



WISCONSIN
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Columns

THE NEWSLETTER *of the* WISCONSIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

IN THIS ISSUE



- 6** National History Day Student's Journey with the Normandy Institute



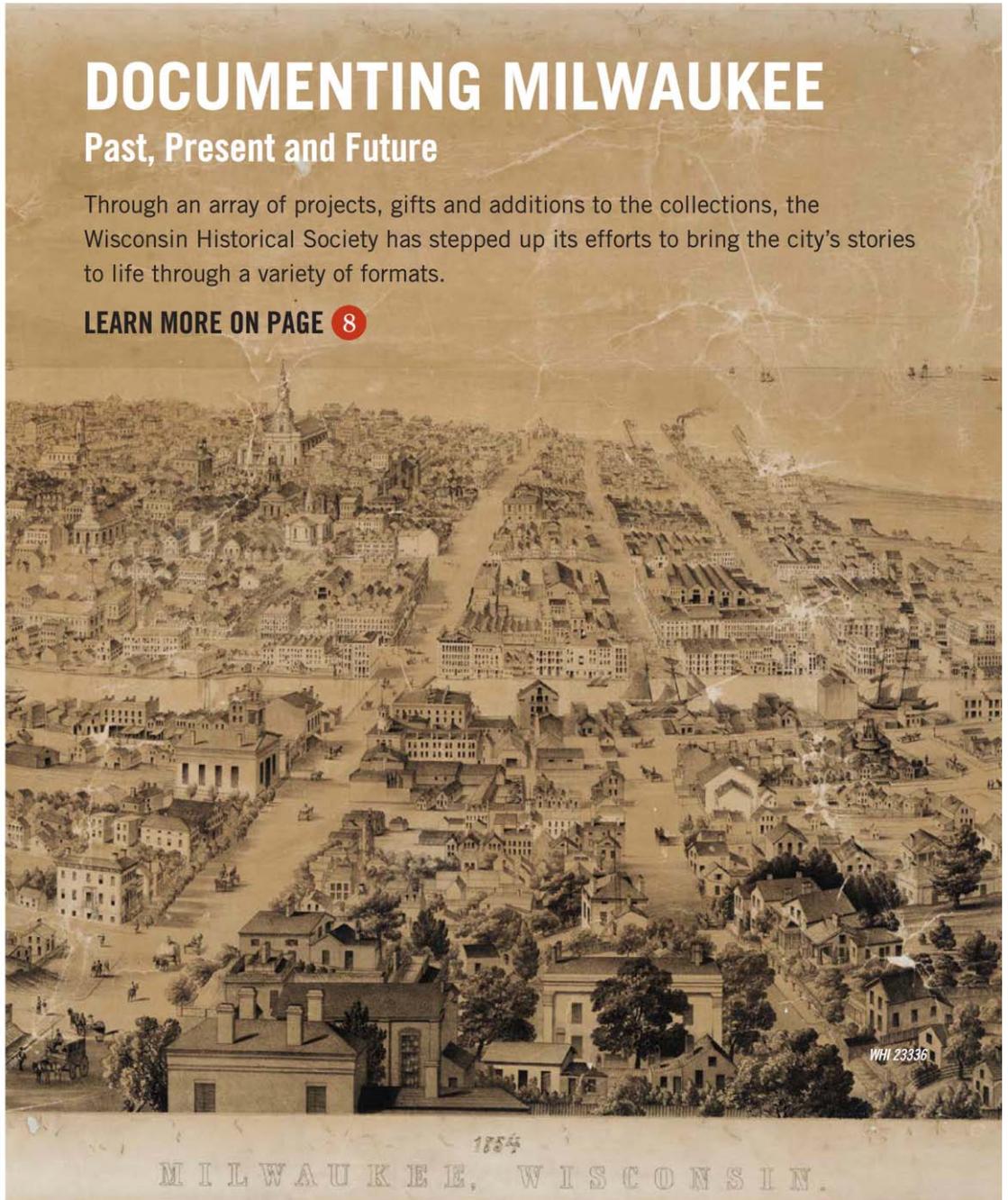
- 13** Gubernatorial Portrait Gallery Adds Scott McCallum
- 2** Director's Letter
- 3** Upcoming Member Events
- 5** Respect for the Past and a Vision for the Future
- 7** Recent Additions, State Register of Historic Places
- 10** What's on Our Bookshelf
- 11** Hercules L. Dousman
- 14** Events Calendar

DOCUMENTING MILWAUKEE

Past, Present and Future

Through an array of projects, gifts and additions to the collections, the Wisconsin Historical Society has stepped up its efforts to bring the city's stories to life through a variety of formats.

LEARN MORE ON PAGE 8



DIRECTOR'S LETTER



ELLSWORTH H. BROWN
The Ruth and Hartley Barker Director

Columns

KARA O'KEEFE, EDITOR

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DIRECTOR'S LETTER

A LIGHTED WALL PANEL AT RONALD REAGAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT recently caught my attention with the phrase "Making Science Make Sense." This is a Bayer-sponsored initiative that advances science literacy across the U.S. through inquiry-based science learning, employee volunteerism, and public education. Check it out for yourself: makingsciencemakesense.com

When have we seen an advertisement for history or the humanities? This query is not rhetorical: if you have seen one, please tell me what, when and where. I'd like to know.

Seeing the ad can touch nerves of envy and regret: "Why them and not us? Is it something we did or, worse, failed to do and is it correctable? Famously, Henry Ford said "history is more or less bunk." Was he correct or did he just know how to make cars?

The "condition" of history in America and the initiatives to address it are subjects of intense discussion led by a national history organization and, independently, by an *ad hoc* group of history leaders from institutions such as ours.

Reflection on the subject suggests two things: one is that seeking equivalencies between math and science initiatives and history initiatives may not be necessary or useful. Whereas science-related disciplines are particular and to a certain extent formal, history — also an academic subject — is infused into the fabric of our lives, institutions, built environments, families, and communities. Hard to measure, endlessly present. Second and less conspicuous is ample evidence of history's pervasive hold on people. Winston Churchill succinctly rephrased philosopher Hegel's observation and said, "Is the only lesson of history to be that mankind is unteachable?" It may thus be true that history repeats itself, although I prefer Mark Twain's observation that "History doesn't repeat itself, but it does rhyme."

However, on a local plane, I submit the following as antidote to the angst we could harbor:

- A homemade billboard on Highway 14 west of Janesville declared, "Without a heritage, every generation starts over."
- Since the commencement of the Wisconsin Historical Society's historic sites program, 17,694,052 people have visited our dozen museums and historic sites, boosted by more than 300,000 last year.
- Last year a child spent a half day at Old World Wisconsin and later declared it to be "the best day of my life."
- Our website was viewed 2.5 million times last year.
- Our library and archive loaned 957 archival collections and 4,452 books and articles to libraries across the state and country; and it acquired 408 cubic feet of historical manuscripts and 1,154 cubic feet of government records of long-term value.
- We received four major grants totaling \$484,000 last year to provide statewide digital access, management and training for our Wisconsin newspaper collection and for state electronic records.
- Our library served 337,014 visitors in Madison and at the 13 Area Research Center Sites last year.

