

Octagon House Museum – Hudson, Wisconsin

Research Guide: Indigenous Americans



The Octagon House Museum resides in the past and present lands of the Dakota and Ojibwe people. The museum maintains a collection of items from Native American tribes in the St Croix River Valley area. We strive to honor and respect all guidelines and legalities regarding the objects in our collections. Please do not hesitate to alert or contact museum staff if any concerns or questions regarding these items are raised.

Overview

One cannot look at the history of the Hudson area without acknowledging the impact and importance of its first settlers, the Native American tribes of the Dakota (Sioux) and Ojibwe (Chippewa). These Indigenous communities would interact with European Settlers, largely through the fur trade, and are still deeply connected to the St. Croix River Valley today.

Featured Objects

- Moccasins (Object ID: 1947.0371)
Beaded baby shoes/moccasins.
- Native American Beaded Purse (Object ID: 1990.3812)
One of two children's beaded purses made by Native people living near Willcox Farm, Hudson, that were given to Mr. Willcox for his daughters.
- Papoose/ Cradleboard (Object ID: 1990.5200)
Small (1 ½ foot) beaded Native American papoose.
- Projectile Points (Object ID: 1960.2516.1)
Seven Arrowheads, probably Chippewa Indian; Found by George Kline while blasting stumps on his property at 1006 Vine Street in 1877.
- Historical Marker from Woman's Club of Hudson (Object ID: P.501)
Image of Duluth Large rock with a plaque attached. Plaque reads " Duluth passed here in 1680 en route from Lake Superior to the Mississippi, A Sioux - Chippewa battleground about 1785, approximate site of fur trade post built 1792 for the Menominee Indians, marked by the woman's club of Hudson, May 1932."
- "Wisconsin in Three Centuries: 1634-1905" By Henry Colin Campbell (Object IDs: 1947.1302.1 and 1947.1302.2)
Describes interactions between Native and European peoples in a chronological fashion.

Names, Individuals, Places

- Willcox Farm and Family
- Ojibwe (Chippewa or Annishinabe)
- Dakota (Sioux)
- Sibley

If you would like to make an appointment to view materials from our collections, please contact Octagon House Museum staff at 715-386-2654 or fill out an Inquiry Request on our website.

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- Philander Prescott

Further Resources

- "Wisconsin Stories-The Fur Trade" By Rhoda R. Gilman (Octagon House Reference Library as #00123R)

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