

Note: This is a participation patch program for Daisy through Ambassador.



“The work of today is the history of tomorrow and we are its makers.”

~Juliette Gordon Low~

Connect to the Past

History is not just about preserving the past.

When you learn about your community’s past, you realize how you are connected to it. You also realize you can make a difference in its future, because the decisions we make today will impact the future of our community.

Steps

1. Discover Pleasant Prairie history
2. Learn about its earliest inhabitants
3. Uncover who’s who & what’s what
4. Find local treasures
5. Explore the historic trail

Purpose

When I have completed this participation patch program, I will understand how the past is connected to the present and realize how we impact the future.

STEP 1

Discover Pleasant Prairie History

Where do you go when you want to learn more about the history of an area? Logical choices are internet, historical societies, and/or museums.

DO ALL THREE:

Browse the internet

Search for Pleasant Prairie History Museum or Pleasant Prairie Historical Society. Look for contact information and hours of business. Look for their latest exhibits. Plan your visit!

Contact your local historical society

Ask to get on their mailing list and when their next informational session will be. There is lots on their website to investigate and to learn more about Pleasant Prairie. Plan your visit!

Visit your local museum

Now, you have done your research. Visit Pleasant Prairie History Museum and Historical Society located at 3875 116th Street, Pleasant Prairie, WI.



The Dublin School. *Image courtesy of Pleasant Prairie History Museum.*

The Dublin School is now the home of the Pleasant Prairie History Museum and Historical Society. It opened as a school on October 12, 1927 and operated until 1971.

It is the third building to bear its name. The reason for the name is it is most likely named after Dublin, Ireland where area families immigrated from. In 1844, 20 children attended the original wooden school. By 1874, 36 children attended the school, male teachers earned \$175 and female teachers earned \$78 for the three-month term. In 1883, the second Dublin School was built for \$600.

When was the third Dublin School building built in Pleasant Prairie?

STEP 2

Learn about its earliest inhabitants

What parts of life in Pleasant Prairie now will be the stories we tell in the future? Reflect on how your experiences in Pleasant Prairie compare to the earliest inhabitants.

DO ALL THREE:

Native Americans

Discover when the first inhabitants arrived in Pleasant Prairie. What did they find? What did they do? Name six Native American groups that lived in Wisconsin.

Pioneers

Who was the first pioneer settler to arrive in what is now Pleasant Prairie? What year was it? Who was the woman that is credited with naming Pleasant Prairie?

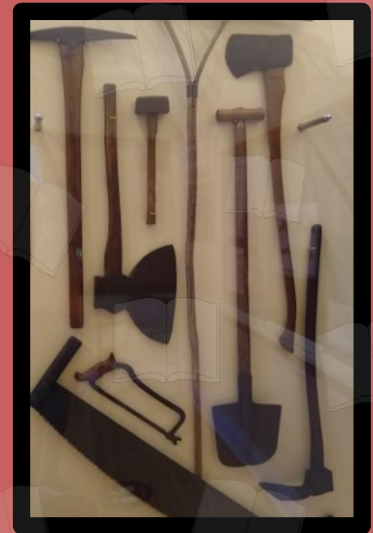
Shoutout!

Now, share an interesting fact about one of Pleasant Prairie's earliest inhabitants with a fellow Girl Scout. What did they find upon arrival? How has it changed?

“Change is the one unavoidable, irresistible, ongoing reality of the universe.”

~Octavia Butler~

The people who make up Pleasant Prairie have changed over time. From Native Americans, to pioneers, to immigrants and transplants – every person has had the shared experience of living, working, and playing on “the Prairie.”



Tools used on the prairie. Image courtesy of the Pleasant Prairie History Museum.



What would this area be called if it was not for this woman?



How did he end up living in Pleasant Prairie?

Emily T. Derbyshire. *Image courtesy of Kenosha History Center.*

Joe Louis. *Image courtesy of Pleasant Prairie History Museum.*

STEP 3

Uncover who's who & what's what

Whether you find our local families interesting or the crops they planted or the businesses they ran, it is a long list of who's who and what's what.

