

AGENDA

JEFFERSON COUNTY PARKS COMMITTEE

Jefferson County Courthouse
320 S Main Street, Rm 202
Jefferson WI 53549

October 7, 2013 @ 1:00 p.m.

Committee: Glen Borland, Mike Kelly, Ed Morse, Steve Nass, Augie Tietz

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Certification of Compliance with the Open Meetings Law
4. Review of the Agenda
5. Public Comment
6. Approval of the September 3, 2013 Meeting Minutes
7. Communications
 - a. Group Permits issued for: Tyranena Oktoberfest Bike Ride on the Glacial River Bike Trail (1750 participants), October 5, 2013; Tyranena Beer Run (1100 participants), November 2, 2013
 - b. Eagle Scout Project completed by Nick Peters
 - c. Ceremony Opens Rock River Trail – Watertown Daily Times
 - d. Parks Department Will Apply for State Grant to Fund Trail – Watertown Daily Times
 - e. Top Dogs Recognized by Jefferson Park, Rec – Daily Jefferson County Union, September 5, 2013
 - f. Mason Log Home Dates Back Century-and-a-Half – Daily Jefferson County Union, September 6-8, 2013
 - g. Mason Jar Jamboree – Daily Jefferson County Union, September 9, 2013
8. Discussion and possible decision on Waterloo-Watertown Recreational Trail Plan
9. Discussion and possible decision on Camping Policy and Fees for Primitive Camping Sites at Dorothy Carnes Park
10. Discussion and possible decision regarding the Watertown Outboarders GHA Acquisition
11. Discussion and possible decision on Conservation Aids Grant Resolution
12. Discussion and possible decision on 2014 budget
13. Discussion and possible decision on Special Dog Park Usage
14. Update on 2013 Parks Department Budget
15. Update on Glacial Heritage Area (GHA) Project
16. Set Tentative Meeting Dates/Times for: November 4, 2013 at 1:00 p.m.
17. Adjourn

The Committee may discuss and/or take action on any item specifically listed on the agenda.

Individuals requiring special accommodations for attendance at the meeting should contact the County Administrator at 920-674-7101; 24 hours prior to the meeting, so appropriate arrangements can be made

#6

**JEFFERSON COUNTY PARKS COMMITTEE MINUTES
JEFFERSON COUNTY COURTHOUSE
320 S Main Street, Rm 202
Jefferson WI 53549**

September 2, 2013 @1:00 p.m.

Committee: Glen Borland, Mike Kelly, Rick Kuhlman, Steve Nass, Augie Tietz

1. **Call to Order** - The meeting was called to order by Chairman Borland at 1:04 p.m.
2. **Committee members present:** Borland, Kelly, Kuhlman, Nass and Tietz. **Others present:** Joe Nehmer, Jane Stanger, Kevin Wiesmann, Kim Buchholz, Ben Wehmeier, John Molinaro, Lydia Statz.
3. **Certification of Compliance with the Open Meetings Law** – In compliance
4. **Review of the Agenda** – No changes to the agenda.
5. **Public Comment** - None
6. **Approval of the August 5, 2013 Meeting Minutes**

Motion to approve the August 5, 2013 meeting minutes by Nass, seconded by Tietz. Carried 4-0, Kuhlman abstained.

7. **Communications**

- a. Emerald Ash Borer Arrives in Dodge County
- b. Bicycle Trails Main Focus of County Economic Plan
- c. Youth Donation – Daily Jefferson County Union
- d. Friends of Glacial Heritage Area Open House – Jefferson County Living
- e. Morning Magazine & GHA Picnic – Email, Clare Carlson
- f. The Rock River Trail Brochure
- g. Mason Jar Jamboree
- h. Dog Days of Summer in Jefferson
- i. Modern Woodmen providing \$10,000 for Korth Playground

8. **Discussion and possible decision on Waterloo-Watertown Recreational Trail Plan**

Nehmer noted that the committee has discussed this subject the last two months. At the last meeting, the department was instructed to develop a phased approach. Tietz stated that we are looking at a two phase project. The entire project is probably way too much for one grant application. At this time, it is unknown as to the exact funds that are available from DOT and DNR. Buchholz stated she had received an email from DOT informing that information regarding the WI TAP grant will be forthcoming in early October.

Tietz and Nehmer explained that the first phase would actually be two steps. The first step would come east out of Waterloo to Hwy 89, stopping where Island Road heads east off 89. The second step would proceed west out of Watertown to the east

intersection with Island Road. This incorporates a change in the route to no longer utilize West Road. The route would utilize County Hwy T.

