



May/June 2023

Join Us June 14th for Our Second Program of 2023

**“CORDELIA HARVEY:
Wisconsin’s Civil War Angel”
Wednesday, June 14, 7:00 pm
Hales Corners Library /
Hunt Room**

*Presented by **Jessica Michna**,
Historical Re-enactor,
Researcher, and Lecturer*

Audiences across the Midwest (including several HCHS members) who have enjoyed **Jessica Michna’s** portrayals of First Ladies and other notable women in American history have marveled at her strong and vivid characterizations of those individuals.

At our June 14th program (specifically scheduled for Flag Day at Jessica’s request) she will bring to life one of Wisconsin’s relatively unknown but highly significant women: **Cordelia Harvey**, whose passionate advocacy on behalf of wounded Civil War soldiers resulted in the building of three veterans’ hospitals in Wisconsin, which were the basis for today’s VA system. You won’t want to miss Jessica’s compelling performance.

About Cordelia Harvey

Cordelia Perrine was born in 1824 in upstate New York and moved to Kenosha, Wisconsin with her family in 1840. Trained as a school teacher, she met and married **Louis Harvey** in



Jessica Michna as Cordelia Harvey

1847. He was elected Wisconsin’s governor in 1861, but drowned in 1862 while visiting Wisconsin soldiers who had been wounded in the Civil War.

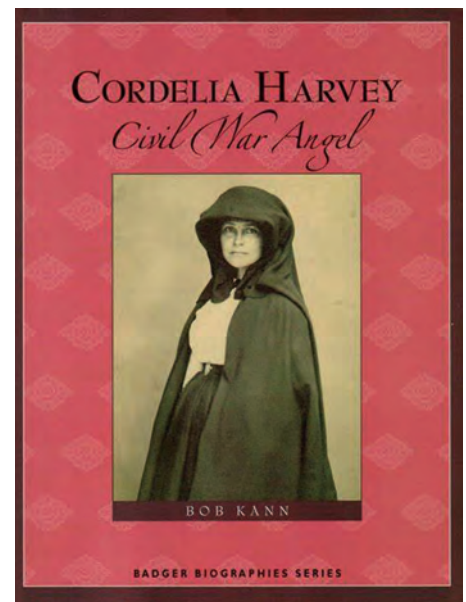
Her husband’s death initially left Cordelia rudderless and without purpose, but in time she set aside her grief and continued his practice of visiting soldiers. She toured battlefields and inspected military hospitals, many of which were dirty, overcrowded, and severely lacking in adequate care, resulting in more deaths from disease than from combat wounds. Shocked by the conditions she witnessed, Cordelia drafted a petition that was signed by more than 8,000 people, asking that a hospital be built in Wisconsin to care for

our state’s soldiers. She took the petition to **President Abraham Lincoln**, and her determination and commitment convinced him to order the construction of Wisconsin veterans’ hospitals in Milwaukee, Madison, and Prairie du Chien.

Jessica Michna will re-enact Cordelia Harvey’s life and dedication to her cause, and will provide insight into how she became known as the healing angel of a nation wracked by war.

About Jessica Michna

Originally from Pennsylvania, Jessica developed a love of



**Cover of Cordelia Harvey,
Civil War Angel by Bob Kann**

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CORDELIA HARVEY
(Continued from page 1)

history at an early age, visiting many historic sites throughout America with her family. During her school years, she acted in various theatrical productions and participated in costume design and construction. Upon graduation, she was offered several scholarships to further her studies in theater arts. She

opted to earn a degree in psychology from the University of Wisconsin system, working several years as a researcher and lecturer.

Her love of theater and history would eventually lead Jessica to found her company, "First Impressions," in the year 2000. Since then, Jessica has expanded her repertoire to include portrayals of 20 historic

women, ranging from First Ladies to Civil War nurses to Ukrainian-born Wisconsin resident **Golda Meir**, who would become the first female Prime Minister of Israel.

