



THE GRIGNON GAZETTE

October 2016

UPCOMING EVENTS

Welcome!

Wow! Where has the time gone! A lot has been going on at the Mansion since our last edition of the Grignon Gazette. In September, we held our Fall Festival and Fur Trade Event. Guests were able to visit with re-enactors and learn about life during the time of the Fur Trade. There were also crafts, trolley rides, blacksmith demonstrations, and Mansion tours.

Although our regular season is over, there is still plenty going on. Now that school has started, we are excited to give tours to students from around the area. In addition to students, we have also opened up for several private tours in the past month. If you are interested in visiting the Mansion during the off season, give us a call and we'll try to set up a tour for you.

In addition to tours, our volunteers have been busy planning Christmas tours for during the holiday season. Watch our website, Facebook, and our next newsletter for details!

Thank you to all our guests for making this season our most successful yet and allowing us to share the history of the Grignon Mansion with you.

We also want to take this opportunity to thank the many businesses and individuals

that have made donations to the Mansion this year. The list is long and we apologize if we have missed anyone. A huge thank you to: ATF Tires & Service, Cake Anatomy, the Elks Lodge, Kaukauna Fire Department, Kaukauna Glass, Kaukauna Public Library, Kaukauna Utilities, Lamers Bus Lines, Landro Fox Cities Realty, Larry's Piggly Wiggly, Seymour Lumber, Sprangers Orchard, The Home Depot, Tundraland, Unison Credit Union, Van's Service, Verbeten's Bowl and Grill, and the Wrightstown Antique Gallery. We also received a beautiful antique display case donated by Linda Russo in memory of Gregory J Russo, DDS.

We also want to thank the local quilters group that made and donated the beautiful quilt raffled off this season: Bev Yunk, Faith Van Toll, Tess Roberts, Theresa Schiaak, Pat Kailhofer, Jan Schneider, and Tina Kahler.

Finally, we'd like to thank those that helped out with brat fry and food at our events: Kaukauna Athletic Club, Boy Scouts Troop 104, and Pagoni's Pizza.

Thank you for all of the generous donations and support!

The November edition will be out soon once the details for the Christmas tours are finalized.



Christmas Tours

December 2nd – 4th, 2016
 Friday 4pm – 7pm
 Saturday 1pm – 7pm
 Sunday 12pm – 4pm

December 9th – 11th, 2016
 Friday 4pm – 7pm
 Saturday 1pm – 7pm
 Sunday 12pm – 4pm

More details to come soon!

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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Territorial Wars and the Fur Trade

by Dick Boyd Ph.D.

In our first installment, we reviewed the events that set the stage for the proliferation of the Grignon lineage, beginning back in the 1600s. However, before pursuing the history of our "Wisconsin Grignons" further, we should review the political and cultural environments that existed during the nearly 300 years that the fur trade flourished in North America. Certain governmental factors greatly influenced the lives of those involved in the fur trade and its numerous associated businesses. As we will see in future Gazettes, the Grignons did not escape these bureaucratic perils.

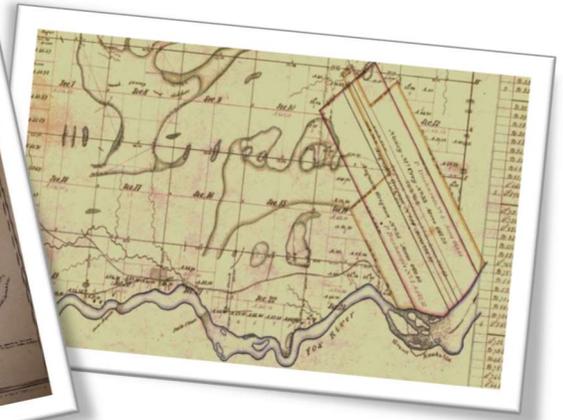
Notably, we had four or more nations vying for control of vast territories where valuable pelts could be obtained. So lucrative was this business that tensions, disputes, and skirmishes over territorial boundaries were constant events. Those boundaries were diffuse at best and remained in flux as the decades passed. In northern Canada around Hudson Bay into the arctic, the British controlled the region from the Atlantic westward. In the south, the Spanish possessed the land in the Southwest and at times were influential up the Mississippi River to St. Louis and beyond. Of course, a fledgling America in the late 1700s held the East Coast south of the Maritime Provinces to Florida. France held southern Canada from the St. Lawrence into Northwest Territory and south to the Ohio Valley and beyond. Even the Dutch and Russians were involved at certain times and

places. Aggressions into the perceived territory of each nation were everyday occurrences.

Territorial friction between the English and French became particularly violent in the 1700s, leading to the infamous French and Indian War, in which the French fought the British, each side aided by their respective Native American cohorts. This conflict lasted from 1754 -1763 and included numerous skirmishes and major battles, with victories on both sides. In 1759 - 60, the English overwhelmed Quebec and Montreal, then the center of New France, resulting in British control over all prior French lands for the next 25 years. When the Revolutionary War ended in 1783, Britain relinquished to the USA not only its 13 colonies, but also nearly all lands east of Mississippi, although British citizens retained a strong presence thereabouts. The War of 1812 finally ousted the British from all non-Canadian territory and much of the Great Lakes region. Regardless, the English maintained a strong business influence in the area. These regime changes had profound effects not only on fur trade business, but also the daily lives of

those who depended on that industry for their livelihoods. *Old alliances die hard*, and many traders, now American citizens by decree, stubbornly retained strong economic ties with the British and often expressed hostility toward the upstart USA.

Moreover, many fur traders owned property acquired either through land grants, homesteading, or purchase from Native Americans. With each change of regime, the legitimacy of many of these ownerships came into question, or was declared invalid by the new government. Considerable paperwork, expense, and legal maneuvering were often required to regain and maintain property ownership. More importantly, each new regime did its utmost to usurp as much of the fur trade business as possible. This often involved attempts to put most independent or competing traders out of business. Certain dominating powers even tried to alter traditional cultural practices of some traders. In the next Gazette, we'll examine some of the tactics employed to control the fur trade on the Western Lakes and the Old Northwest.



Congratulations Marilyn V. on winning the quilt raffle! Thank you to all who purchased tickets for your support!



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 for more information!