WISCONSIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

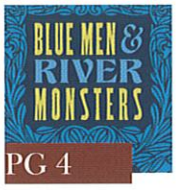
COLLECTING, PRESERVING AND SHARING STORIES *Since 1846*

COLUMNS

THE NEWSLETTER *of the* WISCONSIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

In this issue...

PG 3
Wisconsin History Tour



PG 4
New Books from the Society Press

PG 8
Annual Society Awards

PG 2
Director's Column

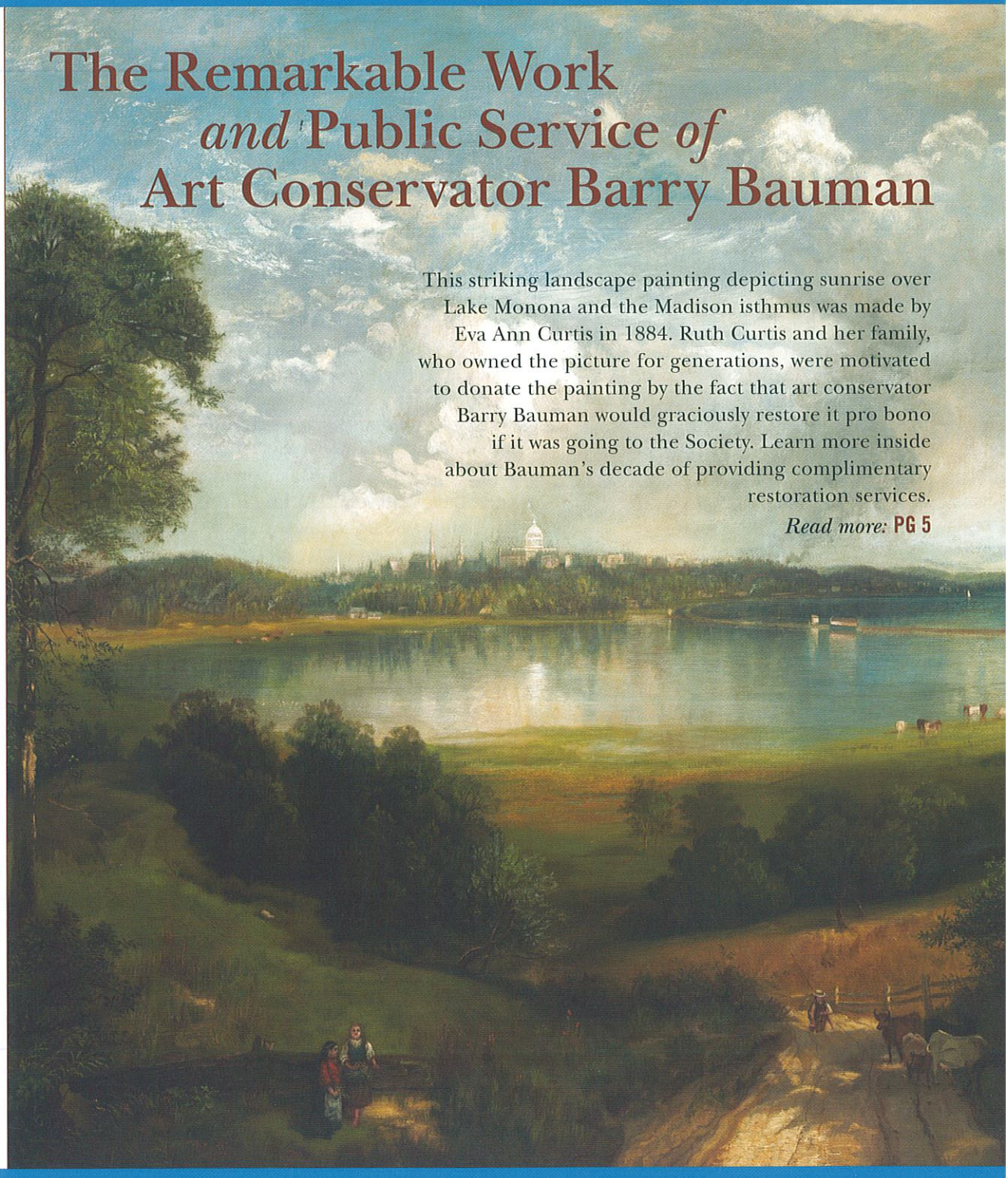
PG 6
State Register of Historic Places

PG 7
Events Calendar

PG 10
Local History

PG 12
Spotlight on Supporters

PG 14
Wedding Bells at Old World Wisconsin



The Remarkable Work *and* Public Service *of* Art Conservator Barry Bauman

This striking landscape painting depicting sunrise over Lake Monona and the Madison isthmus was made by Eva Ann Curtis in 1884. Ruth Curtis and her family, who owned the picture for generations, were motivated to donate the painting by the fact that art conservator Barry Bauman would graciously restore it pro bono if it was going to the Society. Learn more inside about Bauman's decade of providing complimentary restoration services.

Read more: PG 5

VOL. 35 NO. 4 ISSN 0196-1306 • NOV 2014 – JAN 2015

Director's Column

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THOSE WHO GIVE SELFLESSLY

ELLSWORTH H. BROWN
The Ruth and Hartley Barker Director

THE COVER STORY in this issue of *Columns* gives homage to a remarkably gifted art conservator, Barry Bauman, who over the course of the past decade has donated an estimated quarter million dollars in pro-bono art conservation services to the Society. That remarkable record of public service brings to mind the unsung army of volunteers who also devote their time and energy to the Society's benefit.

In the Society's Visual Materials Achives, for example, we have a group of volunteers we refer to as the "Wednesday morning club." This group has painstakingly researched and cataloged thousands of negatives created by popular and prolific Madison-area photographers Arthur Vinje and Angus McVicar. We conservatively estimate that they have contributed 5,000 hours of volunteer time in doing so. Thanks to their efforts, a visitor to our website at wisconsinhistory.org/whi can find 14,000 images online from these two photographers alone.

The glue that keeps the Wednesday morning club volunteers together is longtime Madison historian Ann Waidelich, a member and past president of Historic Madison Inc., one of the 392 local historical societies affiliated with the Wisconsin Historical Society. Ann and her fellow Madison history enthusiasts have made a major contribution to the city's history through their dedication to preserving its heritage in historic visual imagery.

Far afield from Madison at two of our finest historic sites, another volunteer, equine enthusiast Howard Kietzke, has donated years of service at the Villa Louis in Prairie du Chien. He has made major contributions to one of the Villa Louis' most popular and longstanding special events, the annual Villa Louis Carriage Classic. More recently Howard has given at least 80 hours of equine-related advice and assistance to Wade House in Greenbush, helping to ensure the historical accuracy of the exhibits in the museum's new Wesley W. Jung Carriage Museum. Beyond that, he coordinated an equine "picnic" drive in August, bringing a host of horses and carriages to the site, concluding with a traditional picnic where the horses and vehicles were on display before a delighted audience.

