



Sculptor Jean Pond Miner in 1893 with her artwork "Forward" —Image ID 10592

The theme for Archives Week 2005 is "Wisconsin Women." We want to encourage you to comb your archives and historical collections for items that document the important contributions women have made to life in Wisconsin. You might choose to highlight one important woman or the work and contributions of many everyday women in your community. Plan a program for your community and users that highlights your "Wisconsin Women" collections. Thank you for making Archives Week 2004 a grand success!

Sincerely,
Peter Gottlieb, State Archivist and
Director, Library-Archives Division, WHS

Programming Suggestions

This list of program ideas is only meant to suggest possibilities. Brainstorm with others in your community and in your institution to develop other ideas that fulfill the mission of Archives Week and that work for you. Involve as many people in your area as you can. Be imaginative!

Classroom Collaborations: Give an educational presentation for National History Day students on how to use primary sources. Help students put on a dramatic reading that uses words and descriptions from the diaries and letters of Wisconsin women. Conduct a class project to write the history of a woman in the family of each child in the class. Work with a teacher to develop lesson plans that incorporate historical records by or about Wisconsin women.

Local Media: Work with your local newspaper to print a photograph or letter from your collections each day of Archives Week, or highlight different women's collections on a weekly basis. Publicize any events underway in conjunction with Archives week. Suggest a news story that contrasts the lives of early women in your area of Wisconsin with women's lives today.

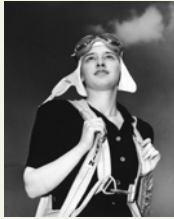
Public Programming: Develop a campaign to collect documents from your community that should be preserved for posterity. Publicize your collecting efforts during Archives Week and enlist the interest and support of your community. Create an exhibit of items from your collections and invite school classes and community groups to guided tours of the exhibit and of your institution. For greater exposure, move the exhibit from your institution to other public spaces such as the post office or a school exhibit case. Work with women's groups to create public programs or panel discussions about women past and present. Record reminiscences of your community members. Their recorded memories can be your most precious historical records. Put on a dramatic reading that uses words and descriptions of Wisconsin women. Host a viewing of films that highlight women.

Resources on Wisconsin Women: Find more information on these famous women from the Collections of the Wisconsin Historical Society: Dickey Chapelle, Edna Ferber, Zona Gale, Ada James, Belle Case La Follette, Jean Pond Miner, and Ella Wheeler Wilcox.

Library-Archives

Event Calendar

Dickey Chapelle Dickey Chapelle was born Georgette Louise Meyer in Madison, Wisconsin in 1919. This determined and extraordinary woman became a photojournalist who covered World War II, Vietnam, and every shooting war in between. Clad in fatigues, an Australian bush hat, harlequin glasses, and her signature pearl earrings, this tiny woman with the voice of a drill instructor was a legend among enlisted men. Dickey Chapelle was killed by a mine in Vietnam in 1965. She was 46. Image ID 11541.



Books on Dickey Chapelle

Chapelle, Dickey. *What's a Woman Doing Here? A Reporter Reports on Herself.* (1962). Colman, Penny. *Where the Action Was: Women War Correspondents of World War II.* (juvenile nonfiction, 2002). Elwood-Akers, Virginia. *Women War Correspondents in the Vietnam War, 1961-1975.* (1988). Ostroff, Roberta. *Fire in the wind: the Life of Dickey Chapelle.* (1992)

Edna Ferber, 1885-1968

Showboat, Giant, and Dinner at Eight are just a few of Edna Ferber's stories that were translated to the silver screen in the 1920s, 1930s, and 1940s. Born in Kalamazoo, Michigan in 1887, Ferber began her career as a journalist for the Appleton Crescent in Appleton, Wisconsin when she was 18 years old. She was the only woman reporter for the paper, and eventually went on to work for the Milwaukee Journal. Ferber believed that her early experience as a journalist developed her ability to observe people, a trait that would later enable her to create memorable characters in her novels, short stories, and plays. **Books** Ferber's autobiography, *A Peculiar Treasure*, was published in 1939. It can be found in used-book sellers and in libraries. A biography is still in print: *Ferber: Edna Ferber and Her Circle*, by Julie Gilbert.



Zona Gale, 1874-1938 was born in Portage, Wisconsin in 1874 and graduated from the University of Wisconsin in 1895. Gale is known best for her Pulitzer Prize winning novel *Miss Lulu Bett*. Image ID 28373.

In 1921 Zona Gale became the first woman to win the Pulitzer Prize in drama. Born in Portage, Wisconsin, Gale is best known for her Friendship Village stories and for her novel and play, "Miss Lulu Bett." With the exception of a brief stint in New York, Gale spent her entire life in Portage. She is often classified as a regionalist author, as her most successful work centered around small-town American people who share hopes, tragedies, frustrations, pettiness, cruelties, and a fundamental solidarity. Writing about the small town life around her with critical and realistic sensibility, Gale's devotion to progressivism and social commitment pervades her regionalist fiction.

Belle Case La Follette was born in Baraboo, Wisconsin on April 21, 1859. She was a lawyer, journalist, editor, teacher, suffragist, and counselor who provided much of the intellectual sophistication behind the progressive movement for which her husband, politician Bob La Follette, was known. The first woman graduate of the University of Wisconsin law school, La Follette devoted much of her life to the cause of women's rights. More information can be found on Belle Case La Follette in the Wisconsin Historical Society Archives. Image ID 3841.



Ella Wheeler Wilcox, 1855-1919



Ella Wheeler Wilcox is little known today, but she was one of the most popular poets of her time. Born in Rock County, Wilcox went on to become a commercially successful and prolific author and spiritualist.

Action Guide

Archives Week needs your participation! When you participate in Archives Week, you are helping the general public and key leaders, such as trustees, administrators and legislators, appreciate the contribution that historical records make to modern society. Participate in Archives Week and show off your collections of historical records to your community, colleagues, and donors. Demonstrate the value your records hold and the significance of the work you do to preserve records in your community.

Planning for Archives Week: Archives Week is a great opportunity for you to host an event for your local community! Check out the links below for ideas and tips for coordinating event planning and publicity. **Publicizing Your Event and Working with the Press:** Create a media list, write news releases, follow up with your media contacts to create good relations. Research tips for being interviewed and tips for writing a good speech.

Historical Records: Keys to Our Cultural Heritage

Archives Week is an annual celebration of the value of Wisconsin's historical records, the original documents that tell the stories of our families, communities, business and civic organizations, and government institutions. During Archives Week, archival repositories, libraries, and other institutions around the state hold programs and exhibits to promote the value of historical records.

Historical Records Are Everywhere!

Historical records are not just dusty papers in an attic or dark archival repository; historical records are alive and everywhere! Many of the following items you might have in your home, perhaps even in a scrapbook: Social security cards, school report cards, Immunization records, Speeding tickets, Record of births, marriages & deaths, Birth certificates, Diaries or journals, Letters that you've received or copies of letters that you've sent, Marriage certificates, newspaper clippings, obituaries, bills, check stubs, mortgage papers, letter of acceptance to a college, and family photographs and postcards.