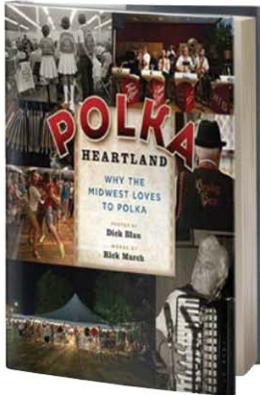
We see a fascination with history in the work of the summer swarm of beloved genealogists and their searches for identity. We see it in the competitive work of 10,000 Wisconsin middle- and high school National History Day students each spring.

So maybe there needs to be a national movement. Or maybe history simply *is*, everywhere, always. I do know that history is a growth business, and I know with certainty that history is what makes us laugh and cry and what makes coming home, coming home.

EHB

IN APPRECIATION OF YOUR SUPPORT AS A MEMBER, ENJOY THESE EVENTS, PERKS AND ACTIVITIES!

Upcoming Member Events



SATURDAY, FEB. 20

Polka Party
4-6 p.m.
Stevens Point
RSVP by Feb. 17

Celebrate the new Wisconsin Historical Society Press Book, "Polka Heartland: Why the Midwest Loves to Polka" with live music, dancing, a book signing and more. Learn more at wisconsinhistory.org/calendar.



RESCHEDULED FOR:
THURSDAY, JUNE 23

Old World Wisconsin
40th Anniversary Celebration
Eagle

WISCONSIN HISTORY TOUR SHARING STORIES ONE COMMUNITY AT A TIME

2016 | HUDSON: January-March
OSHKOSH: April-May
TOUR STOPS | ASHLAND: June-July



NEW Bonus Member Benefits This Year!

- FREE admission (for all membership levels) to 12 historic sites and museums during regular operating hours
- Bonus one-time-use historic site and museum guest passes
- 10% discount on all Society ticketed events, webinars, workshops and conferences
- Electronic offerings, including the new *Wisconsin Magazine of History* e-publication

Member Appreciation Month: May

In May, we celebrate your membership support with a month of special offers and extra benefits exclusively for you. Look for more information in the next issue of *Columns* and via email.



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For more information or to RSVP: Email membership@wisconsinhistory.org, call 888-748-7479 or visit wisconsinhistory.org





SCHOOL TOUR SUBSIDY PROGRAM OPENS OLD WORLD WISCONSIN TO THOUSANDS OF STUDENTS

“Thank you for being so generous and paying for our field trip. I learned so much that day. My favorite thing was making the schnitzel (wood shaving from the German schnitzelbank) and the school house. That day we saw Valentine the cow, pigs, baby pigs and chickens. Sincerely, Lizeth”

TWO THOUSAND FIFTEEN WAS A VERY SPECIAL YEAR for many classes visiting Old World Wisconsin! Travel costs can make coming to Old World Wisconsin impossible for many schools. To address this situation, the Old World Foundation applied for and received a grant from the Potawatomi Hotel and Casino’s Miracle on Canal Street program. Funding from this program, as well as from the Foundation, helped 2,600 students come to visit Old World Wisconsin, many for the first time. Schools from Beaver Dam, Janesville, Juneau, Kenosha, Madison, Milwaukee and Racine were awarded funding for their trips. Many schools sent thank-you notes like the ones shown here.

To view more of the thank-you letters received, visit wisconsinhistory.org/oww-thank-yous.

RESPECT FOR THE PAST AND A VISION FOR THE FUTURE OF MILWAUKEE

Noted Real Estate Developer Is a Leading Sponsor of the Society's Milwaukee Industrial Building Survey

BARRY MANDEL is one of the most forward-thinking people in Milwaukee. For nearly three decades, he has envisioned ways to develop vibrant communities where others saw unattractive properties and forbidding risks. As president of Mandel Group, Inc., a premier Milwaukee multi-family residential and commercial property development firm, Mandel has worked hard and honed his ability to recognize key opportunities. His capacity to see the potential in a proposal led him to enthusiastically support an important new Society initiative: the Milwaukee Industrial Building Survey.



Barry Mandel

Jim Draeger, the State Historic Preservation Officer and head of the Society's Historic Preservation and Public History Division, conceived of the survey as an efficient and comprehensive means to assess the historic value and development potential of the city's unused industrial buildings. The goal is to identify buildings that are historically significant and determine which may be eligible for federal and state historic preservation tax credits. These two programs can each return 20 percent of the cost of rehabilitating historic buildings to owners as income tax

credits. Redevelopment plans must meet established preservation guidelines. The result of this project: important stories connected with these buildings will be preserved — stories that span generations and celebrate Milwaukee's industrial heritage — and developers may take advantage of the incentive

to maintain the buildings' architectural and historical character.

Mandel's desire to encourage historic redevelopment and his financial support of the survey are deeply appreciated and getting results. As Mandel told Jim Draeger, "I am supporting this project because it is an economic development project, and I believe in the future of this city." In the past six months, with Mandel helping to lead the way, more than 20 additional developers, realtors, bankers and other champions of Milwaukee's history contributed their support. Funding is complete and the survey has begun. A full report of the survey's findings will be completed by year's end.

Mandel truly strives to be a good neighbor to everyone in Milwaukee. His vision for the city goes way beyond simple considerations of cost per square foot and financing. Mandel invests his incomparable creativity,

problem-solving skills, business acumen and energy to shape and enhance people's day-to-day activities and improve the quality of life in Milwaukee. His commitment to city residents is evident in the parks and other urban green spaces his company builds; in investments and philanthropic donations that boost opportunities for minority contractors, tradespeople and real estate professionals; and in green roofs and other sustainable elements that are integral to the design of his projects.

All of these efforts are woven together and clearly intended to create a seamless and vibrant urban fabric. Barry Mandel can be justly proud that his weaving makes Milwaukee a better and more hopeful place to live. The Society is grateful for his partnership and that historic preservation of the city's built environment is an integral part of his design.

The Milwaukee Industrial Building Survey was made possible through lead gifts from Cardinal Capital Management, Mandel Group, Inc., Phoenix Investors, LLC, Wangard, and the Wisconsin Preservation Fund. Generous contributions were also provided by Alexander Company, the Ambassador Hotel, Gorman & Company, Keystone Development, Sunset Investors, Van Buren Management, Inc., and Wisconsin Redevelopment. Additional support came from Atlantic Realty Partners, Endeavour Corp, General Capital Group, CD Smith, Ogden, PACE Equity, Phelan Development, Pieper Properties, Schlitz Park, TMB Development Co. and WIRED Properties.

You Can Make Wisconsin's History Your Legacy

Please consider joining the Robert B.L. Murphy Legacy Circle and making a lasting commitment to share our state's rich heritage.

Legacy gifts have always played a crucial role in shaping the Society's future. We would be deeply grateful if you added your legacy of support and helped to continue the long record of innovation that has established the Society as one of the foremost historical institutions in the nation.

Of the many types of estate gifts, bequests and beneficiary designations are the easiest and most common options. However you wish to give, a modest investment of your time to include the Society in your estate plan

will create a remarkable and enduring impact. Your generosity will help sustain the excellent programs and services that millions of history lovers enjoy each year — and you'll enhance our ability to connect people to history for generations come.

For information about planned giving, please contact Linsey Laufenberg at 608-264-6540 or email plannedgiving@wisconsinhistory.org. If you have already named the Society as a recipient in your estate plan and are not a Robert B.L. Murphy Legacy Circle member — please notify us! We would be delighted to thank you personally and offer you all the benefits of membership.

