

Bicentennial Flag Exhibit...



1975

The Lake Mills - Aztalan Historical Society has a new Bicentennial flag exhibit at the museum at Aztalan. Included in the exhibit are the following, shown in the picture above:

- The flag that decorated the Chicago and Northwestern "Special" of President Theodore Roosevelt when he stopped briefly in Lake Mills on his way to Milwaukee to Madison during the presidential campaign in 1912. (45 stars)
- The Regimental Flag belonging to the 13th Wisconsin Veterans Voluntary Infantry Co. "1" from 1861 to 1865. Young men from Lake Mills and vicinity, numbering 153, joined this company. Frank Foote of Lake Mills was the last living member of Co. "1", and, at his death, this flag was given to his widow. Mrs. Foote, in turn, gave it to the Lake Mills - Aztalan Historical Society. (42 stars). This is the framed flag standing on the easel at the back and to the right of the display case.
- Mrs. G. G. Bruns gave the museum a 13-star hand-made flag.
- A hand-made 13-star flag, made for the 29th Regiment, was a gift of Mrs. Myrta Chapman, Lake Mills.
- The official Aztalan flag, hand-made by the ladies of the Aztalan community in 1876 to celebrate our country's 100th birthday. There were then 36 states in the union. Mrs. W.E. Tyler keeper of the flag, turned it over to the Historical Society. (36 stars)
- Jefferson County Courthouse made a gift of a 38-star flag to the museum at Aztalan.
- A flag used in a parade in Lake Mills, celebrating the election of Abraham Lincoln to the presidency of the United States. It was made by Mary A. Lewis, wife of Samuel C. Lewis, pioneer miller of Lake Mills.
- A flag earned by the Hyer rural school for selling the most Christmas Seals was given to the museum, along with the flagpole. (50 stars)
- The Aztalan rural school gave their 48-star flag to the museum at the time their school was closed.

Interested residents of Lake Mills and vicinity are invited to stop at the museum to view this interesting display.

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PIONEER AZTALAN * Wisconsin Registered Landmark No. 68, 3 miles east of Lake Mills, Jefferson County. It was settled in 1836 by Thomas Brayton and others at the junction of the Milwaukee-Mineral Point and Janesville-Fond du Lac territorial roads. By 1837 Aztalan had Jefferson's first post office and this continued until 1842 and by 1842 was its leading business and industrial center. After the railroad bypassed it in 1859, the once thriving community of 250 people, two hotels, a brickyard and five factories gradually declined. The Aztalan Baptist Church, built in 1852 is the only remaining building of the pioneer village. Restored by the Lake Mills-Aztalan Historical Society and opened as a museum in 1942, it houses interesting collections of Indian artifacts and relics of the pioneer period. Three log cabins, furnished as pioneer homes of the last century, are on the grounds. A thirty-five foot observation tower was erected in the fall of 1971, dedicated to the curator, Mr. Albert Kracht. The Museum is open daily from May 1 through October 31. Admission is 40¢.

COUNTY TRUNK HIGHWAY "B". - Military trail from Mineral Point to Milwaukee connected the lead mines at Mineral Point with Solomon Juneau's trading post in Milwaukee, and was constructed in the 1830s. HIGHWAY "Q" - this was the stage coach route between Watertown and Beloit. A three story hotel with a livery stable accomodated the passengers and change of horses in their travels north and south.

AZTALAN STATE PARK - Official Marker No. 11, located 3 miles east of Lake Mills, Jefferson County. Considered Wisconsin's foremost archeological site, it was inhabited by Indians of the Middle Mississippi culture some time between 1100 and 1500 A.D. They were of a more advanced culture than the surrounding tribes and their cannibalism made them unsatisfactory neighbors. The strength of their stockade walls proves they lived in a hostile world. The original village had a population of about 500. The area enclosed by the stockade contained about 21 acres and within the stockade were cornfields as well as houses and temples. Eventually the village was destroyed by other local Indian tribes, leaving no known survivors of the Aztalan people. Two of the pyramidal mounds and part of the stockade which surrounded the village have been restored. There are picnic facilities.

AZTALAN-MILFORD CEMETERY - Contains graves of early Aztalan-Milford settlers, dating from 1840; many interesting gravestones. Located one-fourth mile north of the Aztalan Church.

