



State of Wisconsin  
2015 - 2016 LEGISLATURE

LRB-4298/1  
LRJ:klm

## 2015 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 91

February 3, 2016 - Introduced by Senators SHILLING, COWLES, LASSA, RINGHAND, VINEHOUT and L. TAYLOR, cosponsored by Representatives NERISON, BERCEAU, DANOU, GENRICH, HORLACHER, JORGENSEN, MURPHY, OHNSTAD, POPE and SINICKI. Referred to Committee on Senate Organization.

1     **Relating to:** honoring the 200th anniversary of Fort Crawford in Prairie du Chien.

2             Whereas, Fort Crawford was constructed in 1816 within the Main Village of  
3     Prairie du Chien on an island north of the confluence of the Mississippi and  
4     Wisconsin Rivers; and

5             Whereas, prior to the construction of Fort Crawford, Governor William Clark  
6     directed the construction of Fort Shelby in the spring of 1814; and

7             Whereas, British forces, including residents of Green Bay and Prairie du Chien,  
8     and their American Indian allies attacked and captured Fort Shelby, renaming it  
9     Fort McKay; and

10            Whereas, this was the only battle fought in the War of 1812 in the territory that  
11     would make up Wisconsin; and

12            Whereas, in 1816, American troops returned to Prairie du Chien and built Fort  
13     Crawford on the site, and during that time enforced fur trade regulations and tried  
14     to keep peace between the American Indians and the miners and settlers coming onto  
15     tribal lands; and

1           Whereas, the Treaty of Prairie du Chien was negotiated on the fort grounds in  
2 August 1825, establishing boundaries between the various tribes in the upper  
3 Mississippi region; and

4           Whereas, after several seasons of flooding, the fort was beyond repair, and the  
5 troops were removed in 1826; and

6           Whereas, in 1827, it became necessary to maintain a fort at Prairie du Chien,  
7 so troops returned, and in 1829 construction began on a new Fort Crawford, located  
8 on the mainland to avoid flooding; and

9           Whereas, the commanding officer who oversaw the building of the fort was  
10 Colonel Zachary Taylor, future President of the United States; and

11           Whereas, in 1828, Dr. William Beaumont was assigned to Fort Crawford to care  
12 for ill troops and while at the fort continued his experiments to study the way food  
13 is digested in the stomach, and the results of his experiments were published in 1833  
14 as *Experiments and Observations on the Gastric Juice and the Physiology of*  
15 *Digestion*; and

16           Whereas, the 56 experiments he performed at Fort Crawford were a founding  
17 component of modern knowledge of the digestive system; and

18           Whereas, Fort Crawford was the site of negotiations and the signing of treaties  
19 with various American Indian tribes in 1829 and 1830; and

20           Whereas, soldiers from Fort Crawford took part in the Black Hawk War, and  
21 Chief Black Hawk was surrendered to the United States at the fort in 1832; and

22           Whereas, after the Black Hawk War, soldiers from the fort worked to construct  
23 the western section of the Military Road that connected Fort Crawford with Fort  
24 Winnebago in Portage and Fort Howard in Green Bay; and

1           Whereas, Fort Crawford was abandoned in 1856 because there was no longer  
2 a need for a garrison; and

3           Whereas, the fort became a training ground for Union forces soon after the Civil  
4 War began, and because of the determination of Cordelia Harvey, the Swift United  
5 States Army Hospital opened at Prairie du Chien in 1864, one of three hospitals in  
6 the state that cared for sick and wounded Wisconsin soldiers; and

7           Whereas, the hospital was closed in September 1865, and in 1867 the War  
8 Department sold the structures and land that had comprised the Fort Crawford  
9 Military Reserve; and

10           Whereas, in 1921, the Fort Crawford Chapter of the Daughters of the American  
11 Revolution began raising moneys for the purchase of the Fort Crawford Hospital,  
12 acquiring the remains of the hospital and beginning a restoration project in 1933;  
13 and

14           Whereas, when the Wisconsin Medical Society became the owner of the restored  
15 Fort Crawford Hospital, it opened and operated the Museum of Medical Progress;  
16 and

17           Whereas, in 1996, the Wisconsin Medical Society transferred the Fort Crawford  
18 Hospital and its collections to the Prairie du Chien Historical Society, Inc., which  
19 updated the exhibits to interpret the rich history of Fort Crawford and Prairie du  
20 Chien; and

21           Whereas, the Fort Crawford Hospital, all that remains of Fort Crawford, is a  
22 Registered National Historic Landmark; now, therefore, be it

23           ***Resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring, That*** the Wisconsin  
24 legislature recognizes the 200th anniversary of the building of Fort Crawford and

1 also recognizes the museum at Fort Crawford Hospital, as well as the many people  
2 who have worked to preserve its place in Wisconsin's history; and, be it further

3 ***Resolved, That*** the senate chief clerk shall provide copies of this joint  
4 resolution to the Prairie du Chien Historical Society, Inc.

5 (END)