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY STUDENT'S JOURNEY WITH THE NORMANDY INSTITUTE

By Maggie Holtgreive, Reagan IB High School, Milwaukee Public Schools

The Normandy Institute is a unique program sponsored by National History Day, an academic program focused on historical research, in which student/teacher teams study the events of D-Day and World War II.

In the fall of 2014, I approached Julia Brunson, a junior at Reagan IB High School (Milwaukee, WI), and asked if she would be interested in applying for the Normandy Institute. Julia agreed. We applied and were beyond thrilled when I received a phone call from Washington, D.C., accepting us to the program.

Soon after our acceptance, a box of books was mailed to us and we began our readings as well as taking part in online discussions with other participants. One of our first tasks was to identify a soldier buried at the American Cemetery in Normandy, France, and research his story. Julia and I knew we wanted a local soldier and went through the names listed on the American Battle Monuments Commission website for a Milwaukee soldier. We found a few and settled on one: Staff Sgt. Eugene Mlot.

It was not easy finding information on Mlot. We discovered that he lived on Milwaukee's south side in the heavily Polish neighborhood of Polonia. From census records we learned that by 1940 he had graduated from high school, had an older sister and lived with his mother. His father was deceased. We do know that his father came through Ellis Island while immigrating to the United States about 10 years prior to the birth of Mlot, followed by his mother, both from Poland.

Beginning with online research and moving on to the National Archives at College Park in Maryland, we discovered that Mlot registered for the military after Pearl Harbor and was assigned to the 93 Bombardment Group (Heavy). Mlot flew in a B-24j Liberator named the Victory Belle, and was a gunner. His squad flew many missions, including bombing a factory in Berlin while facing heavy anti-aircraft fire. They witnessed the planes of their fellow soldiers drop out of the sky only to be sent out on another 10-hour mission the very next day. While usually a left wing gunner, on June 24, 1944, Mlot was in the nose gunner position. On this day, his plane encountered heavy German flak and was shot down west of Paris over Dreux, France. Mlot was not able to exit the plane and died. He was barely 20 years old.

After conducting research at the National Archives at College Park we eventually made our way to Normandy with other program participants to see Mlot's grave and see firsthand some of the places that had ties to World War II. On our last day in Normandy, Julia presented a eulogy for Staff Sgt. Mlot at his grave site where she acknowledged his sacrifice and those of so many other young Americans during World War II. To learn more about Mlot and our journey through the Normandy Institute and to see Julia read her eulogy, please go to <http://57059282.nhd.weebly.com>.



Eugene Mlot is pictured here (fourth from the left) with fellow crew members from Victory Belle, the B24.



Eugene Mlot's grave in the American Cemetery in Normandy, France.



Eugene's dog tags we found at the National Archives II in College Park, MD.



Julia relaxing by the English Channel after presenting her eulogy for Staff Sgt. Mlot.

For more information on National History Day visit www.wisconsinhistory.org/NHD

Recent Additions

STATE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Allouez Water Department and Town Hall Building

**Allouez, Brown County; Architect: Foeller, Schober, Berners & Jahn;
Engineer: McMahon Engineering Company; Construction date: 1947**

The Allouez Water Department and Town Hall was constructed in 1947 in the Colonial Revival style. The Colonial Revival style, while generally popular in the mid-20th century, was an unusual design choice for an Allouez municipal building and is therefore distinctive in the community. The largest civic building constructed in Allouez to date, this was the long-standing center of municipal government. Municipal offices and meeting rooms were located here as Allouez transitioned from the township to the village form of government. As the location of the municipal water department, this building was the center of vital services for the growing community until 1967, when governmental offices and water utility services were moved elsewhere.



Rudolph Lueder 13-Sided Barn

Plymouth, Sheboygan County; Construction date: 1916

This barn was constructed in 1916 by Rudolph Lueder, a dairy farmer and first-generation son of German immigrants. The farm is owned by his descendants and continues as a dairy farm. Round barns were developed out of an interest in efficient design; cows were kept in close proximity to feed, bedding and milking equipment, easing the workload for farmers.

The barn incorporated advanced building techniques including an air circulation system that pulls cool air from the base and expels warm air through the cupola. The thick double brick wall with an integrated airspace helped insulate the lower level of the barn. The geometry of the barn is also unique, with its 13 sides, and the scale is impressive, with a roof spanning 85 feet and towering more than 68 feet above grade. The barn held 48 cows in stanchions in the lower level and enough hay and feed for all of them simultaneously. The Lueder Barn is one of the last centric barns in the state of Wisconsin that is still used for its original purpose as a dairy barn.



Whiton-Parker House

Janesville, Rock County; Construction date: 1852; addition in 1927

This home was constructed in 1852 in the Greek Revival style and altered in 1927 incorporating the Colonial Revival style in its side addition, dormers and main entrance. Although it is a beautiful house, it is the significance of two owners that bring exceptional distinction to this property. Edward Whiton, pioneer resident of Janesville and early legislator, constructed this house and lived here during the peak of his legal career. Whiton contributed to the formation of the judicial branch of state government in Wisconsin and influenced the development of American legal institutions in the early statehood period. Subsequent resident Kenneth Parker was one of the most important 20th-century industrialists in Janesville. He oversaw the development of the domestic and international growth of the Parker Pen Company, which became synonymous with the highest-quality writing implements throughout the world.



Delavan Downtown Commercial Historic District

Delavan, Walworth County; Construction dates: 1871-1962

The Delavan Downtown Commercial Historic District contains an architecturally important collection of buildings that reflect a century of commercial and civic architecture. Architectural styles including the Italianate, Commercial Vernacular, Neoclassical and Contemporary styles lend a distinctive appearance to the district, making it easily identifiable as a traditional downtown and retaining the architectural character of the 19th and 20th centuries. The history of commerce in the community is also represented here. The district reflects the fact that this is the traditional and long-standing center of commercial activity in the city. Located along its distinctive vitrified brick street, historic retail buildings, banks, an office building, a theater, a post office and a library continue to offer the services and amenities to support a thriving community.



OTHER PROPERTIES LISTED: Allouez Pump House, Allouez, Brown County; Delavan Water Tower Park Historic District, Delavan, Walworth County; Equitable Fraternal Union Building, Neenah, Winnebago County

Documenting Milwaukee

By Amanda Wegner

From the Algonquian word *Millioke* meaning, among other things, “beautiful,” Milwaukee offers a rich, beautiful trove of history, past, present and future.

Through an array of projects, gifts and additions to the collections, the Wisconsin Historical Society has stepped up its efforts to bring the Milwaukee’s stories to life through a variety of formats. Here’s a look at some of the projects that the Society has been working on.

History as it happens: Working at the Water Council

For the first time in its nearly 170-year history, the Wisconsin Historical Society has “a desk in the city of Milwaukee.” That desk belongs to Kristen Leffelman, the Society’s field services representative at the Water Council, a nonprofit that was founded in 2009 and aligns the regional freshwater research community with water-related industries to find solutions to critical global water issues.

“The Society always benefits from documenting organizations, movements or initiatives with the potential to be history makers in real time” says Leffelman, who started in October 2014. “That the Society is already here to document the Water Council means that we can preserve a much fuller picture of the organization’s origins and initiatives while institutional memory is still fresh and be ‘on the ground’ for this exciting chapter of Milwaukee’s history.”