PIONEER ATGALAN * Wisconsin Registered Landmark No. 18, 3 miles east of Lake Mills, Jefferson County. It was settled in 1830 by Thomas Bryson and others at the junction of the Milwaukee-Mineral Point and Janesville-Grand Rapids territorial roads. By 1837 Atgalian had Jefferson's first post office and this continued until 1842 when it was its leading business and industrial center. After the railroad bypassed it in 1852, the once thriving community of 250 people, two hotels, a brewery and five factories gradually declined. The Atgalian Baptist Church, built in 1852 is the only remaining building of the pioneer village. Restored by the Lake Mills-Atgalian Historical Society and opened as a museum in 1942, it houses interesting collections of Indian artifacts and relics of the pioneer period. Three log cabins, furnished as pioneer homes of the last century, are on the grounds. A thirty-five foot observation tower was erected in the fall of 1971, dedicated to the curator, Mr. Albert Kracht. The museum is open daily from May 1 through October 31. Admission is 40¢.

COUNTY TRUNK HIGHWAY "B" - Military trail from Mineral Point to Milwaukee connected the lead mines at Mineral Point with Solomon Junction's trading post in Milwaukee, and was constructed in the 1830s. Highway "B" - this was the stage coach route between Watertown and Beloit. A three story hotel with a livery stable accommodated passengers and change of horses in their travels north and south.

ATGALAN STATE PARK - Official Marker No. 11, located 3 miles east of Lake Mills, Jefferson County. Considered Wisconsin's foremost archeological site, it was inhabited by Indians of the Middle Mississippi culture some time between 1100 and 1500 A.D. They were then more advanced culture than the surrounding tribes and their cannibalism made them unsatisfactory neighbors. The strength of their stockade walls proves they lived in a hostile world. The original village had a population of about 500. The area enclosed by the stockade contained about 15 acres and within the stockade were cornfields as well as houses and temples. Eventually the village was destroyed by other local Indian tribes. Iaving no known survivors of the Atgalian people. Two of the pyramidal mounds and part of the stockade which surrounded the village have been restored. There are optical facilities.

ATGALAN-MINERAL CEMETERY - Contains graves of early Atgalian-Mineral settlers, dating from 1830; many interesting gravestones. Located one-fourth mile north of the Atgalian Church.

OLD MAP FOUND HERE GIVES HISTORICAL DATA

Lake Mills Leader
April 8, 1943

An old map of Jefferson county, published by E. M. Harvey in 1872, was found between the rafters under the eaves, in the attic of the former Frank Fargo residence, when the pipes were being installed. The map was about to be thrown on a pile of rubbish to be burned, when it was rescued by Max Kelch, who turned it over to the Lake Mills-Aztalan Historical Society. The present owners of the house, The Rackows of West Bend gave the map to the Historical Society, and it is now at Fargo Library.

Valuable data --The old map contains valuable historical data. The farms of the county are marked with the name of the owner in 1872, and around the edge of the map, business directories of various towns in the vicinity, among them are

Business Directory of Lake Mills: 1872 -

- Hoskins and Wells--Dealers in general merchandise
 - Fargo and Ostrander--Dealers in general merchandise
 - Robert William--Dealer in hardware, stoves, tinware, and agricultural implements.
 - B. Howe--Dealer in drugs, medicine, wallpaper and notions.
 - W. R. Harvey--Dealers in boots, shoes, dry goods, groceries, drugs and medicines
 - Christ Krupke--Dealers in boots and shoes
 - B. B. Sanborn--Furniture dealer and undertaker
 - A. J. Foster--Harness maker and carriage trimmer
 - Agricultural Mfg. Co--Manufacturers of agricultural implements
 - M. H. Buck--Proprietor of grist mill, flour and feed.
 - Stephen Faville--Proprietor of cheese factories
 - Hotels--C. A. Krause, Prop of American House. G. W. Blanchard, Prop. of Newton House, and livery and sale stable.
 - E. N. Harvey--Blacksmith
 - C. C. Hitchcock--Painter
 - W. D. Hoard--Editor and publisher of Jefferson County Union
 - G. W. Bishop--Insurance dealer and hop dealer
 - Isaac Atwood--Dealer in fruit and ornamental trees and shrubs
 - H. Rehbaum--Prop. of brick yard
 - C. Krogh--Prop. of grist mill and blacksmith shop-Kroghville
- Business Directory of Milford--1872
- N. S. Greene and Son--Mfg. of flour and lumber
 - F. Willard--Merchant
 - J. Elliott--Blacksmith
 - Fred Wendt--Wagon maker
 - C. Hager--Cooper
 - J. Koach--Cooper
 - J. B. Carpenter--Shoemaker - F. Snyder--Shoemaker
 - J. Bissett--Boatman
 - Wm Esselstyn--Millwright and carpenter
 - E. P. Ingalls--Prop. of cheese factory Wm H. Gallup--Blacksmith
 - S. M. Bemis--Prop of lime kiln - Section 33
- Business Directory of Aztalan: 1872
- David Waterbury--Boots and shoemaker--R. M. Esselstyn--Mason
 - Ernest Schmidt--Blacksmith
 - E. C. Parker--Washing machine manufacturer.
 - James Dayne--Agt for agricultural machines
 - George Knapp--Merchant and postmaster
 - J. Banker--Agent for agricultural machines