Jessica is very thorough, spending up to two years researching each character's life. A seamstress since she was three years old, she also

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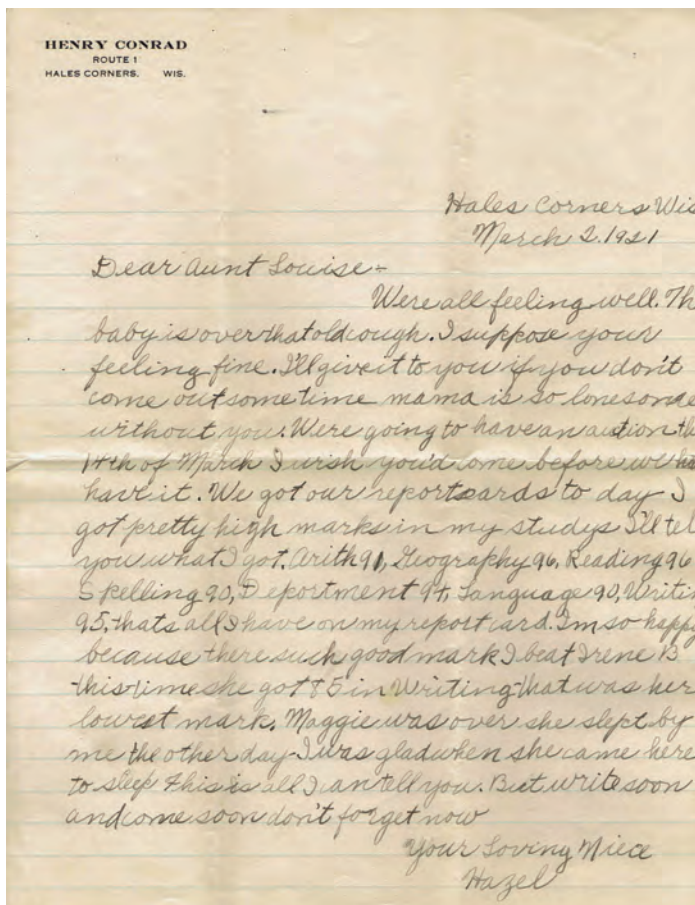
"Dear Aunt Louise": Letters Provide Glimpses of the 1920s-30s

On April 20th, HCHS received an email from **Jessica Staines**, owner of the Village Trading Company in Garwood, New Jersey. Jessica sells historical documents, autographs, and ephemera on two eBay sites. Occasionally, she purchases unseen documents through various auctions and

finds personal items that are not suitable for sale. Those items she donates to museums and non-profit organizations.

Jessica contacted us when she discovered letters written by **Hazel Conrad** in the 1920s and 1930s that mentioned family members and over-all life in Hales Corners. She has donated those letters to our collection. Many thanks, Jessica!

Hazel was the granddaughter of **Adam Conrad**, the local entrepreneur who sold farm machinery, started the Janesville Buggy Co., managed a tavern, bought and sold horses and cattle, planted apple orchards, and built a meeting hall known as Conrad's Opera House. Our collection of photos includes only one of Hazel, shown here as a child with some of her friends, with St. Mary's Church in the background.



Letter from Hazel Conrad to her Aunt Louise, 1921



Back Row: Two Fohr Brothers, Ester Helkene, Corine Diener, Mary Shebel
Front Row: Margaret Shebel, Hazel Conrad, Helen Shebel

TALES OF THE CORNERS - MAY

From the files of the *Tri-Town News and Hub*

90 YEARS AGO (1933)

- The old-time dance and box social at Hales Corners School raises \$25-\$30 for the annual Lake Denoon picnic fund. The Freede-Eckel American Legion Post donates another \$25 for the fund.
- Mary Wollmer leaves Oakland, California by plane at midnight. After four stops and changing planes, she arrives in Chicago at 10 a.m. From Chicago, she travels by train to Milwaukee and finally arrives in Hales Corners.

80 YEARS AGO (1943)

- Aviation Cadet Philip Nelson is buried. He is the first wartime casualty from Hales Corners. Nelson was killed in an airplane crash while training in California.
- Frank Nelson, the Hales Corners air raid warden captain, calls a meeting for all local wardens, assistants, and fire watchers.
- Classified ad: "Men and women, Whitnall Park Botanical Gardens, 16 years or over. Seasonal work, 55 cents per hour."
- The Drop Stitch Sewing Club, Hales Corners, meets at the Al Schraufnagel home.

70 YEARS AGO (1953)

- Joe Gumin's Candlewick Inn (now Clifford's) advertises a 13 ounce top sirloin steak dinner for \$3.00.

- A green market called the "Tiny Town Market" is built on the Rural Co-op grounds.