Many other of the Society's historic sites and museums have benefitted greatly from enthusiastic volunteers willing to share their time, skills and experience. Old World Wisconsin in Waukesha County enjoyed more than 5,660 hours of volunteer support, while the Wisconsin Historical Museum in Madison documented almost 4,100 volunteer hours. All told, during calendar 2013, volunteers provided the Society's Division of Museums and Historic Sites with 12,545 hours of service, the equivalent of six full-time employees.

We thank all of our eager volunteers for their selfless devotion to the preservation of Wisconsin history in its many forms for future generations to enjoy, and we look forward to an equally fruitful year ahead.

E.B.

COLUMNS

BOB GRANFLATEN, EDITOR

Published quarterly by the Wisconsin Historical Society, with one special issue in November, and distributed to members as part of their dues. Full membership levels begin at $45 for individuals and $65 for institutions (rates subject to change). To join or for more information about membership, visit our website at support.wisconsinhistory.org or contact the Membership Office at (888) 748-7479, email membership@wisconsinhistory.org or write to the Membership Office at the address below. Address inquiries about this publication to the editor, *Columns*. Media may reprint any article provided credit is given to the Wisconsin Historical Society and *Columns*. Periodicals postage paid at Madison, Wisconsin, account number 688820. Postmaster, send address changes to:

COLUMNS
Wisconsin Historical Society
816 State Street
Madison, WI 53706

THE REVIEWS ARE IN …
HISTORY LOVERS ARE RAVING ABOUT THE WISCONSIN HISTORY TOUR!

Since June the *Wisconsin History Tour* has made stops in Wausau, Ephraim, Verona, Racine and Sheboygan, where it's been a huge hit with people of all ages and interests, including long-time history lovers and new history buffs in the making.

"Understanding the past influences how we view the present and the future. The *Wisconsin History Tour* has given us a greater appreciation of a place we thought we already knew — Wisconsin, our home."

Lynn and Bill Weinshrott

Visitors see the past come alive as they explore an exhibit that features historic photographs, documents and stories about the Wisconsin community hosting the *Tour*. Each stop includes a special week of free programming, offering something for everyone — author lectures, genealogy workshops, demonstrations, historic activities for kids and more.

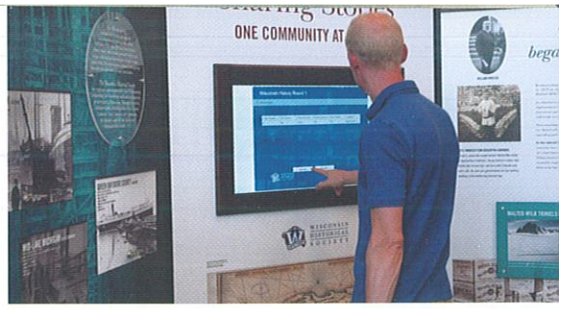
We look forward to seeing many new — and familiar — faces in the coming months, and we invite you to join us at a *Tour* stop near you. For Tour locations, dates and details, visit WisconsinHistoryTour.org.

The *Wisconsin History Tour* is only possible with generous support from our members, donors and partners. It's your love of Wisconsin and our shared history that inspires and sustains efforts like these. Thank you for your ongoing support, and thank you for making the *Wisconsin History Tour* a success.

The *Wisconsin History Tour* is generously underwritten in part by the Kohler Trust for Preservation with additional support from the Judd S. Alexander Foundation, American Printing, BMO Harris Bank, Culver's, Hilbert Communications, Murco Fund, Plenco, Racine Community Foundation, Wisconsin Public Radio and We Energies Foundation.

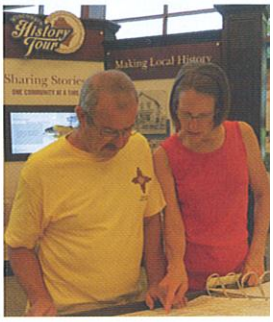
THANK YOU, MEMBERS!

Thank you for your ongoing support, and for making the *Wisconsin History Tour* a success! Experience the *Tour* in La Crosse in November, in Milwaukee in January and in Green Bay in February. Learn more at WisconsinHistoryTour.org.



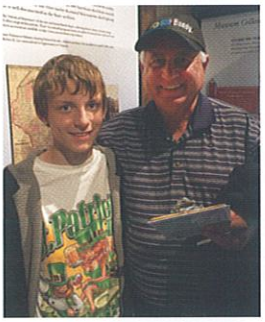
A guest plays the interactive Wisconsin History Quiz section of the *Tour* exhibit

Amelia Potter decorates an old-fashioned kite



Marge and Eric Amlie explore the *Tour* exhibit

Mike Lisle, Thea Thompson, Sally Jacobson and Kristen Peil enjoy a community partners reception



Cory and Frank Treolo explore the *Tour* exhibit

Krishe and Karun Biyani play historic games

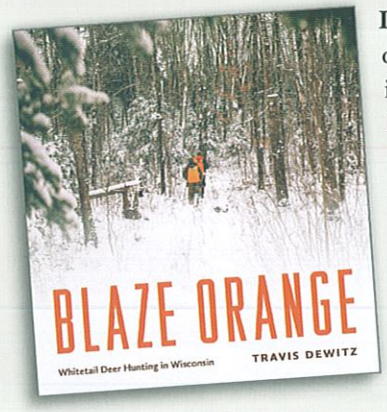
Visitors enjoy a Taste Traditions dinner and discussion with Jim Draeger

WHAT'S ON **OUR BOOKSHELF**

SAVE 10 PERCENT

SOCIETY MEMBERS RECEIVE A 10-PERCENT DISCOUNT ON ALL BOOK ORDERS.
For more information on books published by the Wisconsin Historical Society Press, visit wisconsinhistory.org/whspress.

BLAZE ORANGE
Whitetail Deer Hunting in Wisconsin



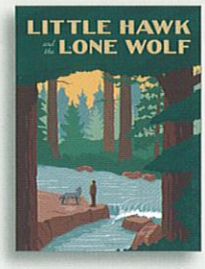
IN 129 IMAGES photographer Travis Dewitz proves that "blaze orange" is more than just a color — it's a tradition, a lifestyle and a livelihood for the more than 600,000 who hunt deer in Wisconsin each year. Dewitz's images, profiled in the new Wisconsin Historical Society Press book, *Blaze Orange: Whitetail Deer Hunting in Wisconsin*, serve as a cultural snapshot that captures the textures, tones and characters of the hunt. The book profiles not only the hunters but businesses that support them — from taxidermists and knife makers to butchers and mom-and-pop stores where hunters gather to warm up and swap stories.