Leffelman’s position combines archival consultation, outreach and historical research; one day may be spent doing records management, while another is spent on a new traveling exhibit, “Water Shapes Wisconsin,” which launches in March 2016.

“Our partnership with the Water Council allows us to enhance access to the Society’s diverse public history programs and resources across southeastern Wisconsin, building awareness of the Society’s mission and offerings throughout the state,” says Leffelman.

Building a living record: Vel Phillips

Vel Phillips, says Emil Hoelter, “is a person through whom many aspects of life in Milwaukee, and beyond in Wisconsin, can be glimpsed.”

As someone with an intimate view of her life, Hoelter, the processing archivist for Phillips’ papers, knows this well.

Velvlea “Vel” Phillips is a prominent figure in the city’s and state’s history, having played a key role in developing Milwaukee’s open housing legislation, advocating for Milwaukee’s black community, being the first African American woman to graduate from UW–Madison Law School and much more.

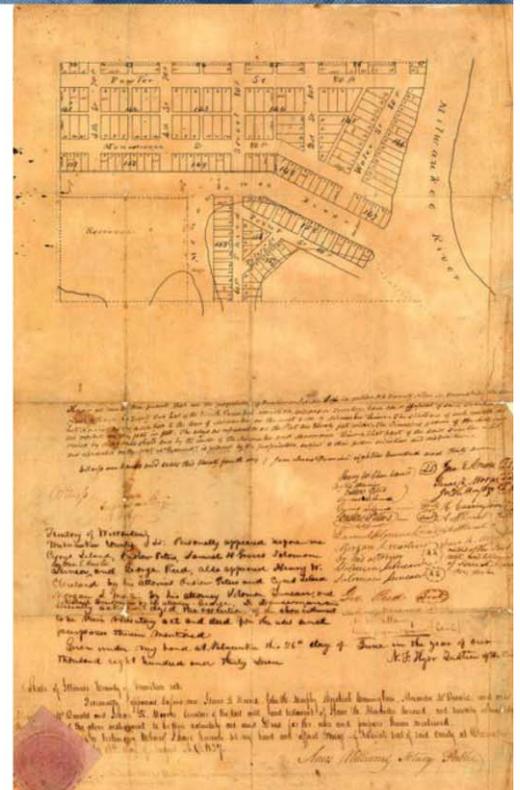
The Society acquired her papers and materials in 2013, and with three part-time assistants, Hoelter and the team have worked for the past 10 months to organize these materials and make some of them public.

“My role is to arrange the materials she has donated to us — her correspondence, records of her offices, photographs, audio recordings and so on — in a way that will make them understandable to the researcher who wants to use her collection,” says



Vel Phillips gets sworn in Jan. 3, 1979.

WHI IMAGE ID 118333



Despite the sheer number of maps Krueger has seen, she has some favorites, including this early map of Milwaukee. “This early manuscript map of the city is a great example of a plat map, showing property lots,” says Krueger. It is signed by Solomon Juneau, one of the three founding fathers of the city. WHI IMAGE ID 4635

Hoelter. “This is more detailed work than some collections would require or merit, but in this case, it is well worth the effort.”

Hoelter and his team are also digitizing a majority of the massive manuscript collection as well as other portions of the collection that include photographs and audio recordings, with plans to include them on the Society’s website. A major part of this project’s funding is from the Greater Milwaukee Foundation and a new endowment by retired UW historians Allan G. Bogue and Margaret Beattie Bogue.

The scripts for and recordings of Phillips’ weekly radio address, “Tell Vel,” are among Hoelter’s favorites.

“In looking at [the scripts], I can see her attention to detail and desire to express herself thoughtfully and articulately when discussing her work,” says Hoelter.

Past, Present and Future

"In particular, her series of addresses discussing details of open housing are fascinating to read."

Lying in Wait: Milwaukee's maps

Because they require specialized cataloging, maps are usually among the last materials to be added to an online catalog. But the Society has put a significant dent in cataloging and digitizing the tens of thousands of maps and atlases in its collection.

"The average time to fully digitize a map is one hour," explains map librarian Susan Krueger. The Society has a collection of more than 12,000 sheet maps, plus 5,000 atlases and 12,000 Sanborn maps, and thanks to generous funding by the Caxambas Foundation, Krueger and an assistant have been working for five years to catalog the map collection. At present, 5,529 works totaling 14,122 pages are now online.

"The primary reason for us to create online collections is to allow the Wisconsin Historical Society to more widely share its rich resources with the people of Wisconsin," says

Krueger. "Maps in particular are a good choice because they do not circulate, due to their oversize and fragile nature, so the only way for a person in Milwaukee to access our maps used to be coming to Madison in person."

Arts Acquisition: The Layton Art Collection



Frederick Layton WHI IMAGE ID 116941

Frederick Layton was one of the most important art collectors in Wisconsin and played a major role in the creation of Milwaukee's meatpacking industry. The Society is happy to

bring the Frederick Layton Family Papers and Photographs into its archives.

"The Wisconsin Historical Society's Archives seeks to document all aspects of life in Wisconsin, including the arts, so we were naturally pleased to accept



Layton Art Gallery

WHI IMAGE ID 116984

a collection that provides insights into someone as significant in Wisconsin arts history as Frederick Layton," says Jonathan Nelson, collection development archivist.

Layton's collection is one of two that formed the core of the original Milwaukee Art Museum collection. Containing more than 130 family documents and photographs, the collection originally was given to the Layton Art Collection by three members of the Bemm family, who are the grandchildren of Frederick Layton's niece Grace Hayman Fowle. In turn, Eric Vogel and the Layton Art Collection board donated the collection to the Society, where archives staff arranged, described and cataloged the materials before sending the collection to the Milwaukee Area Research Center. Society staff also scanned and cataloged 28 photographs that are now available on the Society's website.

Nelson's favorite items in the collection are the four volumes of the Layton Art Gallery opening day catalogs from 1888.

"These volumes are in wonderful condition and contain an image and description of each piece of art in the Layton Gallery at the time it first opened, which will be very useful for researchers," Nelson says.

The Society is pleased to expand its work to document the rich history of Milwaukee, the beautiful city on the big lake and an epicenter of commerce, culture and history in the state of Wisconsin, now and into the future.

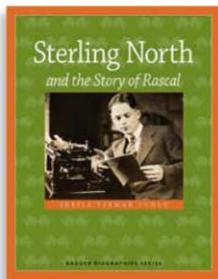


Bird's-eye views are an aesthetically pleasing combination of art and cartography, says Krueger. Though features are sometimes exaggerated to make a city look good, "Views such as this one are great historic snapshots. It's fun to gaze at them and try to pick out what buildings are still standing and familiar." WHI IMAGE ID 23336

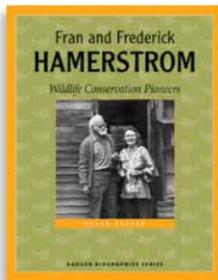
New Bios Share Badger State Stories with Young Readers

This spring, the Wisconsin Historical Society Press wraps up its 28-volume Badger Biographies Series for young readers with three new books that tell the life stories of Wisconsinites, including best-selling author Sterling North, pioneering conservationists Fran and Frederick Hamerstrom and Wisconsin lumberjack John Nelligan. (Find a list of the entire series of Badger Biographies at www.wisconsinhistory.org/whspress. E-book editions of Badger Biographies are also available.)