To summarize, there are two phases, 1A and 1B; working from both directions towards the middle. The second phase would involve Island Rd. Nehmer spoke with Dale Neupert, Town of Watertown Chair. Neupert indicated that this may provide an opportunity for the township to have Island Road engineered to make the road better. Island Road has a history of sinking going through the marsh.

Nehmer explained why County T is being recommended. Tietz and Nehmer attended the last Town of Watertown board meeting. At the meeting, citizens from West Road presented a petition to the Town Board asking that the bike trail not go on West Road. Jefferson County was not aware of this petition; only receiving a copy when at the meeting. Tietz and Nehmer were asked to comment. Nehmer mentioned that Supervisor Greg David asked the Town of Watertown to not vote for no bike trail on any town road citing that he thought that was short sighted. The Town of Watertown also agreed to allow signage on High Road going south out of the City of Watertown to connect with the Glacial River Trail. Further discussion occurred.

Motion to approve the phased approach from Watertown to Waterloo while holding open the possibility of an alternate route on Hwy 19 made by Tietz.

Motion amended to move forward with the phased approach; starting from Watertown coming out to Hwy T to Hwy Q, north to Highway 19, West to Highway G, south to Island Road that could be 1B and 1A would be coming through Waterloo to Hwy 89 east to Island Road by Tietz. Motion seconded by Nass. Motion carried, 5-0

9. Discussion and possible decision on 2014 Budget

Nehmer discussed the 2014 budget. He read an email dealing with Capital Requests from Administrator Wehmeier. The Administrator has included the 2014 Capital Requests within the 2014 budget. This includes: \$15,000 for a UTV, \$40,000 for a groomer, \$49,800 for a handicap fishing wharf, \$45,000 recreational equipment, \$10,900 for 9 hole disc golf course, \$75,000 for a parking lot at Carnes Park, \$13,000 for a well at Garman Nature Preserve, \$22,000 for a mower and \$5,000 for a mower trailer. Wehmeyer stated that we have been working through the 2014 budget finalization and were able to get a little more capital carry over request. Therefore, we were able to include most of the Parks Departments Capital requests. Discussion occurred.

10. Discussion and possible decision on Emerald Ash Borer Action Plan for Jefferson County Owned Property

Nehmer stated that the County Administration convened a meeting to discuss Emerald Ash Borer in Jefferson County. The borer has been identified immediately North and South of Jefferson County's borders. So, we probably have it in Jefferson County as

well; it just has not been positively identified yet. Wiesmann and staff completed an inventory of the 17 parks and county facilities and put together recommendations for the group to discuss.

Wiesmann stated that the group discussed the treatment options (no treatment, total removal and replacement of all Ash trees in our system or treatment with insecticide of select trees or a combination of all of the above.) Our management for Emerald Ash Borer includes the 17 County Parks as well as all county facilities. The consensus was that in some places like the Fair Park there are a lot of ash trees in decline. They are very susceptible to Emerald Ash Borer so we are going start removing and replacing with trees. Then there are trees that are younger and might not be as susceptible now. This will be an ongoing issue long after the initial wave comes through. Some of the trees are small and need to be removed. Those we will start removing and replacing. The overall plan is a phased approach to start removing and replacing trees throughout, prioritizing the county facilities and those places that were immediately adjacent to shelters and putting the oldest trees and some of the trees that are in decline at the top of that list to be removed.

Wiesmann is also working with the Highway Department to identify a countywide disposal site. Discussion occurred. Wiesmann has also spoken with Cyndi Keller in Jefferson and Scott Lustusky in Fort Atkinson on how their respective municipalities are handling it.

Wiesmann explained that treatment is around 70% effective for the long term 7 years. There is a possibility that even with treatment, the trees will die. Borland asked about budget for control. Wiesmann stated that it is not technically identified within our budget as a line item but would be paid through park improvement and maintenance line items. Tietz asked if we had an inventory. Wiesmann stated that yes, there are a total of 188 trees located within the maintained area of the County Parks and Facilities that have been identified by diameter and size. Nehmer stated that the property where there will be the most dramatic change will be at Kanow Park; all the trees along the river are ash trees. Wiesmann stated that we are looking at \$100-\$180 per tree for replacement trees. Further discussion occurred.

