



WISCONSIN
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Columns

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*Collecting, Preserving
and Sharing Stories
Since 1846*



The Wisconsin Center for Film and Theater Research, housed at the Wisconsin Historical Society, holds more than 300 manuscript collections and 25,000 motion pictures. Among those films are more than 60 titles shot on corrosive nitrate film, making them a fire threat. To learn what the Society and the University of Wisconsin-Madison are doing to deal with the problem films, see the story on page 10.



Ellsworth H. Brown
The Ruth and Hartley Barker Director

Some occasions, some experiences

and some people simply stand alone in our memories.

SO IT IS with the stories I am sharing in this issue. The first is a remarkable statement about the Society's longstanding relationship with its constituents. In March we received an email from 95-year-old Jean H. O'Neill of Menomonie. (It is remarkable enough that a nonagenarian has embraced the digital age, but that's not what this story is about.) In her email she wrote: "To me, the most valuable part of belonging to the Wisconsin Historical Society is the *Wisconsin Magazine of History*. Even when I think an article will not be of much interest to me, it turns out that I am wrong and I've been introduced to a whole new part of Wisconsin that I hadn't been aware of. Since I'm getting close to 96 years old, and my parents took the magazine when I was a child, I've been reading about our great state for a long, long time." A greater compliment to this institution and its mission I cannot imagine. Thank you, Jean!

On the opposite end of the age spectrum, I had occasion to meet an extraordinary National History Day student, Julia Veitinger of the University School of Milwaukee. Julia, now a poised high school freshman who can carry a conversation with anyone, was a second-place national finalist in 2011 who wowed audiences with her individual presentation, "Why Really the Moon?" She began with a deep dive into Apollo 13's harrowing 1970 moon mission to unearth the bigger story behind the headlines. In the end, her performance pointed to the deeper significance of the moon mission, concluding in her words, "The race to the moon not only changed the perception of the United States in

the world overnight, it also propelled our country into a new era of technology and reshaped our education system." I would be remiss if I did not tell you that Julia's research for her project included months of correspondence with Apollo 13's mission commander, Navy Capt. James Lovell, culminating in a 90-minute personal interview with the astronaut in Lake Forest, IL.

Time traveling from space to the Civil War, I can share with you a recent and remarkable discovery in our collections. Like every institution that has collected aggressively for 156 years, the Society has nooks and crannies containing surprises. Recently, while preparing collections for transfer to the planned Preservation Storage Facility, our staff discovered a newspaper printed in the field by Wisconsin Civil War soldiers. Enlisted men published eight loose issues of *The Soldier's Budget* in Humboldt, Tennessee, during the summer of 1862. We quickly placed *The Soldier's Budget* online, complementing our other Civil War material. The episode reveals how planning for a new building, collecting, cataloging and digitizing are all inter-connected.

Finally, we at the Society wish to pay tribute to a kind and generous man who lived a remarkable life and died on March 28. William O. "Bill" Petersen donated Black Point, his family's magnificent 1888 Queen Anne "cottage" and estate on the shores of Geneva Lake, to the state of Wisconsin in 2005. The family estate is an extraordinary time capsule, providing evidence of enchanted summers lived on Geneva Lake that otherwise can only be imagined. Rest in peace, Bill Petersen. •

Columns

Bob Granflaten, Editor
Composure Graphics, Designer

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Nominations to the Board of Curators

The Nominating Committee of the 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 Margaret Maly, Wisconsin Historical Society, 816 State Street, Madison, WI 53706 or via email to margaret.maly@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.



Forward! The Campaign for the Wisconsin Historical Society, publicly launched in October 2010, seeks to complete the first major fundraising campaign in the Society's history.

Visit forwardcampaign.org for more information.

Progress Made on \$12 Million Wade House Building Project

CONSTRUCTION IS WELL UNDER WAY for the new 38,000-square-foot Visitor Center and Wesley W. Jung Carriage Museum at Wade House historic site in Greenbush. The new year-round facility, owned and operated by the Society, will overlook Highway 23, the busy Sheboygan County thoroughfare that connects Fond du Lac and Sheboygan. Completion of the project is expected in time for a grand opening on June 6, 2013, 60 years to the day after the historic site's original dedication in 1953.

Workers have completed the below-ground work for the site's new geothermal heating and cooling system (below).

The new climate control system will allow the museum to properly preserve its collections as well as to help the project meet the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) silver status standards.



PHOTOS BY
DAVID SIMMONS,
WADE HOUSE SITE DIRECTOR



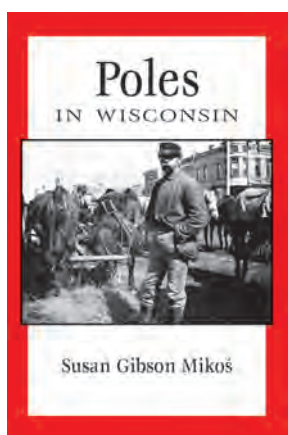
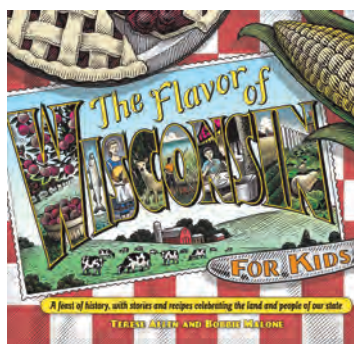
The major exterior foundation walls for the new Visitor Center (above) are now complete.