60 YEARS AGO (1963)

- Traffic on Highway 100 gets out of hand after Janesville Road is closed for widening in Hales Corners. Village officials say the highway is currently being traveled by an average of 1,400 cars per hour.
- Holz Motors advertises a used 1962 Chevrolet, with 8,000 miles, for \$1,995. A 1962 used low-mileage Biscayne goes for \$1,895.

50 YEARS AGO (1973)

- The highway commission approves the installation of traffic signals at 108th Street and Edgerton Avenue. The intersection has been the scene of 65 accidents in less than eight years.
- Wheel and Sprocket, located in the Postal Plaza, announces its grand opening.
- The Hales Corners Woman's Club awards four scholarships totaling \$2,400.
- Whitnall Middle School students plan a talent show. Proceeds will be donated to victims of the earthquake in Nicaragua.

Research by Katy Galewski

Spaced Out in Hales Corners?

On Thursday, June 18, 1959, this photo appeared in the *Tri-Town News*. Responding to the nation's burgeoning interest in space travel, the accompanying article explained, "The MOON GIRLS were lured back to earth in the finale of the skit which wound up the year for the Hales Corners Woman's Club at their meeting at Hales Corners Lutheran Church auditorium recently. The Moon Girls were supposed to have abandoned family and friends to straighten things up on the moon. Job of the women left on earth: Get them back before they spoil everything."

The Moon Girls were imaginatively costumed for their roles. Pictured left to right are **Del Ruhle**, who was the leader, **Lee Cheney**, and **Betty Knapp**.



Navajo Rug Donated to HCHS Collection

On May 12th, our Society received a Navajo rug for our collection from **Susan Sabre**. Her father, **Dan Carlton**, purchased the rug during a public auction in the 1980s at the Milwaukee Auction Galleries. The rug was the property of the late **Dr. Robert Ritzenthaler**, a former curator of Anthropology at the Milwaukee Public Museum.

Navajo textiles, including rugs, blankets, and other weavings, are highly regarded and have been sought after as trade items for more than 150 years. Commercial production of handwoven rugs and blankets has been an important part of the Navajo economy.

Dan Carlton and his wife, **Pat**, were leaders of the Good Medicine Indian Dancers in Hales Corners, a group founded by **Ben Hunt**. They performed Native American dances in appropriate costumes they created themselves, all authenticated by Ben. Using Ben's books as their guides, the group also constructed tepees that they erected at their performances.

After the group disbanded, the Carltons held moccasin-making

classes inside Ben's cabin, which by then had been moved to its current site. Later, their daughter, Susan, also taught those classes.

We are very grateful to Susan for generously donating the Navajo rug to HCHS. It is a very significant addition to our collection.



The Carltons' Navajo rug measures 48" by 70".

CORDELIA HARVEY

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spends countless hours making the costumes she wears. Her props are also historically accurate, usually made by hand by her husband, **Michael**.

In 2016, she was awarded the Presidential Service Center's

Distinguished Service award for her riveting portrayals of First Ladies. She has appeared before a wide range of audiences, including appearances at the National Churchill Museum, the Lincoln Boyhood Home National Site, and Valley Forge, Jessica is particularly fond of performing for senior groups and communities.

She derives much satisfaction from expanding audience members' appreciation of women's notable contributions. "It's grand when people come up to you and say, 'I've got to go to the library and read more about that, she was such an interesting person, I didn't know she did all that.'"

TALES OF THE CORNERS - JUNE

From the files of the *Tri-Town News and Hub*

90 YEARS AGO (1933)

- A reforestation camp is approved for Whitnall Park. About 30 pyramid-style tents are erected at the park to house 200 Civilian Conservation Corps men. The tents are located on the former Merrity property on Lime Kiln Road.
- Roger Smiley is president of the Hales Corners School graduation class. There are 11 graduates.
- The Greenfield Town Board approves a sidewalk from the new school building to 110th Street on the south side of Godsell Avenue. However, it refuses sidewalks for the entire Village.
- About 25 gallons of ice cream and 40 cases of soda are consumed at the Hales Corners School picnic held at Schuler's Park, Lake Denoon.
- The first hole-in-one on the Whitnall Park Golf Course is recorded by Fred Budziong on the 145-yard 12th hole.
- The Hales Corners English Lutheran Church plans to hold its annual picnic at Wollman's Grove, Tess Corners.
- Holz Motors offers Chevrolet standard six-cylinder cars for \$445 and up.