John W. ...
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strength of their stockades how they also lived in fear. Because they were cannibals.

Square towers at regular intervals probably held their provisions: corn and prisoners. The historical marker says, "Their cannibalism made them unsatisfactory neighbors."

How do we know they ate their neighbors? One of the scientists who dug here puts it this way: "The evidence at Aztalan indicates the presence of gastronomic satisfaction not ordinarily associated with endocannibalism."

In other words, Neighbors taste better.

"The remains of one of the cannibalized humans were found still associated with a finely made triangular projectile point which had passed thru the right temple and imbedded itself in the palate," writes Robert Maher and David A. Baerreis.

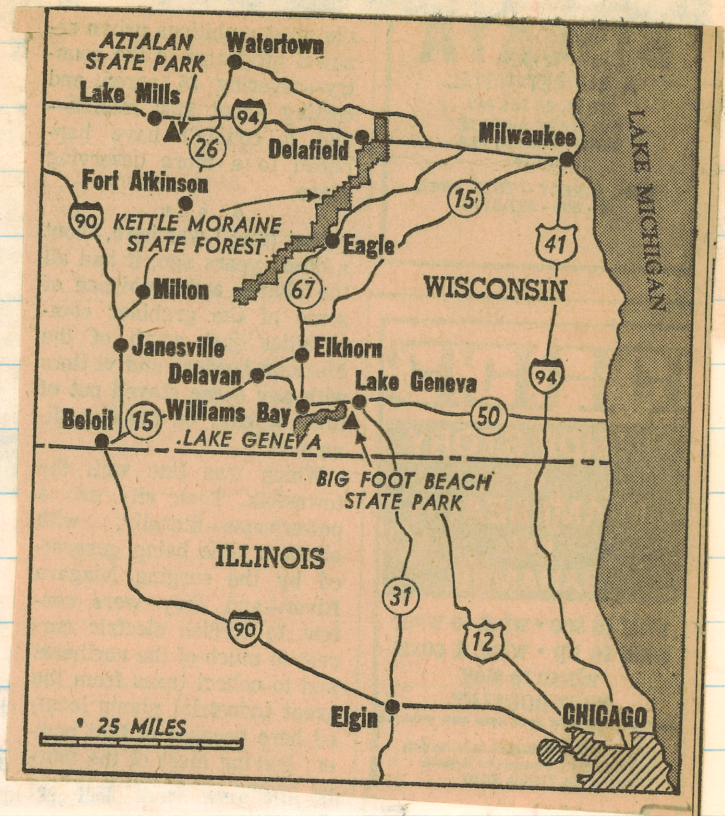
Aztalan, the diggings show, was destroyed by fire in the 1200s, as shown by carbon

dating methods, by neighboring tribes. There were no survivors. By the time of Marquette no Woodland Indians remembered their uppity neighbors.

The site was first discovered and described by M. F. Hyer in 1836-37. He named it Aztalan because he believed it to be the mythical place of Aztec origin. Rather, artifacts give evidence that the Aztalan fortress was probably the final and northernmost outpost of Indians from Mexico. Driven northward by invaders, they may have moved along the Mississippi to the Rock and the Crawfish.

An excellent chart of the archeological features of the site was prepared by Increase A. Lapham in 1850. Extensive research did not begin until 1919. Since 1949 archeological crews under the direction of the Wisconsin Archeological Survey have worked at Aztalan. In 1952 the first reconstruction of the stockades began.

