

**WOMEN'S STUDIES CELEBRATION**  
Women's History Month 2005

**NOMINATION: Papers and projects done in completion of course work for Spring, Summer and Fall 2004 eligible for nomination. Students do not need to be enrolled Fall 2004 or Spring 2005 to be eligible. (Students are encouraged to identify works they would like nominated and approach their professor to initiate the process.)**

Instructor Jane M. Pederson History Dept. \_\_\_\_\_

Course Number and Name HIST 798 Fall 205 Semester completed \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Nominated Work : "A Dead Woman's Dress: Gender and Race in Captivity During the Minnesota Indian War of 1862"

**CATEGORY:** Sampson:  
Undergraduate Research Paper \_\_\_\_\_ See \_\_\_\_\_  
Undergraduate Project \_\_\_\_\_ Olson \_\_\_\_\_  
Graduate xxx \_\_\_\_\_ Kessler x \_\_\_\_\_  
Turell \_\_\_\_\_  
Belter \_\_\_\_\_

**STUDENT INFORMATION:**

Name Joanne M. Jahnke Wegner

Email mjwegner@wwt.net \_\_\_\_\_ Year/Major : History/Graduate

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Durand, WI 54376

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**\*\*WHY DO YOU, THE INSTRUCTOR, RECOMMEND THIS AS AN EXEMPLARY STUDENT PAPER/PROJECT? (Attach a separate sheet.)**

As the nominating instructor, please notify the student and ask them to turn in the paper, or attach to your nomination form.

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**Awards are sponsored by the UW-Eau Claire Foundation, Helen X. Sampson Fund, and by private individuals. Research involving human subjects must conform to the guidelines given by the Institutional Research Board. Contact Research Services, 836-3405, with questions.**

**Submission deadline is February 11, 2005.**

**\*\*WHY DO YOU, THE INSTRUCTOR, RECOMMEND THIS AS AN EXEMPLARY STUDENT PAPER/PROJECT?**

Joanne Jahnke Wegner's paper "A Dead Woman's Dress: Gender and Race in Captivity During the Minnesota Indian War of 1862" is an outstanding paper in numerous ways. Firstly, she asks historically important questions. In what ways did gender and race shape the experience of women captives among the Dakota during the Minnesota Indian War of 1862. Her comprehensive and careful analysis pushes our understanding of the complexity of gender constructions and interracial relationships in the nineteenth century. She interrogates the relationships between women within and between races, and male and female relationships across the cultural divide.

Secondly, Joanne provides a new and important interpretation. She goes beyond the earlier work of both historical and literary analysis by identifying the distinctive gender roles and identities of women in captivity. The heart of her analysis is in Chapters IV and V. She argues that previous interpretations of captivity narratives have been grounded in Euro-American assumptions and that if examined through the lens of Dakota culture new constructions of the captive's roles and experience can be identified, including that of slave and servant; wife and mother; adopted kin and cultural critic.

Joanne's e comprehensive and professionally written historiography of the captivity narrative is one of the best reviews of literature that I have seen and it sets the stage for understanding Joanne's own contribution to the field. Her detailed interrogation of eight women's narratives provides extensive support for her argument. Finally her paper is well-written, extensively documented and well-organized. She provided helpful chronologies, and illustrations, and made creative use of tables to clarify the complexities of eight different narratives.

**A Dead Woman's Dress: Gender and Race in Captivity  
During the Minnesota Indian War of 1862**

**By**

**Joanne M. Jahnke Wegner**

**A Thesis Submitted in  
Partial Fulfillment of the  
Requirements for the Degree of**

**Master of Arts  
History**

**At**

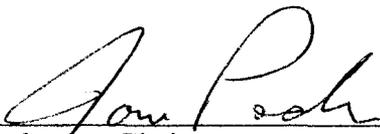
**The University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire**

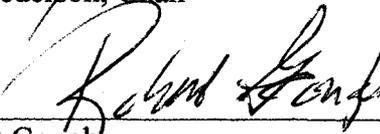
**November, 2004**

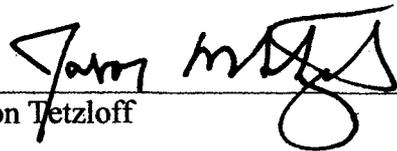
Graduate Studies

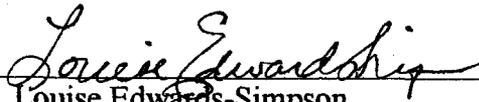
The members of the Committee approve the thesis of

Joanne Jahnke Wegner presented on

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. Jane Pederson, Chair

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. Robert Gough

  
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Dr. Jason Tetzloff

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. Louise Edwards-Simpson

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_  
University Dean of Graduate Studies















































































