Dewitz followed the army of seasonal orange that spread out through the terrain. Childhood hunting experiences helped guide him to the various elements that truly encapsulate the Wisconsin deer hunt — a girl and her grandfather scanning a field in fresh snow, hunters laughing around a fire back at camp. Dewitz says that he, "wanted to capture with my camera what I experienced growing up and what I still see among my friends and family whenever late November comes around." The result is a stunning and keen-eyed chronicle of the Wisconsin deer hunt.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

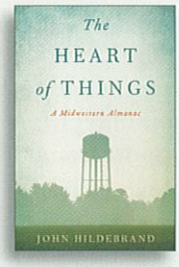
Travis Dewitz is a professional commercial photographer based in Eau Claire. His work has been honored with multiple awards and displayed in galleries in Wisconsin and California.

MORE NEW BOOKS FROM THE SOCIETY PRESS



A MENOMINEE MEMOIR

IN THE NEW SOCIETY PRESS book, *Little Hawk and the Lone Wolf: A Memoir*, the author shares a rare first-person narrative of a Menominee Indian's coming-of-age story. Ninety-year-old author Raymond Kaquatosh guides readers through the experiences that defined him from his reservation boyhood to Indian boarding school and military service. The son of a medicine woman, Ray spent his Depression-era boyhood immersed in the natural beauty and traditions of his tribe and his family, often guided by a lone timber wolf he befriended as a boy and with whom he shared an unusual bond that endured both of their lifetimes. An e-book edition is also available.



A PULSE ON LIFE IN THE MIDWEST

"I'VE NEVER BELIEVED that living in one place means being one thing all the time, condemned like Minnie Pearl to wear the same hat for every performance. Life is more complicated than that," pines author and former Wisconsin Trails columnist John Hildebrand in *The Heart of Things: A Midwestern Almanac*. This remarkable book of days charts the overlapping rings — home, town, countryside — of life in the Midwest. Hildebrand locates the humor and drama in ordinary life: church suppers, football, outdoor weddings, garden compost, camouflage clothing. His wry, sharply observed essays boil down a calendar year to its rich marrow — weather, animals, family, home — in other words, all the things that matter. An e-book edition is also available.

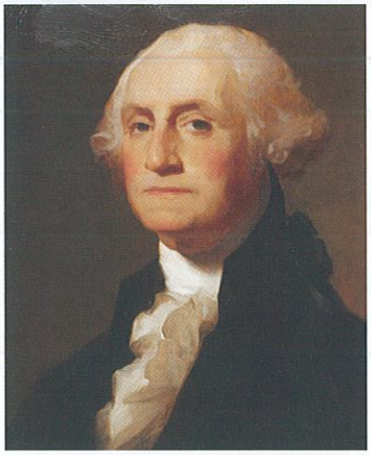
A TREASURE TROVE OF FOLKLORE

FROM MAGICAL CREATURES of the old country to legends of the mysterious and macabre, *Blue Men and River Monsters: Folklore of the North*, edited by John Zimm, shares the record of the stories Wisconsinites held on to — and the customs, foods and cures that filled their lives. In the 1930s, Federal Writers' Project workers fanned out across Wisconsin to collect stories, legends, songs and other scraps of traditional knowledge. Thousands of handwritten notes preserved the stories of immigrants, medicine men and storytellers. *Blue Men and River Monsters* shares the most interesting and noteworthy of these tales, placing them alongside stunning artwork collected by the Federal Art Project. An e-book edition is also available.

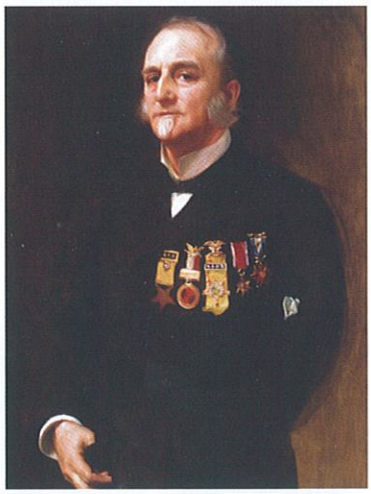
Barry Bauman's Conservation Legacy

A REMARKABLE GENEROSITY

By Joe Kapler, Curator of Cultural History



This portrait of George Washington by Thomas Sully is not only an important American painting, it is also critical to the cultural development of Wisconsin because it was the first painting commissioned and collected by the Society in 1854. Bauman discovered the portrait's signature and 1854 date during the treatment process.



U.S. Army General and Wisconsin Governor Lucius Fairchild by John Singer Sargent, 1887. This remarkable painting is considered by Bauman to be one of his favorite restoration projects.

Donor Pat Cornwell with the recently conserved portrait of United States Senator and Wisconsin Governor Gaylord A. Nelson

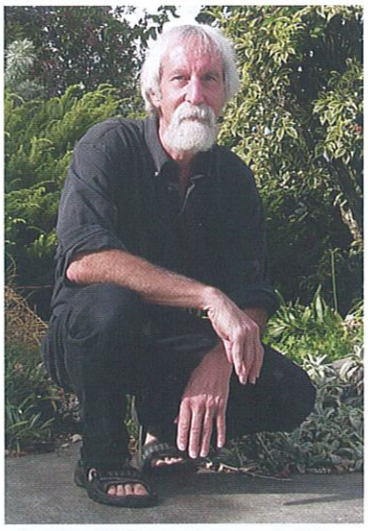
THIS FALL MARKS THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY of painting conservator Barry Bauman's complimentary restoration services to the Wisconsin Historical Society. He has treated 60 paintings totaling more than $250,000 worth of conservation services, thus ensuring that dozens of Wisconsin's historical paintings are well preserved for generations to come, and the Society has benefitted greatly from Bauman's remarkable and sustained generosity.

Bauman provides these services for numerous publicly held museum collections, and each participating organization pays for the materials costs, usually around $300 per painting. Over the years the FRIENDS of the Society, with funds from the Wisconsin Antiques Dealers Association, have paid for materials as have individual donors.

As an example, Pat Cornwell, Governor and U.S. Senator Gaylord Nelson's former secretary, recently donated a portrait of Nelson and the funds for all of the associated costs for its extensive treatment. Because of a poor mix of oil paint, the painting suffered from what art conservators term "alligatoring" in which the paint layer takes on a cracked and jagged appearance much like that of an alligator's skin. Bauman treated hundreds of fissures at the microscopic level requiring many days of painstaking labor. This donation and subsequent restoration would never have happened without the coordinated generosity of Pat Cornwell and Barry Bauman.

After receiving a master's degree in art history from the University of Chicago in 1971, Bauman joined the Art Institute of Chicago's Conservation Department and served the museum for 11 years, leaving as the associate conservator of paintings. In 1982 he was elected a Fellow of the American Institute for Conservation. In 1983 Bauman founded the Chicago Conservation Center as a resource facility for the conservation of paintings, works of art on paper, objects, frames, murals and textiles. The center grew to become the largest private art-conservation facility in America.

In 2004 Barry Bauman left the private sector to establish America's first national conservation laboratory dedicated to offering complimentary conservation services to museums and nonprofit organizations. He lives in River Forest, Illinois.