11. Discussion and action on Resolution to Authorize Application for and Acceptance of WI DNR and DOT Grants to Fund construction of Bike Trails from Waterloo to Watertown and Watertown to Oconomowoc

Today, we are asking the committee to take action on the draft resolution. The resolution gives the Parks Department permission to apply for the grants and accept the grant awards if received. The resolution will move from the committee to the County Board for approval. Stanger distributed the resolution to committee members. Ristow addressed the committee stating that this process is a little bit different due to the size of the grant application; \$15 million. Buchholz stated that we anticipate at least two grant applications, WI TAP and Stewardship. Discussion occurred.

Motion by Kelly, seconded by Kuhlman, to approve the resolution as written and forward it to the County Board for approval. Motion carried, 5-0.

12. August 15, 2013 Parks Department Acceptance of \$325 from the Dorothy Dash

Motion by Tietz, seconded by Nass, to accept the \$325 donation from the Dorothy Dash to utilize at Dorothy Carnes Park. Stanger will send a thank you for the donation received.

13. Discussion on Parks Department Financial Update

Stanger passed out the Budget Summary through August 31, 2013 to committee members. Budget is on track. Nehmer will continue to keep the committee informed of anything that comes up that is unexpected or cannot be handled within the budget.

14. Update on Rock River Shoreline Restoration Project

Buchholz reported that the Rock River Shoreline Restoration Project has been completed. Before and after pictures were passed around. We are currently awaiting final bills to come in to close out the grant.

15. Update on Pohlman Shelter Completion and Park Improvements

Wiesmann reported that the Pohlman Park Shelter capital project as well as playground improvements have been completed. Before and after pictures were passed around.

16. Update on Glacial Heritage Area (GHA) Project

Nehmer reported that the Annual GHA Picnic was well attended and a nice event for all that attended. Tietz reported that we are continuing to work on the Watertown to Waterloo (Interurban) trail with the WI DNR and We Energy. Also, the Watertown Boat Club property has not yet closed due to waiting on soil test results. The next Horse Trails Committee meeting will be held on September 4 at the Jefferson County Fair Park.

17. CONVENE IN CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO S.1986(1)(E). Statutes, to deliberate the potential purchase of public property

Motion by Nass, seconded by Kuhlman, to convene in closed session pursuant to S.1986 statutes, to deliberate the potential purchase of a public property. Roll call vote taken. Nass, yes; Kuhlman, yes; Borland, yes; Kelly, yes; Tietz, yes.

18. Reconvene in open session to take possible action on the items discussed in closed session

Motion by Nass, seconded by Kuhlman, to reconvene in open session pursuant to S.1986 statutes. Roll call vote taken. Nass, yes; Kuhlman, yes; Borland, yes; Kelly, yes; Tietz, yes.

Motion made by Nass, seconded by Kuhlman to make an offer on the discussed property for the price offered by the WI DOT. Motion carried, 5-0.

19. Set Tentative Meeting Dates/Times for: October 7, 2013 at 1:00 pm

20. Adjourn - Nass motioned to adjourn meeting at 2:53 p.m.

#7a

JEFFERSON COUNTY PARK COMMITTEE

2013 GROUP MEETING

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|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> ALTPETER | <input type="checkbox"/> GLACIAL RIVER TRAIL | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ROCK LAKE -Lower |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BURNT VILLAGE | <input type="checkbox"/> INDIAN MOUND/TRAIL | <input type="checkbox"/> ROCK LAKE - Upper |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CARLIN WELD | <input type="checkbox"/> JOY | <input type="checkbox"/> ROCK RIVER |
| <input type="checkbox"/> COLD SPRING CREAMERY | <input type="checkbox"/> KANOW | <input type="checkbox"/> ROME POND |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DOG PARK | <input type="checkbox"/> DOROTHY CARNES | <input type="checkbox"/> KORTH -KORTH LN |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GARMAN NATURE PRESERVE | <input type="checkbox"/> POHLMANN | <input type="checkbox"/> WELCOME TRAVELERS |

DATE: October 5, 2013 August 29, 2013

HOUR OF DAY: All Day

PARTY SIZE: 1750

PARTY PURPOSE: Tyranena Oktoberfest Bike Ride Glacial River Bike Trail Jefferson to Fort Atkinson

Stacey will contact Fort Atkinson, Recreation regarding their portion of the ride.