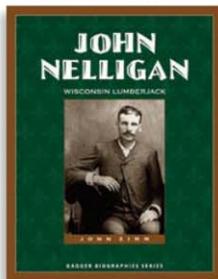
THE MAN BEHIND THE RACCOON: Learn how childhood adventures inspired a Wisconsin writer to pen one of the best-selling children's books of all time, "Rascal," in **"Sterling North and the Story of Rascal"** by Sheila Cohen. Rascal was the name of North's childhood pet, a raccoon he befriended in the early 1900s after his mother died of pneumonia. North and Rascal enjoyed many adventures, from camping and fishing to racing the streets of Edgerton, Wis., on North's trusty blue bicycle. Their friendship inspired North's beloved children's book, one of many books the award-winning author wrote during his celebrated career.



A PIONEERING COUPLE'S PRAIRIE CHICKEN PROJECT: Discover the husband-wife team of conservationists from Wisconsin who worked to save the greater prairie chicken from extinction and helped establish new ways for humans to think about habitat conservation in **"Fran and Frederick Hamerstrom: Wildlife Conservation Pioneers"** by Susan Tupper. As students of famous Wisconsin naturalist Aldo Leopold, Fran and Frederick shared their passion for conservation with many future scientists for more than 30 years.



A LUMBERJACK WRITER: Experience the adventures and tough life of a lumberman who was working during the heyday of the Wisconsin lumber industry in **"John Nelligan: Wisconsin Lumberjack."** Author John Zimm uses Nelligan's own words — written in his letters and journals housed at the Wisconsin Historical Society — to help document the lumberjack life and Nelligan's story. Born in 1852, Nelligan rose through the lumberjack ranks, starting out as a humble laborer and working his way up to foreman.

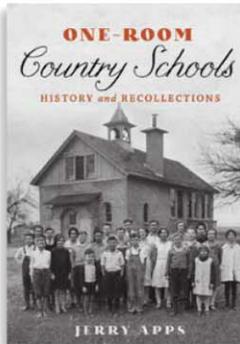


Jerry Apps returns to Garden Expo Feb. 13-15.

Fall in Love with History at Garden Expo 2016!

This Valentine's Day Weekend, Feb. 12-14, the Wisconsin Historical Society Press will display many of its newest titles — including the Jerry Apps book for nature lovers, **"Whispers and Shadows: A Naturalist's Memoir"** — at Wisconsin Public Television's Garden Expo 2016, at the Alliant Energy Center in Madison. An array of history books — on gardening, the environment, agriculture and more — will be showcased in the Society Press booth. As in years past, author Jerry Apps will be speaking at special Garden Expo events, including a 2:15 p.m. discussion on land stewardship with stories from Apps's "Whispers and Shadows," an in-booth signing from 3:30 to 4 p.m. on Feb. 13, and a special Feb. 14 screening of the Wisconsin Public Television documentary based upon "Whispers and Shadows," titled "The Land with Jerry Apps," at 1 p.m. The Sunday event will feature commentary from Jerry Apps and time for audience questions. For more information on attending Garden Expo, visit www.wigardenexpo.com.

Explore One-Room Schools with Jerry Apps



From 1791, when the first school was established in what is now Wisconsin, to the consolidation of rural school districts in the 1960s, the history of Wisconsin's one-room schools has been one of growth and change. In a new Society Press edition of "One-Room Country Schools: History and Recollections," celebrated rural storyteller Jerry Apps brings this history to life through his own vivid recollections and with stories told to him by students and teachers who populated small country schoolhouses across the state. From the organized chaos of teaching disparate age

groups in one room to tales of recess, holiday programs and classroom mischief, these stories provide a lively portrait of what it was like to be educated in the same room as one's siblings. More than just memories, the reprinting of this Apps classic continues to provide insight into the value of the highly localized and more personalized educational practices of the past. An e-book edition is also available.

MEMBERS
SAVE ON
BOOKS

Society members receive a 10% discount on all book orders.

For more information on books published by the Wisconsin Historical Society Press, visit www.wisconsinhistory.org/whspress.

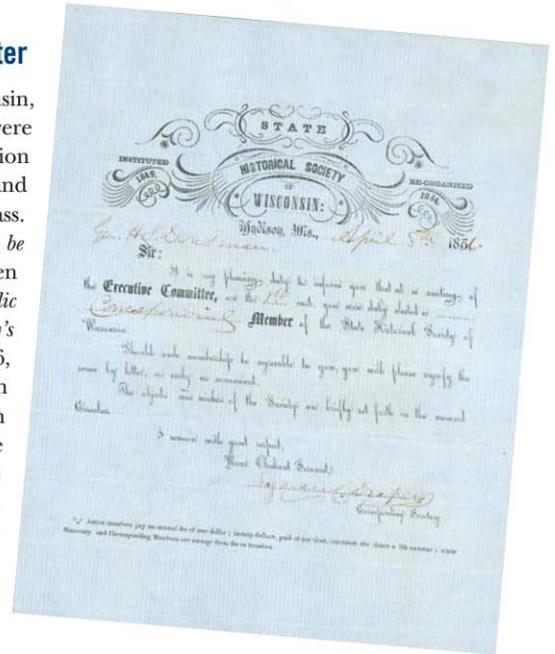
BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE SITES



Hercules L. Dousman,

State Historical Society of Wisconsin Corresponding Membership Letter

ON APRIL 1, 1856, the Executive Committee of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, as it was known at the time, met and voted on many matters. These proceedings were led by Lyman Draper and the matters covered at this meeting include the acquisition of letters, manuscripts and books from early Wisconsin leaders, businessmen and politicians, including items from Gov. Dodge, Henry Schoolcraft and Gov. Cass. Other business included a vote that *"The following pioneers and public men of our State, be respectfully requested to furnish their portraits for the Picture Gallery."* On this list of fourteen men was Gen. H.L. Dousman. Also voted on was *"That those pioneers and early public men of Wisconsin, who have already or hereafter, furnish their portraits in oil for the Society's Picture Gallery, shall be constituted Life Members of the Society."* A letter dated April 8, 1856, from Lyman Draper to Hercules Dousman includes the request upon Mr. Dousman to have his portrait painted by the well-known Milwaukee artist Samuel Marsden Brooks, and also included with the letter was Mr. Dousman's membership to the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. Indeed the painting was done, but the one painted by Brooks never left Prairie du Chien. Mr. Dousman appears to have been quite fond of it and refused to send it to Madison. Another artist was commissioned by the Society. Today the Brooks portrait hangs in the dining room of Villa Louis. Learn more about Villa Louis at www.villalouis.org.



HENRY HAMILTON BENNETT served in Company E of the 12th Wisconsin Volunteers during the Civil War. Injured by an accidental discharge of his own gun, he was mustered out of service in 1864. Returning to Kilbourn City, Bennett took up photography as his profession and went on to become the man who would make the Dells famous.