DO ALL THREE:

Who's Who

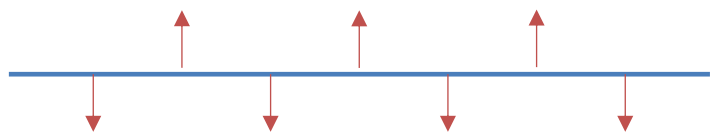
Write a poem or a song about someone that called Pleasant Prairie home over the years. Emily T. Derbyshire and Joe Louis are two options. Share it with your troop.

What's What

- Create a colorful slide deck with the following topics: Wheat to Dairy Farming, Powder Plant Explosion, and Ideal Park Race Track. Be sure to include photos and details

Timeline

- Use those creative juices and create a work of art. We don't want some ordinary timeline of important events. Start with the first town meeting in 1842. Make us proud!



STEP 4

Find local treasures

Whether looking for a landmark to visit, a restaurant to enjoy a meal or a drive-in to catch a movie, Pleasant Prairie has something for everyone.

DO ALL THREE:

Landmarks

Draw three of your favorite landmarks you recently learned about at the museum. You might even visit a few of them during the Step 5 activities.

Restaurants

Choose a restaurant - dining out at a supper club is not your typical restaurant experience. Pleasant Prairie had two of the best - Ray Radigan's and The Village Supper Club. Discover what a classic appetizer tray was. Create one to share at your next troop meeting.

Drive-in Theaters

Enjoy a movie under the stars. That is what so many people used to do at the Keno - Drive-in theater. Host your own version of a night at the movies in your own back yard under the stars!



Pleasant Prairie We Energies Power Plant. Image courtesy of Pleasant Prairie History Museum.

The Pleasant Prairie We Energies coal-fired power plant operated from 1980 - 2018. It supplied electricity to nearly one million homes.

A Dinner and a Movie

STEP 5

Explore the historic trail

Road trips can be so much fun! Try your hand at locating a few famous Pleasant Prairie landmarks. They might just end up being a favorite! Start from the Dublin School.

DO ALL THREE:

Visit the Chiwaukee Prairie

Chiwaukee Prairie State Natural Area
(Al Kampert Trail)

Google Plus Code: G53P+GR

Coordinates: 42.5208°N 87.8185°W

Geocaching: GC358NF

Drive past the 1st Town Hall

1st Pleasant Prairie Town Hall
(Holy Family Catholic Bookstore)

Google Plus Code: G4Q5+5H

Coordinates: 42.514480°N 87.890552°W

Geocaching: none

Explore the Jambau Trail

Jambau Trail
(Momper Woods)

Google Plus Code: G475+QQ

Coordinates: 42.5144817°N 87.8905516°W

Geocaching: GC6YZYE



Original Pleasant Prairie Town Hall. *Image courtesy of Pleasant Prairie History Museum.*

❖ **Chiwaukee Prairie State Natural Area**

The last unbroken stretch of prairie of its kind in Wisconsin.