PARTY RESPONSIBLE FOR SECURING PERMIT: Stacey Schraufnagel, Tyranena Brewing Company

ADDRESS: 1025 Owen Street, PO Box 736, Lake Mills, WI 53551

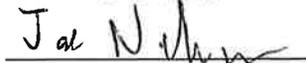
TELEPHONE: 920-648-8699

EMAIL: www.tyranena.com

HOLDERS OF THIS PERMIT ASSUME THE RISK OF PROPERTY DAMAGE, PERSONAL INJURY OR BODILY INJURY RESULTING IN ANY WAY FROM THEIR USE OF THE PARK AND AGREE TO IDEMNIFY AND HOLD JEFFERSON COUNTY HARMLESS FROM ALL COSTS OR LOSSES RESULTING FROM THIS USE OF THE PARK.

THE HOLDER OF THIS PERMIT IS NOT ENTITLED TO EXCLUSIVE USE OF ANY FACILITY WITHIN THE PARK.

JOSEPH W. NEHMER, DIRECTOR



320 SOUTH MAIN STREET

COURTHOUSE/ROOM 204

JEFFERSON WI 53549

JEFFERSON COUNTY PARK COMMITTEE

2013 GROUP MEETING

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|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> ALTPETER | <input type="checkbox"/> GLACIAL RIVER TRAIL | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ROCK LAKE -Lower |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BURNT VILLAGE | <input type="checkbox"/> INDIAN MOUND/TRAIL | <input type="checkbox"/> ROCK LAKE - Upper |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CARLIN WELD | <input type="checkbox"/> JOY | <input type="checkbox"/> ROCK RIVER |
| <input type="checkbox"/> COLD SPRING CREAMERY | <input type="checkbox"/> KANOW | <input type="checkbox"/> ROME POND |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DOG PARK | <input type="checkbox"/> DOROTHY CARNES | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> KORTH - <u>KORTH LN - ELM POINT RD</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GARMAN NATURE PRESERVE | <input type="checkbox"/> POHLMANN | <input type="checkbox"/> WELCOME TRAVELERS |

DATE: November 2, 2013

HOUR OF DAY: All Day

PARTY SIZE: 1100

PARTY PURPOSE: Tyranena Beer Run

They will have a water station at Lower Rock Lake Park and Korth Park. The route passes through Lower Rock Lake Park from Hwy B along Rock Lake Road and back out to B. Some runners will follow bike trail through Korth Park, departing park onto Elm Point Rd. A water station consists of a few tables, coolers, garbage cans, cups and 2 portable restrooms. All supplies and trash will be removed from the park by volunteers and staff the afternoon of the event. Restrooms will be delivered Friday and picked up Monday.

PARTY RESPONSIBLE FOR SECURING PERMIT: Stacey Schraufnagel, Tyranena Brewing Company

ADDRESS: 1025 Owen Street, PO Box 736, Lake Mills, WI 53551

TELEPHONE: 920-648-8699

EMAIL: www.tyranena.com

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JOSEPH W. NEHMER, DIRECTOR



320 SOUTH MAIN STREET

COURTHOUSE/ROOM 204

JEFFERSON WI 53549

7B

Jane Stanger

From: Kevin Wiesmann
Sent: Friday, August 30, 2013 6:48 AM
To: Joe Nehmer; Kim Buchholz - Parks; Jane Stanger
Subject: Eagle Scout Project Completed
Attachments: IMG_0926.JPG; IMG_0927.JPG

Good morning. We worked with Nick Peters of Fort Atkinson yesterday to install 6 fishing line collection receptacles in 6 county parks. An additional fishing line collection container was provided to our department for future install at the Handicap fishing wharf. The installs were done at Rock River, Lower Rock, Kanow, Rome Pond, Carlin Weld Pond, and Burnt Village. Park staff helped with digging the holes and setting the posts. All materials were provided by Nick, who raised funds through Fort Atkinson businesses and the Wisconservation Club. Attached are two photo's of Nick at Burnt Village. FYI.

Kevin Wiesmann
Jefferson County Parks Supervisor
1555 S. Industrial Drive
Jefferson, WI 53549
kevinw@jeffersoncountywi.gov
Office: (920) 674-7540
Cell: (920) 691-2329



#7c



Jake Meister/Daily Times

From left, Greg Farnham, coordinator of the Rock River Trail Initiative; state Rep. Mark Born; Dodge County Supervisor Harold Johnson and Dodge County Highway Commissioner Brian Field pose with a replica sign for the Rock River Trail Scenic and Historic Route autographed by Gov. Scott Walker. The route was officially opened Friday morning.

Ceremony opens Rock River trail

HUSTISFORD — A ribbon cutting ceremony to officially open the Rock River Scenic Trail and Historic Route took place in Hustisford Friday morning.