Barry Bauman

STATE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
RECENT ADDITIONS

OTHER PROPERTIES LISTED:
WEST BAY CLUB, Sand Island, Town of Bayfield, Bayfield County

GUNNING-PURVES BUILDING
Village of Friendship, Adams County

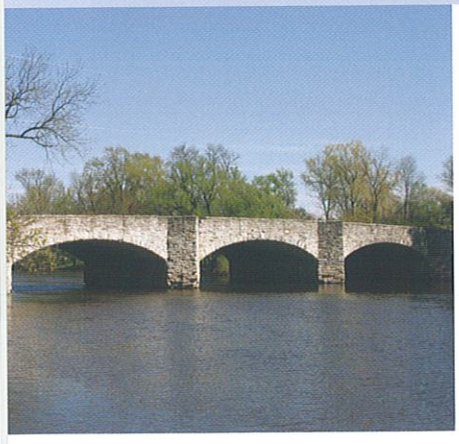
The Gunning-Purves Building, constructed in 1904, is one of the few remaining early 20th-century commercial buildings in Wisconsin having an intact George L. Mesker & Company pressed and stamped metal storefront. The prefabricated metal components could be ordered from a catalog and installed by a local carpenter, an attractive option for residents of small towns. Local entrepreneurs John W. Gunning and John W. Purves constructed this building, which offered the community a place to bank, obtain property abstracts, shop for furniture, consult an attorney, see a doctor or dentist, and hold a wake. Owned by the Adams County Historical Society, and now home of the Adams County Heritage Center, it is open for research and tours.

LAKELAND SHIPWRECK
Vicinity of Sturgeon Bay, Door County

The *Lakeland*, now lying on the lakebed in 205 feet of water, is one of the most storied wrecks on the Great Lakes. Originally constructed as a bulk freighter in 1886, it was later converted to a car carrier. At the time of its sinking, the ship carried at least 22 1925 model-year cars from the Nash, Kissel and Rollin motor companies, 21 of which are extant on the wreck site (one can be seen in the foreground of the picture). The *Lakeland* sank under suspicious circumstances and therefore became the subject of a court case. The resulting inquest was made possible by deep-diving technology developed for the investigation. Due to the extreme depth of the site, there remains great potential to yield further information on construction methods for this vessel type as diving technology improves.

HARRISBURG SCHOOL
Town of Troy, Sauk County

The Harrisburg School, constructed in 1892, is a one-room schoolhouse that served the town of Troy until it closed in 1955 during the era of school consolidation in Wisconsin. The Harrisburg School retains characteristic features of this building type including the simple gable form, wood clapboards and shingles, and a bell tower on the roof. One-room schoolhouses are becoming increasingly rare, but intact examples such as this one preserve the history of education in rural communities. The school, owned by the Harrisburg-Troy Historical Society, is open to the public in the summer months.



RANGE LINE ROAD BRIDGE
Village of River Hills, Milwaukee County

The Range Line Road Bridge is a reinforced concrete arch structure sheathed in Waukesha limestone. Constructed in 1935, its distinctive design was inspired by 15th-, 16th- and 17th-century bridges in England and includes stone cutwaters – wedge-shaped projections that divide the flow of water. Along the road, triangular pedestrian refuge bays and mown grass margins adjacent to the stone walls contribute to its charm. This bridge is an exceptional example of English-inspired bridge design and is a prominent landmark in the village of River Hills.

EVENTS

WHAT'S ON *around our state!*

The following are Society special event highlights November 2014 through January 2015. For a complete listing of events, visit wisconsinhistory.org/calendar.

EXHIBIT

THROUGH JAN 31 :: I.A. LAPHAM: CITIZEN SCIENTIST
Wisconsin Historical Society | Discover the life and work of Wisconsin's pioneer scientist, Increase Lapham, in a first-floor exhibit at the Society's headquarters building. The exhibit features examples of Lapham's work taken from the Society's archives. 8 a.m. – 9 p.m. Mon. – Thu. and 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Fri. – Sat.

Five Ho-Chunk men posed standing behind a Dream Drum and in front of cloth barriers or tents. Black River Falls, 1908. WHI 64320

THROUGH NOV 15 :: POWWOWS: PERFORMING IDENTITIES
Wisconsin Historical Museum | Powwows provide an opportunity to unite people in celebrating, preserving and sharing Native American heritage. Discover this integral part of Native American identity through photographs, video elements and artifacts. 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Tue. – Sat.

NOV 28 – JAN 10 :: 'TIS THE SEASON: WINTERFUL
Wisconsin Historical Museum | See historic winter weather wear and a wide variety of winter sporting gear, and learn how Wisconsinites have embraced life in a frozen state. 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Tue. – Sat.

NOVEMBER

NOV 8 :: IROQUOIS RAISED BEADWORK DEMONSTRATION
Wisconsin Historical Museum | Oneida Tribal member and award-winning beader Karen Ann Hoffman will demonstrate her artistry. 9 – 9:45 a.m. and 11 a.m. – noon.

NOV 8 :: STORYTELLING IN BEADS AND STRING
Wisconsin Historical Museum | Oneida Tribal member and award-winning beader Karen Ann Hoffman explains the cultural significance of her craft and her ceremonial attire. 10 – 11 a.m.

NOV 8 :: HEARTHSIDE DINNER
Wade House | Guests work together to prepare and enjoy a meal in the kitchens of the Wade House stagecoach hotel. Dinner event: $45. 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

NOV 8 :: BREAKFAST IN A VICTORIAN KITCHEN
Villa Louis | Hands-on cooking workshop for adults. Participants take a culinary tour of the late 19th century through the preparation and consumption of a Victorian breakfast. 8:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

NOV 11 :: WISCONSIN'S FIRST TEACHER, ELECTA QUINNEY
Wisconsin Historical Museum | Author Karyn Saemann shares the story of Wisconsin's first public school teacher, Electa Quinney, a Stockbridge Indian. 12:15 – 1 p.m.

NOV 11 – 14 :: WISCONSIN HISTORY TOUR: LA CROSSE
Enjoy four days of activities presented at the Weber Center for Performing Arts in La Crosse as part of the monthlong *Wisconsin History Tour.*

Complete Event Schedule at WisconsinHistoryTour.org

NOV 15 :: KIDS IN A VICTORIAN KITCHEN
Villa Louis | This is a hands-on cooking workshop for children in grades 3-8. 9 a.m. – noon.

NOV 18 :: THE BINGO QUEENS OF ONEIDA
Wisconsin Historical Museum | Author Mike Hoeft, author of *The Bingo Queens of Oneida*, describes how two Native American moms started tribal gaming in Wisconsin. Dinner event: $28. 6:30-8:30 p.m.

NOV 28 – 30 :: VICTORIAN HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS
Villa Louis | Tours include a visit to the Dousman parlor for a Christmas recital on the restored 1879 Steinway Centennial D piano. Cooking demonstrations, sweet treats, hot cider. 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.