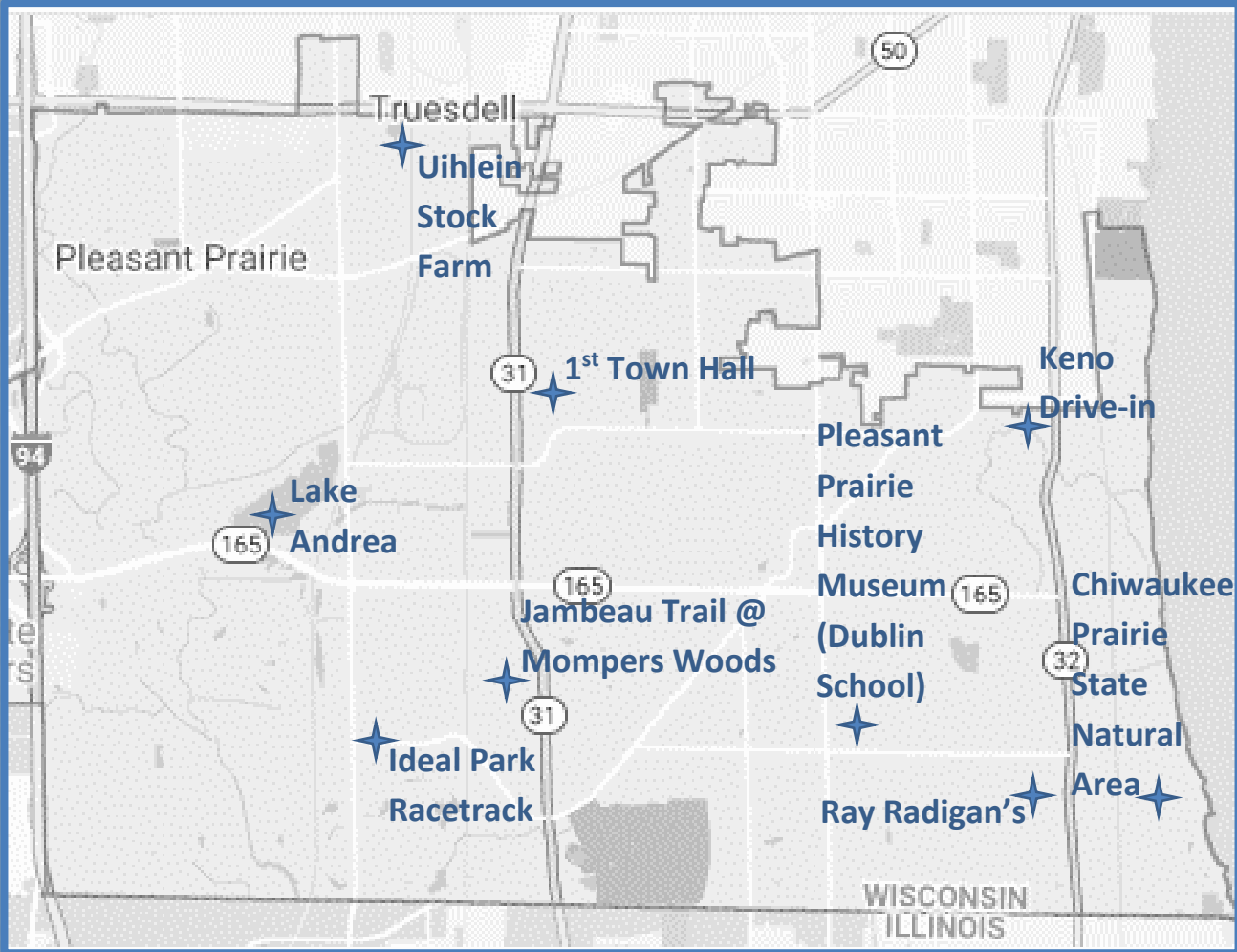
❖ **1st Town Hall**

Originally, Williams Congregational Church. It later became the official Town Hall and remained such until 1961.

❖ **Jambau Trail**

An early Native American Trail that was also used by early Euro-American travelers. It connected Chicago, IL to Green Bay WI.

Map of Pleasant Prairie, Wisconsin



History is not just about preserving the past.

When you learn about your community's past, you can make a difference in its future as well. You become connected with the rich history and want to make an impact on its next steps.

Thank you to:

1. Kate Bennett @ Pleasant Prairie Historical Society & History Museum – Museum Manager
2. Jean M. Werbie-Harris @ Pleasant Prairie Historical Society & History Museum – Vice President/Secretary
3. Nathan Thiel @ Village of Pleasant Prairie - Village Administrator

Reference:

1. Pleasant Prairie Historical Society & History Museum provided source material, exhibit material, newsletters, photos, and website.
2. Kenosha History Center provided the photo of Emily T. Derbyshire.

Participation Patch:

1. The fun patch can be purchased at the Pleasant Prairie History Museum.

Final Note:

This participation patch program was developed in 2020 as part of my Girl Scout Gold Award project. I encourage everyone to learn more about your own personal history – whether it be family and/or community. Through history we learn what is worthy of repeating and what we should never let happen again. Either way – get involved and make a positive impact. Always remember, we are girls of courage, confidence, and character who make the world a better place.

Best,

Rilee