

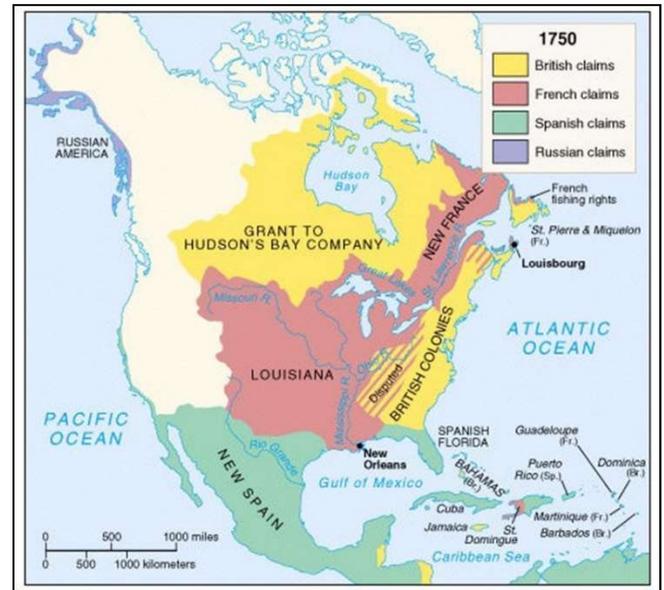
When the French were in charge during the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the fur trade business centered in Montreal, Canada (New France). Traders gathered pelts from Native American trappers throughout vast wildernesses, which were then collected at mid-summer "Rendezvous," and were finally transported by voyageurs to Montreal and lastly to Europe. French fur traders were required to be licensed by the government, but many were illegal free-lancers, called *coureurs de bois* ("runners of the woods"). Even the Indians got into the trade as middlemen. Certain dominant tribes would collect furs from subservient tribes and, in turn, sell them to the French traders.

Of all the nations competing for dominance in the fur trade, history reports that the

French were clearly the most successful. This is because many traders married Native American women and became members of their tribes. Moreover, these traders usually over-wintered with the tribes during hunting season, thereby guaranteeing first crack at the prized furs. (Various Grignons employed this tactic).

When the British gained power over the French in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the business headquarters for the trade shifted to Mackinac Island. However, the English had to contend and compete with French traders who had long established sources for lucrative pelts. The British took a dim view of the intermarriage of French and Indian, but took no direct action to curtail the practice. They did deny trading licenses to likely competing French or independent traders. Another tactic was to commission French traders as official agents for English companies like the Northwest Company. While some Englishmen tried to compete with the French "out in the field," they usually were not particularly successful. It has been said the French treated fur transactions as "all-in-the-family matters," whereas the English and Americans employed a strict "buy low / sell high" approach.

The Americans took far more restrictive actions to control the trade. They employed most of the same tactics as the British, but further legislated against intermarriage with Indians and prosecuted various traders for mixed marriages, including several Grignons (we'll examine these events in future *Gazettes*). The Americans also established



what were called "Fur Factories," government-run trading posts at major trade centers (Green Bay had one), where supposedly the Indians would get the "fairest deal possible," which excluded all alcoholic products. For many reasons, Fur Factories were total failures and the program was discontinued after only nine years.

Unfortunately, the importance alcohol played in the fur trade cannot be ignored. It was a normal trade good for all French traders. Grignon documents disclose alcoholic beverages as regular supply purchases. The English did little to restrain this trade, but the Americans called for a ban and tried to institute prohibition as part of the Fur Factory program. But by this time, alcohol was so pervasive and in demand at most trading posts that it was impossible to eliminate. It became a major factor in the decimation of many tribes.

Looking for more ways to support the Grignon Mansion? Now you can through Amazon Smile. Just choose Friends of the Grignon Mansion as your charitable organization and Amazon will donate a percentage of each purchase you make. Visit <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/46-4305132> for more details!

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## Looking to Volunteer?

We are always looking for new volunteers at the Mansion. Opportunities include tour guides, gift shop, blacksmith, grounds keeping, and more.

Contact us by email at [info@grignonmansion.org](mailto:info@grignonmansion.org) for more information!