Some day, when there is money enough, archeologists will complete the stockade and erect several Indian dwellings and a museum. Then, when the Indian Summer sun shines, it will be time to go again to Aztalan. . . . if you have not already become a regular visitor.



Aztalan Gets Third Log House

LAKE MILLS — The Lake Mills-Aztalan Historical Society has opened the latest of three log houses on the grounds of the Aztalan Museum.

The house was brought from the John Zickert farm at the junction of I-94 and Missouri Rd. It is a comparatively large two-story structure.

THE LAND on which the house stood was originally claimed from the government by Vincent Faltersack about 1838. It is believed that he and his family built the house in the 1840's.

Later, the land was owned by Frank Hotmar. In 1907, William Zickert, a cooper by trade, pur-

chased the house and the farm. At that time, the log house already was covered with clapboard siding and red paint. It was set on a fieldstone foundation 8 feet deep with a dirt cellar floor, and was supported by sturdy tamarack joists.

BECAUSE OF ITS solid construction and thick walls, the old log part of the house never shook in high winds and always was warm and snug in cold weather.

In 1915, William Zickert's son, John, took over the house and the farm.

In 1963, the construction of I-94 threatened to destroy the house. At that time it was an H-shaped structure occupied by John Zickert's son, William, and his family.

THEY DECIDED to move the house to the Kypke Grove area near Hubbleton.

As preparation for the removal progressed, it was discovered that one leg of the H was of log construction. This prompted a call to the historical society which accepted the house as a gift and moved it to Aztalan.

For several years the house was left unattended, until restoration was begun in the summer of 1968. The exterior was repaired. Inside, plaster and electric wiring were removed and several layers of linoleum and boards were torn out to show the original flooring.

WALLS AND CEILINGS were paneled and window frames and doors were painted.

Specialized work was done by professional craftsmen but most of the restoration was done by Albert Kracht, Mr. and Mrs. Elias Stroede and Mrs. William Wolff.

Nobody Is Injured in Fireworks Mishap

COLUMBUS — Viewers of the annual Fourth of July fireworks display were barraged with a gigantic sound and light show Friday night, when sparks from a shell that exploded on the ground touched off a trailer of fireworks.

The incident occurred at Firemen's Park, shortly after the Columbus Fire Department-sponsored display began at about 10 p.m. No one was injured.

AZTALAN MUSEUM

The air was crisp and trees were ablaze with bright daubs of scarlet, ocher and maize that flickered in the clear, blue waters of the Crawfish River.

Housed in an old Baptist Church, the Aztalan Museum near Lake Mills had a hint of musty dampness clinging to its wood floor as an October chill filtered in with the sunlight through dusty windowpanes.

Pretty porcelain dolls with painted red lips were shaded from the light in dark recesses, along with Civil War mementos - a faded blue Union cape displayed near yellowed diaries and a curious tintype photograph of a forgotten moustached soldier with weary eyes.

A timelessness, difficult to describe, pervaded the converted church; a country silence wafted through the open doorway, descending upon everything. It was a fragile silence that was soon absorbed and savored, along with a dog's barking in the far distance, and the cries of a bird in a nearby corn field.

It was a rightful silence come home to a place where it was welcome, among aging maps and documents and blue-veined crockery. It was the silence of fall that

whispers of a coming winter among the lost relics of past winters. It was a healing silence.

Then, outside the museum, the early afternoon sun burned the eyes but soon warmed, bathing the skin.

At the log cabin, the Pettey House, with its harsh flagstone floor and hand-hewn utensils, the silence was disturbed by the songs of gentle ghosts as a sudden wind blew across the fields, probing chinks and cracks.

The spinning wheel was motionless in the shadowy gloom of that small room; tiny glass jars for preserves along with sturdy pitchers for fresh cream were arranged ready for use upon the table near the window.

And somehow also there, in that cold, cramped chamber where a family of eight once lived their lives, a vibrating laughter mixed with a tearful sobbing lingered near the weathered timbers - the sounds of forgotten dreams.

They were the dreams of the Wisconsin pioneer, living there yet. And they shall always live there in that cabin near the banks of the Crawfish River - as long as there are those who still remember.

JOHN OLSON