Proud of his Civil War service, H.H. Bennett was active in the Grand Army of the Republic after the war. He assembled a shadow box of items he acquired during his service. The box contains a sketch titled "Picket Guard" by Bennett's brother Edmund Bennett, Bennett's hospital registration, his day pass for Memphis dated May 8, 1863, a tree leaf from Vicksburg, a feather said to be from Old Abe the War Eagle, a piece of wood from Libby Prison, several belt buckles and bullets from Vicksburg and other various battlefields, early correspondence from GAR members, and a few other curiosities. To learn more about HH Bennett Studio please visit hhbennettstudio.wisconsinhistory.org.





Images from the annual member meeting of the Wisconsin Historical Society.

Get Connected to Your Local History

IN 1896, WISCONSIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY director Reuben Gold Thwaites was inspired to create a local history program as one of several initiatives to commemorate the upcoming 50th anniversary of Wisconsin's statehood. In 1898, he traveled by train to Green Bay and Ripon to officially recognize the first local "auxiliaries." Wisconsin's local history affiliate program has grown to include a roster of 390 county, local and specialized historical organizations. The Society assists communities, organizations, and individuals around the state in preserving and sharing their history.

To learn what local historical societies, museums and the public want local history organizations around the state, the local history division within the Society conducted a survey. From the results, there was expressed interest in seeing the results of the survey, and many people had questions about how and where to find more information about resources available through the Society. In response to feedback, the Local History–Field Services Program developed a **Local History Fact Sheet**.

Other resources that are available to local affiliates include:

INTERNSHIPS: The public history program at the University of Wisconsin–Eau Claire partners with local historical organizations to place students in internships in Wisconsin and beyond. The UW–Eau Claire History Lab program offers students and community partnerships an opportunity to collaborate on many different types of projects, including exhibits, public programs, historic preservation research and much more. For information on how to connect with the public history program, contact Janet Seymour.

MINI-GRANTS: A partnership of the Wisconsin Council for Local History and the Society, grants of up to \$700 are awarded for collections care projects. Contact your field services representative for application information. Applications are due June 3, 2016.

ANNUAL REPORTS: Affiliates are required to file an annual report with the Local History–Field Services office. Contact Amy Norlin at 608-264-6579 or amy.norlin@wisconsinhistory.org

- For questions about library resources or materials email asklibrary@wisconsinhistory.org
- For questions about archive resources or materials email askarchives@wisconsinhistory.org
- For preservation and conservation resources for Cultural Collecting Institutions visit wisconsinhistory.org/conservation.
- To view the survey summary and to find more information on local history resources visit wisconsinhistory.org/LocalHistory.

PAPERLESS E-VERSION OF COLUMNS NOW AVAILABLE

We invite you to view the new e-version of *Columns* at whist.org/societynewsletters.

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, sign up to receive emails from the membership office at whist.org/memberemails.

GUBERNATORIAL PORTRAIT COLLECTION ADDS Scott McCallum

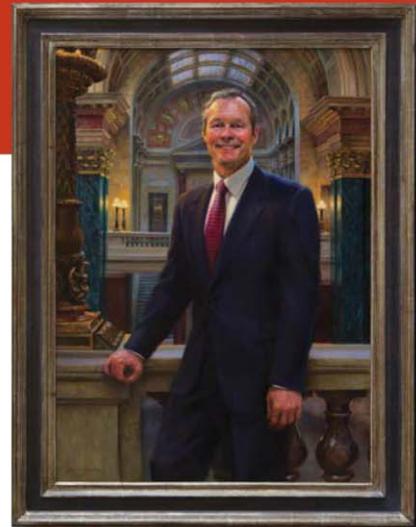
BY STATE STATUTE, THE WISCONSIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY serves as custodian of the official series of the portraits of the governors of Wisconsin. At the time the Society began its "Picture Gallery" in 1854, it expressed "an anxious desire to secure the portraits of those who have presided as governors over Wisconsin," which "is likely to meet with the most gratifying success."

Recently, the Wisconsin Historical Society experienced a new success when it added its latest gubernatorial portrait to the collection. In 2013, the Wisconsin Arts Board selected internationally award-winning artist William Suis of Delafield to paint the official portrait of Scott McCallum, who served as governor from 2001 to 2003. The Society commissioned the work with funds provided by Governor McCallum's supporters, including Mr. and Mrs. David Beightol, Mr. and Mrs. Russell Darrow, Mr. and Mrs. Ted Kellner, Mr. Gene Kussart, Ms. Helen Johnson-Leipold and Mr. Craig Leipold, Mr. and Mrs. Quinn Martin, Mr. and Mrs. Douglas McCallum, Mr. and Mrs. Jack McKeithan Jr., Ms. Sandra Mills, Ms. Ann Murphy and Mr. Patrick Murphy, Mr. Mark Petri, The Honorable Thomas Petri and Mr. and Mrs. James Schloemer.

Suis remarked that "the honor of painting the portrait of a notable is very special to me, and one I do not take lightly. Therefore, while it's always my intent to create a painting of timeless depth and

quality, my goal with each commissioned portrait is to make a hero of both the subject and those responsible for selecting me to do the honor." When asked to comment about Governor McCallum's portrait, Suis shared that "to achieve that goal with this piece, I utilized the fabulous interior of our State Capitol to enhance the aura and presence of our former governor, while also celebrating his fond memories of serving in our State Senate."

The portrait completes the Society's representation of all 46 former Wisconsin state and territorial governors and was recently featured in an issue of the magazine *Fine Art Connoisseur*, along with a full feature on the artist in *Southwest Art* magazine. Currently, the Governor McCallum portrait is on loan to the office of Senator Richard Gudek in the State Capitol.



TELLING YOUR STORIES: AN AFRICAN AMERICAN GENEALOGY WORKSHOP

THE LIBRARY ARCHIVES has held a genealogical workshop focusing on African American genealogy each year since 2013. The guest lecturer this year was Thulani Davis, author of "My Confederate Kinfolk: A Twenty-First Century Freedwoman Discovers Her Roots" (2006). It was a day of sharing stories and great conversation.

Ms. Davis started the day by discussing the various strategies of researching her family stories over many years that led to publishing her book. She emphasized the importance of oral history within the family and the fact that researchers need to look at the history of the white families that were connected to the black families in order to identify more stories and resources. She included many great stories of her experiences in archives collections where the dusty volumes "proved that her ancestors had been there." It also included stories of visiting a cemetery at dusk in a rural area of the south that turned out to be an adventure. She located a journal, a rare find in genealogical research, at Duke University that was written by an ancestor and led her to even more family



Thulani Davis

stories. Ms. Davis provided many more avenues for the audience to pursue in their own research and provided wonderful stories of connecting with distant cousins and many eye-opening moments in her journey.

The successful writer shared some of the research that she is currently pursuing regarding networks and support systems of African-Americans after the Civil War. Railroad lines and church affiliations were core to building up and protecting the black communities within the south during Reconstruction. She told many

stories of the network that the black community had built over time to encourage voting, provide protection from violence that was found in all of the southern states and create what became known as the black belt. She provided invaluable examples to show the importance of using maps, books and photos to see the full picture in history.

The last part of the workshop entailed one-to-one discussions between the audience members and Ms. Davis. The audience provided information about their projects and Ms. Davis provided advice on more resources and strategies to use that would advance their research. The last lecture of the day continued that discussion and provided more information on breaking down brick walls in genealogical research.