DECEMBER

DEC 5 – 7 :: VICTORIAN HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS
Villa Louis | See the event description above. 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.

DEC 6 – 7 :: A WADE HOUSE CHRISTMAS
Wade House | Guests will experience the magic of a mid-19th-century Christmas celebration at the Wade House stagecoach hotel. 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

DEC 6 – 7 :: AN OLD WORLD HOLIDAY BREAKFAST
Old World Wisconsin | Begin your visit with a hearty holiday buffet, meet Father Christmas, and enjoy a special holiday performance. Saturday seatings at 9:30 and 11:30 a.m., Sunday seatings at 9:30 a.m.

DEC 6 – 7 :: AN OLD WORLD CHRISTMAS
Old World Wisconsin | Join us for a 19th-century holiday celebration featuring Christmas tales, spirited performances, horse-drawn bobsled rides, an 1800s Santa and more! 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

DEC 11 – 14 :: ANNUAL HOLIDAY SALE
Wisconsin Historical Museum | Find unique gifts for everyone on your list while supporting the Wisconsin Historical Museum. 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Tue. – Sat.

DEC 13 – 14 :: AN OLD WORLD HOLIDAY BREAKFAST
Old World Wisconsin | See the December 6-7 description.

DEC 13 – 14 :: AN OLD WORLD CHRISTMAS
Old World Wisconsin | See the December 6-7 description.

JANUARY

JAN 20 – 24 :: WISCONSIN HISTORY TOUR: MILWAUKEE
Enjoy five days of activities presented at the Milwaukee Public Library as part of the monthlong *Wisconsin History Tour.*

Complete Event Schedule at WisconsinHistoryTour.org

LOCATION KEY

OLD WORLD WISCONSIN, EAGLE
(262) 594-6301 or oww@wisconsinhistory.org

VILLA LOUIS, PRAIRIE DU CHIEN
(608) 326-2721 or villalouis@wisconsinhistory.org

WADE HOUSE, GREENBUSH
(920) 526-3271 or wadehouse@wisconsinhistory.org

WISCONSIN HISTORICAL MUSEUM, MADISON
(608) 264-6555 or museum@wisconsinhistory.org

WISCONSIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY HEADQUARTERS, MADISON
(608) 264-6586 or info@wisconsinhistory.org

WISCONSIN HISTORY TOUR, SOCIETY HEADQUARTERS, MADISON
(608) 212-5497 or tourinfo@wisconsinhistory.org

For more information on events, please visit wisconsinhistory.org/calendar

Recognizing Great Achievements

EVERY YEAR THE SOCIETY recognizes the best work in a variety of endeavors related to collecting, documenting and preserving Wisconsin history. In 2014 the Society salutes 11 individuals and organizations that distinguished themselves through their work during calendar year 2013. Congratulations to all this year's award recipients.

Presidential candidate John F. Kennedy campaigning in Wisconsin, 1960. WHI 45434

GOVERNOR'S ARCHIVES AWARDS

Milwaukee Public Television is the recipient of the Society's Governor's Award for Archival Innovation for the documentary, *Wisconsin Remembers John F. Kennedy*, which commemorated the 50th anniversary of Kennedy's assassination in 1963. Wisconsin Public Television, Dan Jones, executive producer, received the award for the public television station's work in identifying and utilizing archival film footage at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee's Area Research Center for use in the documentary.

The Swiss Center of North America in New Glarus is the recipient of the Society's Governor's Award for Archival Achievement. The Swiss Center of North America, Beth Zurbuchen, president, received the award for the nonprofit cultural center's 15-year history of developing a significant research collection on Swiss-American heritage.

The Madison Student Chapter of the Society of American Archivists is the recipient of the Society's Governor's Award for Archival Advocacy for its promotion of Archives Month in Wisconsin and for fundraising initiatives to support student attendance at professional conferences.

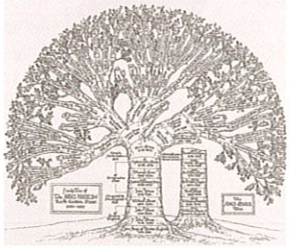
The Society and the Wisconsin Historical Records Advisory Board jointly recommended the three recipients of Governor's Archives Awards for 2014.

The Wisconsin Historical Society is grateful for DEMCO's continued support of Wisconsin Archives Month and the Governor's Archives Awards.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION AWARDS

Carolyn Rock of Whitefish Dunes State Park received the Society's Historic Preservation Award for her 15-year effort to help protect shipwrecks, promote Door County's maritime heritage and further the efforts of Wisconsin's Maritime Trails initiative. Rock's accomplishments include hosting educational events, organizing teacher workshops, protecting and preserving artifacts, and creating maritime exhibits.

Gorman and Company Inc. of Oregon, Wisconsin, received the Society's Historic Restoration Award for the interior and exterior restoration of The Brewhouse Inn and Suites in downtown Milwaukee. The project converted the vacant brewhouse, formerly the Pabst Blue Ribbon brewery, into a 90-room, extended stay hotel while maintaining the character of the original brewhouse. The Society's Awards Committee deemed the project to be an exemplary restoration of a significant building.



Drawing of Ames-Angier family tree of North Easton, Massachusetts, 1560-1937. WHI 50491

GENEALOGY/FAMILY HISTORY AWARD

The Society, in conjunction with the Wisconsin State Genealogical Society, awarded Philip Hasheider of Sauk City the Genealogy/Family History Award for *The Loerpabel Connection: From Germany to Wisconsin and Across America (1745-2013)*. An independent panel of judges found *The Loerpabel Connection* tells the history and genealogy of a German-American family from the Westphalia region of Germany in the late 18th century to Sauk County, Wisconsin, in the mid-19th century, with descendants of the author's ancestress and her six immigrant siblings traced to the present.

BOOK AWARD OF MERIT

The Society awarded *Sister: An African American Life in Search of Justice* by Sylvia Bell White and Jody LePage its Book Award of Merit for telling a powerful story from the perspective of an eyewitness to racial injustice. An independent panel of judges concluded that *Sister* made

the most significant contribution to Wisconsin history during calendar year 2013. The judges also noted that Jody LePage's chapter introductions frame the narrative in a wide span of American history that tells the story of an extraordinary life. The University of Wisconsin Press is the book's publisher.

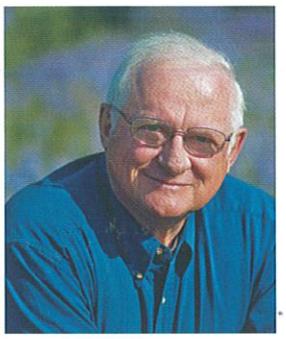
MUSEUM EXHIBIT AWARDS

The Marathon County Historical Society is the recipient of one of two Museum Exhibit Awards for its exhibit, *Our Stories: The History of Marathon County*. The exhibit focused on three themes: "Arriving Here," introducing visitors to Native American residents and early European immigrants; "Making a Living," covering a variety of ways county residents have earned their living, from logging and farming to modern industries; and "Having Fun," highlighting the ways county residents and visitors have enjoyed their leisure time. The museum won the award in the category of museum exhibits by a museum with an annual operating budget of more than $50,000.