80 YEARS AGO (1943)

- The names of 67 Hales Corners servicemen are listed on the Village honor roll.
- An Airedale named He-ah, belonging to Dr. George Kelm, has enlisted with 61 other Milwaukee area dogs in the Army Dogs for Defense Corps. They are on their way to Fort Robbins, Nebraska for training.
- Baskets of fresh flowers are distributed to soldiers at Wood by the Hales Corners Special Service Club.
- Frank Nelson, area air raid warden captain, announces that a war movie is slated to be shown to adults at Hales Corners School.
- The Freede-Eckel American Legion Auxiliary raises \$63 through donations for Buddy Poppies.
- Thomas Welch, Jr. is elected president of the Hales Corners Lions Club.
- The Hales Corners Civic Association gets a Cub Scouting organization started. There are 25 boys registered. Plans are made to hold a scout night.
- The Hales Corners Civic Association sponsors an open house at the sewage disposal plant.
- Burr's Barbershop is open from 4:30 to 8 pm on Fridays and 1 - 9 pm on Saturdays. Burr's is in the Schubring building at the Triangle in Hales Corners.

70 YEARS AGO (1953)

- Lots go on sale in the new Hale Park Subdivision. Prices start at \$1,200.
- U.S. Representative Clem Zablocki addresses the Hales Corners Businessmen's Association concerning Korea.
- The Hales Corners Freede-Eckel Legion Post, the Greendale Legion, and their auxiliaries announce the beginning of the Clothes for Korea drive.
- Principal Merton Bowyer is named playground director for the Hales Corners School summer program.
- A bake sale and bratwurst supper are slated for Emanuel Evangelical and Reformed Church.
- Holz Motors advertises expert television repair.

60 YEARS AGO (1963)

- Dedication ceremonies are planned for the new Hales Corners Post Office on Highway 100 and Grange Avenue. It is being sponsored by the Hales Corners Jaycees, with Representative Clem Zablocki as the main speaker.
- Plans are made for Whitnall High School's second annual commencement exercises.
- The Hales Corners Village Board votes to save \$25,000 a year from its surplus to build a new Village Hall.

50 YEARS AGO (1973)

- Little League activities for 78 Hales Corners youngsters are canceled this week due to the theft of nearly \$1,300 worth of baseball equipment.
- Airlift for MS at Hales Corners Airport raises \$350 for the 1973 Hope Chest campaign. Riders are charged two and a half cents per pound of body weight.
- Hales Corners residents are cleaning up after severe thunderstorms and 69 mile per hour winds batter the area.
- Plans are made to award a plaque to the float that best represents the theme "Welcome Home, Vietnam Veterans" at the Hales Corners Fourth of July parade.
- The Hales Corners Village Board agrees to gather information concerning buying water from Milwaukee.
- Dr. Kenneth Waliszewski is presented with a citation from the state for being named one of the Outstanding Young Men for America.

Research by Katy Galewski

If a tree falls in Whitnall Park, can Al Strekow resist the urge to climb onto it?

Evidently not — once a kid, always a kid, no matter how old. A cross-cut of the tree, which fell this past winter, dates its origin to approximately 1807, 29 years before Seneca Hale moved to Wisconsin Territory. Al swears he was not there to plant it!



Above photo by Randy Sannes

Oak Tree, Whitnall Park, 216 years old
Al Strekow, Whitnall Park, Not that old

Have you liked us lately? Go to [facebook/HalesCornersHistory](https://www.facebook.com/HalesCornersHistory)

Thanks to Board member **Mike Fischer**, our audience on Facebook sees photos from our collection as well as from Mike's own sources, including information about them.

Every Saturday, Mike presents another piece of Hales Corners history, now totaling more than 275 posts. As a result, our Facebook page has 897 followers. If you haven't gone there yet, you have a lot of catching up to do. So, check out our page and enjoy your Village history!

Thanks for Your Vote

As a result of unanimous votes from you, our members, the following officers have been elected to two-year terms from 2023-2025.

President: **Al Strekow**
Vice President: **Randy Sannes**
Recording Secretary: **Jim Bain**
Corresponding Secretary: **Mary Bennett**
Treasurer: **Mike Jedrzejewski**

HALES CORNERS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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