A road sign purchased by the Lake Sinissippi Improvement District was also installed.

State Rep. Mark Born cut the ribbon and voiced his admiration for the cause. Others present at the ceremony were Dodge County Supervisor Harold Johnson, Lake Sinissippi Improvement District Chairman Jim Gronowski, Hustisford village President Dennis Uecker, coordinator of the Rock River Trail Initiative Greg Farnham, Dodge County Administrator Jim Mielke, Dodge County

Highway Commissioner Brian Field, Dodge County Land Resources and Parks Department Director Joyce Fiacco, Dodge County Board Chairman Russell Kottke and Dennis Hundt of the Department of Public Works for the village of Hustisford.

The Wisconsin Legislature unanimously adopted two bills April 17 to designate and mark a specified highway route in Fond du Lac, Dodge, Jefferson, Dane and Rock counties as Rock River Trail Scenic and Historic Route. Rep. John Jagler, Watertown, was the lead Assembly sponsor.

The Illinois general Assembly adopted a resolution May

23 to designate and make the route from the Wisconsin-Illinois state line at Beloit to the confluence of the Rock River with the Mississippi River.

“We are most gratified to have unanimous bipartisan support from both the Wisconsin and Illinois legislatures,” Farnham said. “I believe this augurs well for the future of our efforts to showcase the beauty of the Rock River Valley with a system of recreational trails on and along the river.”

The motorized road route runs parallel with and in proximity of 320 miles of the Rock River, and passes through each of the 11 counties and 37 cities and villages of the river corridor.

Top dogs recognized by Jefferson Park, Rec

#7e

JEFFERSON — The Jefferson County Parks Department, in partnership with Cyndi Keller and the City of Jefferson Parks and Recreation Department, hosted the fourth annual Dog Dayz of Summer, dog swim event, on Sunday, Aug. 25, at the Jefferson Aquatic Center.

A total of 120 dogs, along with their 200 owners, enjoyed a day at the pool.

Jim Perry judged the day's contests.

The results of the contests are as follows, in order of placing:

Tallest Dog: Daisy Mae, St. Bernard, 31.5 inches; Moses, 29 3/8 inches; Thor, 28.5 inches.

Shortest Dog: Daisy Mae, Dachshund, 8.25 inches; Honey, 9 inches; Hannah, 12 inches.

Longest Jump: Wrigley, 13 feet; Lady, 10 feet, and ties with

Jazzy, 10 feet; Thor, 9 feet.

Fastest Recall: Wrigley, 13.21 seconds; Jazzy, 10.34 seconds; Marion, 11.84 seconds.

Fastest Retrieve: Wrigley, 10.28 seconds; Marion, 12.31 seconds; Belle, 12.79 seconds.

Most retrieves: Thank you to Belle, who was the go-to retriever of balls in the pool.

Organizers offer a special thank-you to Me and My Pets of Fort Atkinson and Claws 'n Paws Pet Treatz for donating the prizes for the contests.

"We had a terrific day for the event," said Kim Buchholz, program assistant. "Both owners and dogs seemed to thoroughly enjoy the day at the pool."

The City of Jefferson provided the facilities for the event, which raised just over \$700 for the Jefferson County Dog Park.

Daily Union

9/5/13

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#7f

Mason log home dates back century-and-a-half

By Kathryn Bernhard-Ihde, Special to the Union | Posted: Friday, September 6, 2013 10:49 am

Locally, it's known as the Mason farm, although the Masons resided there for fewer than 20 years. Now, more than a century-and-a-half later, their descendants are spearheading an effort to restore the family's original log homestead for use in a county park.

Nearly a decade ago, the Rose Lake farmhouse with the ugly blue siding intrigued a gardener who rented a plot on the property just northwest of Fort Atkinson. That curiosity led University of Wisconsin-Whitewater art historian and lecturer Julia Ince on a quest to find out the history of that house and its owners ... especially after a piece of the siding was removed to reveal the log structure hidden beneath.

This Saturday, the second annual Mason Jar Jamboree will take place at the site, off Banker Road in Dorothy Carnes County Park. Slated from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., the event is designed to raise the \$70,000-plus needed to restore the two-story log home for public use.

Beginning at 11 a.m. will be a guided nature walk with Tom Belzer, followed by demonstrations by blacksmith Jim Lemke and timber-framer Craig Roost. From noon to 2 p.m., University of Wisconsin-Whitewater biological sciences lecturer George Clokey will teach attendees how to identify and create plaster casts of wild animal tracks.