Planning for autumn 2016 programming is underway. Watch for notices on all workshops and webinars by going to our website, www.wisconsinhistory.org. If you have further questions, please contact Lori Bessler, Outreach Coordinator for the Library Archives. Lori.Bessler@wisconsinhistory.org

Events

WISCONSIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY EVENTS



Detail from a piece in *Contemporary Canvases of Native Nations*.

EXHIBITS

FEB. 19, 2015-MARCH 31, 2016; NORTHERN GREAT LAKES VISITOR CENTER, ASHLAND

Father of the Park: Gaylord Nelson and the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore

An exhibit featuring Senator Nelson's efforts to create public access to the Apostle Islands.

WHM THROUGH FEB. 13, 2016; WISCONSIN HISTORICAL MUSEUM, MADISON

Wisconsin Goes Hollywood

Visit this exhibit that features famous Wisconsinites who've made their way to Hollywood along with their famous artifacts.

WHM THROUGH APRIL 2, 2016; WISCONSIN HISTORICAL MUSEUM, MADISON

Contemporary Canvases of Native Nations

Celebrate Native artists of Wisconsin and their rich traditions in this exhibition developed by the Wisconsin Historical Museum's 2015 Exhibit Interns.

APRIL 4-MAY 8; WRISTON ART CENTER GALLERIES, APPLETON
The Archive as a River: Paul Vanderbilt and Photography

Visit the exhibit that celebrates the work of Paul Vanderbilt, an amazing contributor of photography for the Wisconsin Historical Society.

HUDSON

JAN. 6-MARCH 30
HUDSON AREA LIBRARY, HUDSON

Wisconsin History Tour

Come and see an exhibit of historic photographs, documents and stories about the Hudson community. Join us for FREE events Feb. 23-26.

OSHKOSH

APRIL 5-MAY 30;
OSHKOSH PUBLIC LIBRARY, OSHKOSH

Wisconsin History Tour

Come and see an exhibit of historic photographs, documents and stories about the Oshkosh community. Join us for FREE events April 5-8.

FEBRUARY

WHM FEB. 2, 12:15-1 PM;
WISCONSIN HISTORICAL MUSEUM, MADISON

History Sandwiched In:

Genealogy and the Wisconsin Historical Society

Society reference librarian Lori Bessler provides tips on using the knowledge of the staff at the Society to uncover your family and local history.

FEB. 6, 1-3 PM; HORTICULTURAL HALL, LAKE GENEVA

Bottoms Up: Book Discussion and Beer Tasting with Jim Draeger

Warm up on Winterfest weekend while learning about Wisconsin's historic bars and breweries with Bottoms Up author Jim Draeger.

WH FEB. 6-7; WADE HOUSE, GREENBUSH

Sleigh Ride Weekend

Take a horse-drawn sleigh ride through Kettle Moraine, free with your admission to Wade House.

WH FEB. 13, 11 AM-3 PM; WADE HOUSE, GREENBUSH

Hearthside Dinners

Enjoy a delicious hearth-cooked meal, prepared with your own hands, in the historic Wade House stagecoach hotel.

WH FEB. 13-14; WADE HOUSE, GREENBUSH

Sleigh Ride Weekend

Take a horse-drawn sleigh ride through Kettle Moraine, free with your admission to Wade House. **R**

WHM FEB. 16, 12:15-1 PM;
WISCONSIN HISTORICAL MUSEUM, MADISON

History Sandwiched In:
A Settler's Year

Author Kathleen Ernst shares stories from the immigrants who struggled to find their place and identity in Wisconsin.

WH FEB. 20-21; WADE HOUSE, GREENBUSH

Sleigh Ride Weekend

Take a horse-drawn sleigh ride through Kettle Moraine, free with your admission to Wade House.

FEB. 23, 10 AM; HUDSON AREA LIBRARY, HUDSON
Wisconsin History Tour
Return to Wake Robin: One Cabin in the Heyday of Northwoods Resorts

Join Northwoods vacationer Marnie O. Mamma on a trip through a five-generation tradition of visits to her family's cabin, Wake Robin.

FEB. 23, 12 PM; HUDSON AREA LIBRARY, HUDSON
Wisconsin History Tour
Breakfast in a Victorian Kitchen

Enjoy a culinary tour of the late 19th century with actual menus and recipes from the Dousman family.

FEB. 23, 5:30 PM; HUDSON AREA LIBRARY, HUDSON
Wisconsin History Tour
Meet & Greet and Guided Tour of the Exhibit

Join State Historic Preservation Officer Jim Draeger at the Hudson Area Library for a personal welcome and a guided tour of the exhibit.

FEB. 23, 7 PM; PHIPPS CENTER FOR THE ARTS, HUDSON

Wisconsin History Tour
Stories from the Land with Jerry Apps

Listen to Apps speak about his experiences and learn more about the lessons of rural Wisconsin life.

FEB. 24, 10 AM; HUDSON AREA LIBRARY, HUDSON
Wisconsin History Tour
Practical Preservation for Your Family Treasures

Learn about preservation methods and when and where to find a conservator to help.

FEB. 24, 12 PM; HUDSON AREA LIBRARY, HUDSON
Wisconsin History Tour
Preservation 101

Join State Historic Preservation Officer Jim Draeger to learn how historic preservation benefits your community.

FEB. 24, 2 PM; HUDSON AREA LIBRARY, HUDSON
Wisconsin History Tour
Discover the Roots of Your Family Tree and Local History

The presenters will discuss the Society's collections in Madison and throughout the state at the ARCs.

FEB. 25, 10 AM; HUDSON AREA LIBRARY, HUDSON
Wisconsin History Tour
Your Stuff, Your Story

Bring an item that has a story to tell and share your story with us.

FEB. 25, 12 PM; HUDSON AREA LIBRARY, HUDSON
Wisconsin History Tour
The 'Real' Paul Bunyan

Unravel the mystery of this Wisconsin legend and discover the "real" Paul Bunyan with historian Michael Edmonds.

FEB. 25, 2 PM; HUDSON AREA LIBRARY, HUDSON
Wisconsin History Tour
Wisconsin Mounds: Giant Mysteries of Pre-History

Learn about the country's largest and most diverse collection of burial mounds.

FEB. 25, 5:30 PM; DICK'S BAR AND GRILL, HUDSON
Wisconsin History Tour
History Happy Hour

Yak it up over a Wisconsin-made brew, decorate your own beer labels and learn something new about Wisconsin's beer history.



Sleigh Ride Weekend at Wade House in Greenbush.

FEB. 26, 10 AM; HUDSON AREA LIBRARY, HUDSON
Wisconsin History Tour
Ship Captain's Daughter: Growing Up on the Great Lakes
 Sail through the history of shipping on the Great Lakes with the daughter of a longtime captain.

FEB. 26, 12 PM; HUDSON AREA LIBRARY, HUDSON
Wisconsin History Tour
Shipwrecks of Wisconsin's Rivers and Coastlines
 Dive into the history hidden beneath the waves of the Mississippi River and other Wisconsin waters with underwater archaeologist Tamara Thomsen.

VL FEB. 26-27; VILLA LOUIS, PRAIRIE DU CHIEN
Villa Louis Eagle Appreciation Weekend
 Join Villa Louis and other Prairie du Chien-area attractions as they celebrate our national bird.