The Neenah Historical Society is the recipient of a second Museum Exhibit Award for its exhibit, *Take Cover, Neenah! Backyard Family Fallout Shelters in Cold War America*, a multimedia perspective on one local family's reaction to the nuclear threat during the Cold War Era. The exhibit contained the complete contents of a backyard fallout shelter constructed by a Neenah obstetrician in 1959 in a largely middle-class community at the height of the Cold War. University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh professors Stephen Kercher and Karina Cutler-Lake collaborated in developing the exhibit. The museum won the award in the category of museum exhibits by a museum with an annual operating budget of less than $50,000.

PUBLIC PROGRAM AWARD

The Brown County Library in Green Bay received its 2014 Public Program Award for the library's 25-year guest speaker series. The series has featured more than 135 speakers, scholars and authors with presentations on a wide variety of local and state historical and cultural topics. Among the events was a special 25th-anniversary dinner featuring Society Press author Jerry Apps in September 2013. Mary Jane Herber, the Brown County Library's local history librarian, has coordinated the speaker series since its inception.



Wisconsin Historical Society Press author Jerry Apps

Black Point Estate Listed in **10 BEST HOME ESTATE TOURS IN THE U.S.** by Fodor's Travel

The Society's own Black Point Estate was recently listed as one of the 10 best home-estate tours in the United States, listed alongside the likes of the Biltmore Estate in North Carolina, The Rockefeller Estate in New York, and Mount Vernon in Virginia.

Black Point Estate, built in Queen Anne style in 1888, overlooks Geneva Lake. This historic manor was the summer home for Chicago beer baron Conrad Seipp and four generations of his descendants. The Society began managing the property in January of 2013.

"To be included on this list is very rewarding, and it helps to validate all the work that went into preserving Black Point Estate as a historic site," said Site Director David Desimone. "Preservation is never an easy endeavor, and we are fortunate to have so much community support at this moment in our short history as a house museum."

Black Point Estate is primarily accessible via a boat ride provided by the Lake Geneva Cruise Line. "The quality of the cruise line helps to make a visit to Black Point Estate even more memorable and unique," Desimone said.

MOUNT HOREB AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY ADDS TO ITS EXQUISITE HAZEL MILLER HANNEMAN CHINA COLLECTION

Hazel Hanneman hand painted this ceramic teapot circa 1910-1915. Photo by Emily Pfotenhauer.

THE DONATION OF 56 NEW HAND-PAINTED CHINA PIECES created by Mount Horeb ceramic artist Hazel Miller Hanneman in the spring of 2014 brings the number of pieces in the collection to 73. The generous donation came from several of the artist's descendants. In addition to the china pieces, the collection contains archival material including binders filled with patterns designed by Hazel Hanneman as well as business records, photographs and ephemera. The local historical society used a 2014 mini-grant from the Wisconsin Historical Society, augmented by a matching grant from the Hanneman family, to provide the curatorial supplies needed to conserve this beautiful and unique collection.

As an outgrowth of the Arts and Crafts movement of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, many public schools and colleges offered instruction in skilled manual work. Vocational classes in painting and home economics available from her high school in Oshkosh introduced Hazel to a variety of craft techniques. Using those, and developing techniques of her own, she began a lifelong career as a prolific artist and teacher in ceramic arts. She was still active in painting into her late 80s.

In addition to her artistry, Hazel Hanneman was also a prominent resident of Mount Horeb. She and her husband Frederick Hanneman moved to Mount Horeb in 1917, where they became active in the area's art and culture. They were part of the inner circle of Mount Horeb society during the many years that Fred served as village board president. Perhaps the most quintessential role they played was as the first co-managers of the famous tourist site, Cave of the Mounds, now a National Natural Landmark.

The Hazel Miller Hamilton China Collection is part of the local historical society's Artists, Authors and Musicians Group that currently documents 105 creative individuals in a variety of artistic fields who reside or resided in the southwestern Dane County area. For more on the life and career of Hazel Miller Hamilton, see Emily Pfotenhauer's illustrated story in the winter 2013-2014 issue of the *Wisconsin Magazine of History*.

NEARLY $15,000 IN MINI-GRANTS AWARDED TO 22 LOCAL HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

Each year local affiliated historical societies can apply to the Wisconsin Historical Society for a mini-grant of up to $700 to help fund collections care and management projects. In 2014 the Society awarded 22 grants totaling nearly $15,000. The Society and Wisconsin Council for Local History partner to offer the program, which supports the purchase of archival supplies, software for managing collections, technology for digitization projects, climate control and much more. For more information on the mini-grant program, contact Rick Bernstein at (608) 264-6583 or Janet Seymour at (715) 836-2250.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2014 RECIPIENTS:

Beloit Historical Society – collections management software

Brandon Historical Society – digitization project

Cable/Namakagon Area Historical Society – climate control

Cambria-Friesland Historical Society – archival supplies

Eagle River Historical Society – collections management software and archival supplies

Fairwater Historical Society – collections management software

Florence County Historical Society – collections management software

Gibraltar Historical Society – archival supplies and climate control

Continued next page

HONORING ACHIEVEMENTS WITH THE SOCIETY'S MOST DISTINGUISHED LOCAL HISTORY AWARD

EVANSVILLE GROVE SOCIETY, the local historical society serving the Evansville area, is the 2014 recipient of the Reuben Gold Thwaites Trophy from the Wisconsin Historical Society, its highest honor for achievements in the field of local history. Initially settled in 1839 by immigrants from New England, the town took the name, The Grove, for its fine stand of hardwood trees. With the establishment of a local post office in the 1840s, the name changed to Evansville in honor of the town's first physician, Dr. John M. Evans.

Founded in the 1970s as an affiliate of the Rock County Historical Society, the local historical society incorporated and became an affiliate of the Wisconsin Historical Society in 1984. The Grove Society has played a significant role in the preservation and restoration of Evansville's built environment. Its largest undertaking, the historic restoration of the 1897 Baker Office Building, pictured here, took place from 2000 to 2010 with the donation of thousands of hours of mostly volunteer labor. The completed structure now houses one of the society's two museums and serves as a community meeting space. The museum campus also contains an original Monitor brand Baker windmill and a 1938 tourist cabin, restored by the society in 2013.

The Grove Society has observed the sesquicentennial of the Civil War annually since 2011 through its Rally 'Round the Flag events. The weekend-long observances have included the re-enactment of local recruiting rallies, demonstrations by Civil War re-enactors, lectures by Civil War authorities, concerts by bands playing Civil War-era music on period instruments and theatrical performances.