Live acoustical music from folk band The Merry Horde, local singer-songwriter Bill Camplin and Milwaukee-based musician Peter Mulvey will run from noon to 4 p.m., along with the chance for children to construct their own log cabin with a set that resembles a giant collection of Lincoln Logs.

Hotdogs, beverages and pie will be available for purchase, along with a silent pie auction from noon to 2 p.m., and the Friends of Rose Lake will be on hand throughout the afternoon to offer help and answer questions about the project and property.

Ince probably knows more about the Mason property than anyone due to her historical research.

"The Mason family has been traced all the way back to the 1600s," Ince reported. "They were probably very literate (perhaps even upper-middle class) because they left family records. Usually, only the literate people left their family records behind. If you were a person who didn't have much money or didn't read or write, then you didn't show up in many records. But this family was prominent enough to have those records."

Those records show that in 1847, Elias Mason and his second wife, Lois Fiske Mason, followed Elias' older children to Wisconsin. The eldest children were some of the earliest pioneers of Jefferson County.

It actually was Lois who purchased the initial 115 acres for \$402.50 in 1855, one week before the Wisconsin Constitution was amended to allow married women to own property. She and Elias raised their three children — Elias Fiske, Frances Amelia and Jeremiah — on the farm.

The current Mason family — Mona Mason and her sons, Jeff and Jay, who are spearheading the home restoration — are descendants of Jeremiah. The Masons continued to live on the farm until 1870, when they sold it to Christian and Louise (Brandel) Gross. Christian Gross was fatally injured by a tornado that shredded the farm in 1878.

According to Mason family records on Ancestry.com, Elias Mason, the youngest of Abel and Ruth (Hobbs) Mason's 11 children, was born on Nov. 20, 1784, in Sturbridge, Mass., On Dec. 20, 1807, at the age of 23, he married Betsy Coburn, in Sturbridge; together, they had seven children: Deliverance, Asenath, John, Edwy (Edward), Royal Lyon, Jesse and Betsey Catherine.

Elias lived in Massachusetts until after he and Betsy wed in December of 1807. Sometime between then and the birth of daughter Deliverance in December of 1808, the Masons moved to Craftsburg, Vt. From there, they moved to Smithfield, N.Y, between the time of Edwy's birth in 1814 and when Royal was born in 1818. Between the time Jesse was born in 1820 and Betsey's birth in 1823, they once again relocated, to Stockbridge, N.Y.

It was in Stockbridge that the Masons would become acquainted with "yankees" who eventually would settle in what would become Fort Atkinson.

Betsy Mason passed away on Feb. 14, 1829, at 43. At age 45, Elias married Lois Fiske, in New Woodstock, N.Y.

"Sometime during the 1830s, some of the children from Elias' marriage to Betsy moved to Wisconsin," said Ince. "The son that we know for sure that came to Wisconsin oftentimes shows up on records as Edwy (Edward)."

Ince noted that Celeste (Foster) Southwell — the daughter of Fort Atkinson's first non-native settlers, Dwight and Almira Foster — addressed the Old Settlers' Club with a speech about Fort Atkinson's early history in 1874.

"When she gave that address, a reporter from the local paper wrote about it, so it's likely he wrote the account correctly," Ince said. "In her address, Celeste noted that Dwight Foster came to Fort Atkinson in the fall of 1836. Then she says, 'Edward Mason and William Reynolds made claims between this place and Jefferson.'"

In a piece titled, "Early Life in Fort Atkinson," Shirley Hoard Kerschensteiner wrote that Fort Atkinson's "first settlers were Dwight Foster, David Bartlett and Wm. Pritchard, who came in October and built in common a log cabin where Mrs. E.P. May's house now stands ... The following July, Edward Mason and Wm. Reynolds took up claims between Jefferson and Fort Atkinson. R.C. Dodge and Charles Rockwell and families came soon after their arrival."

There is one more reference to Edward Mason in a story related by Florence McMillan Weidemann titled, "The Early Days." She wrote: "In 1837, Edward Mason and William Reynolds made claims between this place and Jefferson. R.C. Dodge and family and Robert Barrie came in June. Edward Foster Sr. and wife, and Charles Rockwell and family came about the first of July."

“What also comes from Celeste Foster’s address is the fact that Edward Mason settled here in 1837,” Ince pointed out. “She wrote that he settled at Fort Atkinson/Jefferson after Dwight Foster took up his claim. Who knows? Maybe he was out in that very area (Rose Lake) or somewhere around there. Maybe he liked the area around Rose Lake; I don’t know.