FEB. 27, 10 AM-1 PM; WADE HOUSE, GREENBUSH
Door County Sled Dogs at Wade House
 Learn about the sport of dogsledding and have the opportunity to try it out for yourself! **R**

OWW FEB. 27, 10 AM-1 PM; OLD WORLD WISCONSIN, EAGLE
Employment and Volunteer Open House
 Interested in joining the Old World Wisconsin team? Find out about employment and volunteer opportunities for 2016.

MARCH

WHM MARCH 1, 12:15-1 PM; WISCONSIN HISTORICAL MUSEUM, MADISON
History Sandwiched In: Boys in Dresses, Girls in Pants – Dressing Children in the 19th Century
 Curator Leslie Bellais takes a look at the phenomenon of children's clothing in the 19th century using examples from the Society's collection.

VL MARCH 11-12; VILLA LOUIS PRAIRIE DU CHIEN
Villa Louis Behind the Scenes
 These extended tours of the mansion will give visitors an insider's look at Villa Louis from top to bottom.

WHM MARCH 15, 12:15-1 PM; WISCONSIN HISTORICAL MUSEUM, MADISON
History Sandwiched In: Ole Evinrude and his Outboard Motor
 Bob Jacobson traces Ole Evinrude's story from the launch of his first hand-made boat on Lake Ripley to his legacy as a giant of Wisconsin industry.

WH MARCH 19, 11 AM-3 PM; WADE HOUSE, GREENBUSH
Hearthside Dinners
 Enjoy a delicious hearth-cooked meal, prepared with your own hands, in the historic Wade House stagecoach hotel.

APRIL

WHM APRIL 5, 12:15-1 PM; WISCONSIN HISTORICAL MUSEUM, MADISON
History Sandwiched In: Black Point Estate – A Leisurely Lifestyle
 Dave Desimone shares the history of Black Point Estate, a Queen Anne-style summer cottage built on Geneva Lake by Chicago beer baron Conrad Seipp in 1888.

APRIL 5, 12 PM; OSHKOSH PUBLIC LIBRARY, OSHKOSH
Wisconsin History Tour
Water Heritage Day Wisconsin's Historic Shipwrecks
 Dive into the history beneath the waves of the Great Lakes with underwater archaeologist Tamara Thomsen.

APRIL 6, 8 PM; OSHKOSH PUBLIC LIBRARY, OSHKOSH
Wisconsin History Tour
Wisconsin Mounds: Great Mysteries of History
 Dr. Amy Rosebrough will discuss the history of mound building in the Fox River passage of Wisconsin.

APRIL 7, 5:30 PM; OBLIO'S LOUNGE, OSHKOSH
Wisconsin History Tour
History Happy Hour
 Yak it up over a Wisconsin-made brew, decorate beer labels and learn something new about Wisconsin's beer history with Jim Draeger.

APRIL 8, 12 PM; OSHKOSH PUBLIC LIBRARY, OSHKOSH
Wisconsin History Tour
Flapper Fashion
 Leslie Bellais will put the flapper style in context of fashion history and how it changed women's clothing.

For a full list of tour events visit WisconsinHistoryTour.org



Tamara Thomsen presents Shipwrecks of Wisconsin's Rivers and Coastlines at Wisconsin History Tour in Hudson.

VL APRIL 15-16; VILLA LOUIS PRAIRIE DU CHIEN
Villa Louis Behind the Scenes
 These extended tours of the mansion will give visitors an insider's look at the Villa Louis from top to bottom.

VL APRIL 16, 8:30 AM-1 PM; VILLA LOUIS, PRAIRIE DU CHIEN
Breakfast in a Victorian Kitchen
 Enjoy a culinary tour of the late 19th century with actual menus and recipes from the Dousman family.

WH APRIL 16, 11 AM-3 PM; WADE HOUSE, GREENBUSH
Hearthside Dinners
 Enjoy a delicious hearth-cooked meal, prepared with your own hands, in the historic Wade House stagecoach hotel.

WHM APRIL 19, 12:15-1 PM; WISCONSIN HISTORICAL MUSEUM, MADISON
History Sandwiched In: When Is Daddy Coming Home?: An American Family During World War II
 Dr. Richard Carlton Haney shares his personal story of growing up in a household influenced by the events of World War II.

OWW APRIL 22, 4:40-9 PM; OLD WORLD WISCONSIN, EAGLE
30th Star Benefit Antiques Preview Party and Dinner
 Preview all of the treasures the night before the auction. Enjoy a silent auction, dinner, cash bar and a talk from the Director of Villa Louis on "Victorian Furnishings." **R**

OWW APRIL 23, 10 AM; OLD WORLD WISCONSIN, EAGLE
30th Star Benefit Antiques Auction
 Hundreds of treasures, from classic to kitschy, will be available to the highest bidder.

APRIL 30, 8:30 AM-4:30 PM; ARCHAEOLOGY CENTER AND LABORATORIES, LA CROSSE
Volunteer Archaeology Field Survey Opportunity
 Celebrate Wisconsin Archaeology Month by volunteering in surveys of local sites to find unreported archaeological sites.

LOCATION KEY

BP Black Point Estate, Lake Geneva
 262-248-1888 or blackpointestate.org

CW Circus World, Baraboo
 Toll free 866-693-1500 or circusworldmuseum.org

FC First Capitol, Belmont
 608-987-2122 or firstcapitol.org

HNB H.H. Bennett Studio, Wisconsin Dells
 608-253-3523 or hhbennettstudio.org

MIM Madeline Island Museum, La Pointe
 715-747-2415 or madelineislandmuseum.org

OWW Old World Wisconsin, Eagle
 262-594-6301 or oldworldwisconsin.org

P Pendarvis, Mineral Point
 608-987-2122 or pendarvishistoricssite.org

RS Reed School, Neillsville
 608-253-3523 or reedschoolhistoricssite.org

S Stonefield, Cassville
 608-725-5210 or stonefieldhistoricssite.org

VL Villa Louis, Prairie du Chien
 608-326-2721 or villalouis.org

WH Wade House, Greenbush
 920-526-3271 or wadehouse.org

WHM Wisconsin Historical Museum, Madison
 608-264-6555 or wisconsinhistory.org/museum

Wisconsin Historical Society Wisconsin History Tour
 608-261-1379 or tourinfo@wisconsinhistory.org

R Registration required





WISCONSIN
HISTORICAL
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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.

Wisconsin's John Muir Exhibit

JAN. 19-FEB. 2 | W.J. Niederkorn Library
Port Washington



Dozens of communities around the state have been invited to host a traveling exhibit and reading program about John Muir in 2016. The exhibit tells the story of Muir's Wisconsin years and connects his conservation work to current issues.

Explore the exhibit on environmentalist John Muir that also celebrates the centennial of the National Park Service.

For more information visit
www.wisconsinhistory.org/muirexhibit

OTHER DATES

- FEB. 2-15 GREENFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY
GREENFIELD
- FEB. 16-MARCH 1 REEDSBURG PUBLIC LIBRARY
REEDSBURG
- MARCH 2-14 MANITOWOC PUBLIC LIBRARY
MANITOWOC
- MARCH 15-29 PRINCETON PUBLIC LIBRARY
PRINCETON
- MARCH 29-APRIL 12 WATERFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY
WATERFORD
- APRIL 12-25 OAK CREEK PUBLIC LIBRARY
OAK CREEK
- APRIL 26-MAY 10 CRANDON PUBLIC LIBRARY
CRANDON