The restored 1897 Baker Office Building

In anticipation of the 175th anniversary of Evansville's 1866 incorporation, the Grove Society is having a 30-by11-foot theatrical backdrop professionally restored. A local artist painted the backdrop in 1939 for a centennial-of-settlement pageant. After its restoration, it will see use again in a 2016 theatrical performance the Grove Society and Evansville Community Theater are jointly planning.

MINI-GRANTS *(CONTINUED)*

Jackson County Historical Society – collections management software

Johnson Creek Historical Society – collections management software upgrade

Kewaskum Historical Society – collections management software

Lost Lake-Randolph Historical Society – digitization project

Milwaukee County Historical Society – digitization project

Mitchell Gallery of Flight – collections management software

Mount Horeb Area Historical Society – archival supplies

Neosho/Rubicon Historical Society – collections management software

Niagara Historical Society – climate control

Osceola Historical Society – digitization project and archival supplies

Price County Historical Society – collections management software

Reedsburg Area Historical Society – collections management software

Sheyboygan County Historical Society and Museum – emergency readiness kits

Stanley Area Historical Society – collections management software

Wisconsin Black Historical Society – collections management software

GORDON SMITH GOES BACK — AND GIVES BACK — TO REED SCHOOL

ON A MEMORABLE SPRING DAY, Gordon Smith entered Reed School for the first time. The year was 1939, and Gordon attended the school as a first-grader during a six-week visit to his grandparents' farm near Neillsville, Wisconsin. The short time he spent at the one-room school left an impression that endures decades later. Gordon notes, "we all have lifetime experiences, with some of the most vivid recollections being those that occurred in the formative years." Gordon was inspired as he studied alongside students of all grade levels. He listened to older students recite their lessons and considered the exposure to advanced subjects a challenge that instilled in him a strong desire to learn. According to Gordon, the influence that spring of his schoolmates, grandparents and the people of Neillsville, "provided values that I carry with me today — hard work, high moral standards and an outreach to others."

Helen and Gordon Smith at Reed School in June 2014

The lessons learned and values embraced at Reed School served Gordon well throughout a highly successful career in the real estate investment and construction industries. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Ohio Wesleyan University in 1954, was a pilot in the U.S. Air Force and afterwards earned an MBA from Harvard Business School in 1959. In 1964 Gordon founded the real estate development company, Miller and Smith, Inc. Under his leadership, the business prospered and grew to be one of the largest private homebuilders in the Washington, D.C. area. His skills and insight have been invaluable to companies on whose Board of Directors he has served. Gordon maintained an interest in academia and taught residential construction and development from 1974 through 1987 as an adjunct professor at American University. Through many years and many remarkable achievements, Gordon never lost sight of his experience in first grade.

On June 5, 2014, Gordon returned once again to Reed School, now one of the Society's 12 historic sites and museums. He and his wife Helen traveled from Maryland to join their daughter Cindy Skarbek and her husband Ed as honored guests at the celebration of a newly opened interactive exhibit. The exhibit is the latest improvement to the school, which closed in 1951 and needed extensive repairs when the Smith family purchased the property in 2005. The Smiths' family foundation made a substantial investment to fully fund restoration of the school to its original 1915 appearance and then donated the property to the Society in 2007. In 2014 the family foundation established an $800,000 endowment to ensure the long-term preservation of Reed School.

Reed School teacher, Mrs. Orvilla Zillic, and her 17 students pose for a photograph, 1948. WHI 45011

The Society is deeply grateful to Gordon Smith and his family for their devotion to the restoration of Reed School and for preservation of a once common childhood experience that remains an important part of American history. "Reed School offers an extraordinary opportunity to tell the stories of one-room country schoolhouses that constituted a major part of the nation's educational system," said Ellsworth Brown, the Ruth and Hartley Barker Director of the Society. "We are truly grateful for Gordon and Helen's magnificent contribution to the people of Wisconsin."

Guests celebrating the opening of a new interactive exhibit gather at Reed School in June 2014.

CULVER'S — WELCOME TO GENEROUS

THIS IS A YEAR OF MILESTONES for Culver's restaurants and its family of franchisees. The business famous for Butterburgers and fresh frozen custard opened its 500th location in April, and in July the company celebrated its 30th anniversary. Currently there are franchises in 22 states and plans to open more than 30 new restaurants in 2015. Culver's remarkable growth has been good for business — and good for communities the company and its team members serve. Culver's strong commitment to community partnership and support is one of the fundamental values on which the company built its success.

A well-publicized example of Culver's community support is franchise owner Bruce Kroll's response to the November 2013 fire that destroyed the restaurant in Platteville, Wisconsin. Insurance covered employees' pay for 60 days. Kroll immediately demonstrated the value he placed on his team's contribution to the restaurant's success and committed to paying everyone fully until the store opened again six months later. All he asked in return was for everyone to find a way to serve the needs of their neighbors. When you consider this depth of involvement in a community — and scale it up nationwide — you have a sense of the results achieved through Culver's emphasis on being a good neighbor and corporate citizen. Craig and Lea Culver continually champion efforts to help build stronger communities, as they have done since opening the first store in Sauk City, Wisconsin, in 1984.

Culver's is a generous, longtime supporter of the Society. Most recently the company was an early and enthusiastic contributor towards the creation of the *Wisconsin History Tour*, an ongoing, major Society outreach initiative. The traveling exhibition launched in Wausau in June 2014 and will visit communities across the state throughout 2015. Culver's important underwriting effort helped make this project a reality and enabled the Society to share our state's stories with more people, in more places than ever before.

The first Culver's restaurant opened in Sauk City in 1984.

The Society offers its deepest thanks to Culver's for its steadfast partnership and salutes them for their continued commitment to make life better in Wisconsin communities.

Congratulations on 30 years of success and best wishes for the future!

WHAT DO YOU FEEL MAKES A GOOD STORY GREAT?

Maybe compelling characters capture your interest. Perhaps twists and turns in a narrative keep you engaged. Familiar or exotic, a vividly described place can surround you, stimulate all of your senses and make a story delightfully real. When you hear a true Wisconsin story — a well-told and documented account of people, places and events — it's not just a great story, it's our history.

Can you imagine how good it will feel to play a greater part in the Society's story? A contribution from you has impact — it allows the Society to touch more lives throughout Wisconsin and share stories in more compelling ways than ever before.

Please consider long-term support of the Society through planned giving. A gift of securities, real estate or other assets from your estate is a measure of generosity that we regard with the deepest respect. For more information about investing in the future of the Society, contact Sarah Milestone at sarah.milestone@wisconsinhistory.org or at (608) 264-6585.

Anne Danko and Karl Kaphengst say their vows on the front porch of the Koepsell farmhouse. Photo by Sandy Matson.