“So Edward settled somewhere between what was eventually to become Fort Atkinson and Jefferson, but we’ve never been able to determine where that was because when people came and settled, they didn’t always stay and make a land entry,” the historian continued. “Edward ... might have done the first step for a land entry and then sold it to someone else, who actually finished the paperwork. If that’s the case, there’s no place where I can look to see who those very first people were.”

She explained that when one looks at actual land grants, the original document often states, for example, “Land grant for John Johnson,” and describe who that was: “John Johnson, who was an assignee of Tom Thompson.”

“And it might continue with, ‘Who was an assignee of Jacob Nicholson, who was an assignee of Edward Mason,’” Ince said. “In other words, a grant might have one assignee, it might have two, or it might have three or more.

“What happened back then was you could go out and start to make your land claim, but before you finished your paperwork to actually get the grant, you could say, ‘I’m leaving. I see something better and you know what, John Johnson? You can have this; pay me 10 bucks. I’ve got it started and you take the rest of this paperwork and finish it.’ That would actually happen.”

Thus, the only way to find out who the first settlers were is to see the assignees on the final grant.

“Nowhere have I found anyone who has gathered all those names into some nice alphabetical list,” Ince said. “Therefore, the only way for me to tell if Edward Mason actually did begin to make entries for land between Jefferson and Fort Atkinson would be to find every single land grant between Fort and Jefferson and then look up all the originals and see if there’s an assignee by the name of Edward Mason. That would be something I’d do someday if I were retired ... “Right now, we don’t know exactly where that land was, but we do know that Edward was on the Wisconsin Territorial Census (the first territorial census that covered this area) taken in 1838 or 1839. We have that, plus we have some other records that seem to show that this was the same Edward Mason who lived around here.”

Edward Mason also is listed on the Census of 1840 as residing in Jefferson. Yet a photocopy of the 1840 Census of Finchtown lists Edwy Mason as a resident.

Located south of what would someday become Fort Atkinson, Finchtown was in the Town of Finch, which later would become part of the Town of Koshkonong.

“Eventually, Edward does make land entries, but I think they were closer to the Town of Watertown,” Ince continued, adding that the other sons, including Royal L. Mason, made some land entries in and near Watertown.

“It’s funny that he has the name Royal L. If you know about the Freemasons, they have a status level called Royal Mason,” Ince said. “So I can’t help but think that his name — Royal — is a play off of that. Royal L. ends

up with a land entry near Watertown. They're all buying and selling land — including Edward — during the 1840s.”

Thus, Ince knows that the other children were in Jefferson County, thanks to Celeste Southwell's remarks.

“The other thing that Celeste says in her address is that, ‘The Rock River Land and Claim Company included Sylvester Pettibone,’” Ince said. “Now, I have never been able to find a nice listing or a historical record that lists who was actually part of the Rock River Claim Company. That's a mystery I'd like to find out more about; I haven't yet. So we can just trust that Celeste was thinking the right thing when she said that.”

What is known is the Rock River Land and Claim Company had 16 participants who also included Dwight Foster and Soloman Juneau, the founder of Milwaukee. The group left Milwaukee in 1835 to search for mill sites and other desirable land sites in which to invest.

Pettibone already was in Milwaukee by 1835 or 1836, and doing land deals and settling land.

“Was Asenath Mason married to Sylvester yet? If one brother's out here, maybe some of the other brothers are here, too. The oldest is certainly out here by the 1840s,” Ince said.

Asenath Mason married Sylvester Pettibone on Oct. 1, 1836 at an unknown location. Ince is unsure whether Asenath came west with one (or more) of her brothers.

“I have to find that out,” said Ince. “The children from Elias' first marriage were really the ones who were coming out to Wisconsin ... The children from his first marriage have grown up to adulthood while he's having his younger three children with Lois and they're still in New York. The children from his first marriage were probably looking for new opportunities, so they moved west. Elias, Lois and their children followed his older children out here.

“To make this more confusing, I have records that show that Sylvester Pettibone was definitely involved with something called the Rock River Canal Company,” Ince said. “Now, as far as I know, that's a different organization from the Rock River Claim Company.”

The Rock River Canal Company was organized in the spring of 1836 by Dwight and Alvin Foster, Enoch Darling and others with the intention of building a canal to connect Lake Michigan with the Rock River and Mississippi River to spur immigration and development. It was going to be similar to the Erie Canal, which had been built between Albany, N.Y., on the Hudson River to Buffalo, N.Y., at Lake Erie between 1817 and 1825.

Ground was broken in 1839 and construction was halted in 1844 after spending some \$57,000.

“Sylvester had a construction company and was one of the few people who actually received a little construction contract,” Ince said, referring to Pettibone & Foster, run by Sylvester and Alvin Foster, Dwight's brother. “This Rock River Canal Company never really went anywhere. There were big ideas and he did get a couple of contracts going at the very beginning. ... I've often wondered if Celeste could have been mixing those two companies up —between the Rock River Land and Claim Company and the Rock River Canal Company.”

She noted that according to Celeste Foster Southwell's account, reprinted in, "It Seems Like Only Yesterday ...": "It may seem amiss to state here that Alvin Foster and Sylvester Pettibone took the first contract for grading of streets in Milwaukee. Milo Jones surveyed the work and decided the grade."

"I have the original records of the contracts that Foster and Pettibone had to grade streets in Milwaukee," Ince said, noting that in February 1836, Alvin Foster contracted with Juneau to grade the first street, East Water Street, in Milwaukee. "But that wasn't a part of the contracts for the canal company."

Ince's voice picked up excitement as she delved into a mystery she would like to uncover: What was the Rock River Land and Claim Company and who was involved in it?

Read the full story in Friday's edition of The Daily Union.

Jane Stanger

From: Bill AndLaura <chlInrhue@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 09, 2013 8:49 AM
To: Joe Nehmer; Kevin Wiesmann; Jane Stanger; Kim Buchholz - Parks
Subject: Follow up on report from park user

On Friday Sept. 6th at approximately 6:15pm, I received a call from Bonnie Grace. She said that while she was in the park walking her dogs, she saw 2 young girls playing in the park, then later walking along the fence line and down Canine Drive. She saw that they were carrying the red water dish that had been in Area 4 (the old small dog area) this summer.

I drove out to the park to check on this and found the 2 girls walking along the frontage road several hundred yards from Canine Drive. They were blond, and I'd estimate their age at about 10 years.

I stopped pointed out that they had taken an item from the dog park that was not theirs and asked to have it back. They also had taken a bag of dog treats that I had seen in Area 4 a approximately 2 hours earlier. They gave the dish back and apologized saying that they thought someone had forgotten the dish, and that they had a dog too. I did not ask to get the dog treats back.

I asked if they lived near by and they pointed to the house they were close to. There are 2 houses on that lot. The addresses on the marker are N5748 and N750 Jefferson Road. They continued to walk up the road and turned into another driveway. I went to that house (a mobile home) and knocked on the door. There was no answer and I left.

I did see the girls playing in the shared driveway of the original houses they pointed out (N5748 & N5750) several times as I went to and from the park on Saturday.

I don't know if you want any more follow up, but I did want to at least make a record of this.

Laura

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MASON JAR JAMBOREE — The Mason Jar Jamboree drew a good crowd Saturday, with the promise of historical entertainment, live music, natural programming and plenty of food. The event, now in its second year, raises money for the restoration of the Mason log home, which was discovered on the grounds of Dorothy Barnes County Park in 2004. Shown here are scenes from the event. Above, blacksmith Jim Lemke demonstrates the oldtime skill for young onlookers. At left, Craig Roost talks attendees through the process of log hewing. Below, from left, Chuck Prior, Mary Prior, Melody Fehling and Tyler Saure listen to the music of The Merry Horde. Related photos appear on page 7. — Daily Union photos by Lydia Statz.





DAY AT THE PARK — The second annual boree took place at the Dorothy Carnes Center Saturday, offering good weather, natural and historic programming and plenty of fun. The event raises money for the restoration of the Massey Cabin, covered on the site in 2004, and future development of the park, located just northwest of Fort Atkins. From left to right in rows starting above, are: Row One — Tammy, Kayla and Connor; Row Two — an array of wild animal skulls brought by Wisconsin-Whitewater professor George Horde; Row Three — Craig Reost explains log hewing to a group of attendees (Reost stores the cabin by creating new beams in the cabin); Row Four — Clokey shows a display of casts to Connor and Kayla Price; Women of Rose Lake group welcome visitors to the event; Row Five — Jeffery explains the project to interested attendees; Dick Wanle, a naturalist and retired biology teacher, uses a collection of native birds to educate attendees on the project. Photos appear on page one. View www.dailyunion.com. — Daily Union photo