Wedding Bells – *Real Ones* – At Old World Wisconsin

By Lisa McGovern, Old World Wisconsin Marketing and Communications

WHEN ANNE DANKO AND KARL KAPHENGST met as interpreters at Old World Wisconsin 20 years ago, each knew they found a kindred spirit in the history-loving other. Little did they know that the museum would not only be the site of their employment, but also of their courtship and, on September 6, 2014, their historic wedding, performed in the style of the 1880s Pomeranian immigrants to Wisconsin.

Anne and Karl met as interpreters at Old World Wisconsin in 1994 and have worked together intermittently ever since. When they became engaged, Anne remembered Karl once mentioning that the Koepsell farmhouse front porch would be the perfect spot for a wedding. Although neither has Pomeranian roots, their Old World Wisconsin ties meant that they have developed deep connections with the historic site's many ethnic groups. When they received permission to share their wedding as a public special event, they were elated. According to Anne: "We love Old World Wisconsin and were delighted to share our special day with museum guests. We began planning our Pomeranian wedding to dovetail with the building's 1880s provenance. When Pomeranians married, it was a very public event, which mirrored our objective."

Over a year's planning and research led up to the big day. The bride, groom and friends made much of the apparel for the couple and the wedding party. Anne's handmade wedding dress was a reproduction of the wedding dress held by the Trinity-Freistadt Historical Society in Freistadt (near Mequon), Wisconsin. The original dress, in black silk, was worn by Albertina Friedericke Hilgendorf when she was married on May 12, 1876. Albertina's granddaughter, Alice Frenz, was able to attend Anne and Karl's wedding as a special guest.

Almost 700 guests were on site for the couple's celebration. Anne's brother, James Danko, assumed the role of the Hochzeitsbitter, or wedding inviter, a traditional Pomeranian custom. Throughout the morning of the wedding, he made the rounds of the site in a horse-drawn carriage, inviting museum guests to the ceremony. Afterwards, guests unanimously sent up cheers for the couple, then enjoyed Butterkuchen (butter cake) that the groom prepared in advance for the reception.

We wish Anne and Karl well and invite you to do the same when visiting Old World Wisconsin!

To plan your visit to Old World Wisconsin, visit oldworldwisconsin.org.

The bride's brother, James Danko, assumed the role of the Hochzeitsbitter, or wedding inviter. Photo by Sandy Matson.

Your Family and Friends Can Enjoy Their Gift of Membership Anywhere!

Membership benefits for gift recipients

- 4-issue subscription to Wisconsin Magazine of History, and one bonus issue
- Free admission to the Wisconsin Historical Museum
- Half-price or free admission to our 11 additional historic sites around the state of Wisconsin
- 10% off at **shop.wisconsinhistory.org** and at all museum and historic site gift shops, including Wisconsin Historical Society Press books
- Much more!

For a full list of member benefits visit **wisconsinhistory.org/membership**

I value the sustained connection that I have with Wisconsin and its history through a membership with the Wisconsin Historical Society. Much of what makes Wisconsin such a great place is bound up in its unique history. Supporting the Wisconsin Historical Society ensures that this unique past is not forgotten but passed on.

Mike Ullmer, Wisconsin Historical Society member

Mike took his Summer 2014 issue to the Cascade Mountains in Washington State.

WISCONSIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Gift Memberships start at $20 through December 31.
To redeem this offer online, visit ***wihist.org/whsholiday14***

WISCONSIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Published Quarterly by the Wisconsin Historical Society
Headquarters Building: 816 State Street,
Madison, WI 53706

**********5-DIGIT 54952
030063 10397 P-2 Pk352
MENASHA LANDMARKS COMMISSION
140 MAIN ST
MENASHA WI 54952-3151

SIGN UP FOR THE SOCIETY'S E-NEWSLETTER

Get all the latest Society news, information and upcoming events delivered to your email inbox. The e-newsletter will also point you to popular features on our website including *This Day in Wisconsin History*. Sign up at wisconsinhistory.org.

COMING SOON! COLUMNS NEWSLETTER E-VERSION

In response to your feedback, a paperless, e-version of *Columns* will be available to you beginning in early 2015.

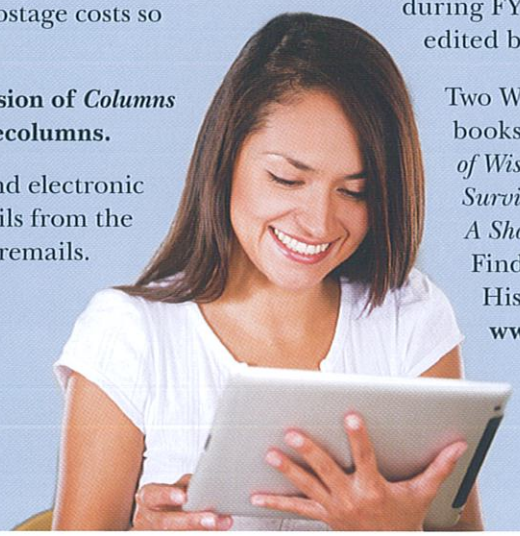
Make your support go further. Go paperless!
Going paperless is fast, easy, convenient, and it helps the Society save on overhead, printing and postage costs so your support has an even greater impact.

To sign up to receive the paperless, e-version of *Columns* only, visit support.wisconsinhistory.org/ecolumns.

If you would like to receive both paper and electronic copies of *Columns*, sign up to receive emails from the Membership Office at wihist.org/memberemails.

Watch for more updates about the new paperless, e-version of *Columns* in upcoming issues and via email.

Please note: You will continue to receive a paper copy of Columns unless you sign up to go paperless.



HIGH ON THE MOST-CHECKED-OUT-BOOKS LIST

The Wisconsin Historical Society library circulation desk recently released a list of Top 50 book titles circulated the most during Fiscal Year 2014. The number one most circulated title among all the library's books during FY 2014 was *Papers of Ulysses S. Grant* edited by John Y. Simon.

Two Wisconsin Historical Society Press books also made that list: *Indian Nations of Wisconsin: Stories of Endurance and Survival, 2nd Edition* by Dr. Patty Loew and *A Short History of Wisconsin* by Erika Janik. Find out more about the Wisconsin Historical Society Press books at **www.wisconsinhistory.org/whspress.**

NOMINATIONS TO THE BOARD OF CURATORS

The Nominating Committee of the Society's Board of Curators nominates Society members for election to the board. Voting members of the Society may suggest a candidate for board service by submitting the candidate's name and a brief resume to: Nominating Committee Chair, c/o *Columns*, Wisconsin Historical Society, 816 State Street, Madison, WI 53706 or via email to info@wisconsinhistory.org.

Members may also nominate a prospective candidate by petition. In addition to its nominees, the Nominating Committee will place in nomination the name of any member presented to it by a petition signed by 25 members of the Society, provided that the signatures are gathered between January 31 and March 2 of each year and submitted to the committee by March 2.

Upon request, any member seeking to prepare such a petition shall have access to the names and addresses of the Society's members. A petition template is also available upon request. Such requests may be sent to the above-listed name and address.