The new Visitor Center will include a large room for public and private functions as well as a classroom, museum store, café, admissions and restrooms.



Workers are installing a multilayer roofing system for the Wesley W. Jung Carriage Museum (above).

The new Carriage Museum will share compelling stories from the time of horse-drawn transportation in vignette settings, interactive exhibits and hands-on experiences.



Food Fun for Kids and Wisconsin's Ethnic Polish History Showcased

Two New Books from the Wisconsin Historical Society Press

DESIGNED FOR KIDS and adults to use together, *The Flavor of Wisconsin for Kids: A Feast of History, with Stories and Recipes Celebrating the Land and People of Our State* by Terese Allen and Bobbie Malone draws upon the same source material that makes *The Flavor of Wisconsin* by the late Harva Hachten and Terese Allen a fascinating and authoritative document on the history and traditions of food in our state. And it presents it in a colorful, kid-friendly format that's both instructional and fun. Mindful of the importance of teaching kids about where the foods they eat come from, each chapter examines a different food source — forests; waters; vegetable, meat, and dairy farms; gardens; and communities. The authors explore our state's foodways, from their origins to how they have changed over the years, and then offer a selection of related recipes. The authors have written the recipes for modern kitchens but use many traditional ingredients and techniques. The book clearly notes the level of difficulty as well as whether a recipe requires a heat source to prepare (the authors designed a number of the recipes with classroom activities in mind). Both historical and contemporary photos richly illustrate the book.

IN THIS ALL-NEW ADDITION to the *People of Wisconsin* series, author Susan Gibson Mikoś tells the story of *Poles in Wisconsin*, tracing the history of Polish immigrants as they settled in America's northern heartland. The second largest immigrant population after Germans, Poles put down roots in all corners of the state, from the industrial center of Milwaukee to the farmland around Stevens Point, in the Cutover and beyond. In each locale, they brought with them a hunger to own land, a willingness to work hard and a passion for building churches.

Included is a first-person memoir from Polish immigrant Maciej Wojda, translated for the first time into English, and historical photographs of Polish settlements around our state.

"Susan Mikoś tells the story of Polish Wisconsin in significant detail, from its folkways to its fraternal groups, and she tells it with a welcome attention to context, both global and local."

— from the Foreword by John Gurda,
prize-winning author of Wisconsin
history books •

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Marcia C. Carmichael is the historical gardener at the 576-acre Old World Wisconsin, the largest of the Society's living history museums, where she exercises her passion for historical accuracy and enjoys the research as much as the design, creation and nurturing of the museum's heritage gardens. She supervises and works alongside a dedicated group of historical garden volunteers to create period-appropriate gardens and enjoys all aspects of heirloom plants, from propagation to harvest and from folklore to fact.

Historic Gardening Book Wins the Society Press a Major National Award

THE WISCONSIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESS is proud to announce that *Putting Down Roots: Gardening Insights from Wisconsin's Early Settlers* by Old World Wisconsin historical gardener Marcia Carmichael was one of only five books selected for the American Horticultural Society's annual Book Award. Each year the American Horticultural Society recognizes outstanding gardening books published in North America with its annual Book Award. The Horticultural Society's Book Award Committee judges nominated books on qualities such as writing style, authority, accuracy and physical quality.

Judges' comments included: "an outstanding template for what other regionally oriented,

historical gardening books should aspire to"; "[a] fascinating window into the courage, resourcefulness and adaptability of our immigrant past"; and "it is both fun to read and authoritative, with interesting illustrations, terrific recipes and informative notes."

In *Putting Down Roots*, Marcia C. Carmichael offers a window into the lives of our ancestors as she details numerous heritage plant varieties, authentic ethnic recipes, cultivation techniques and tools, and folklore tidbits employed in the kitchens and gardens of early Yankee, German, Norwegian, Irish, Danish, Polish and Finnish immigrants of Wisconsin. •

State Register of Historic Places



Kimberly Point Park Lighthouse

Neenah, Winnebago County

A gift from industrialist J.C. Kimberly financed construction of the Kimberly Point Park Lighthouse in 1945 and was the last of numerous

donations made to the city's park system by Neenah's leading paper manufacturers. For many years a part of the U.S. Coast Guard's navigational system, its primary function as intended by the Kimberly family was to serve as a landmark for boat races held at the northern end of Lake Winnebago.

At the time of the lighthouse's construction, located in one of the most favored locations for the annual regattas held by the Inland Lakes Yachting Association, residents expected it to help renew interest in the sport. While yachting never regained its earlier popularity, the lighthouse represents Neenah's history of recreational boating, a popular sport in the community.



Christ Episcopal Church Complex

Green Bay, Brown County

Christ Episcopal Church and its associated buildings occupy an approximately one-acre lot in downtown Green Bay. The main building of the complex is the stone Late Gothic Revival-style church, built 1899-1900 to the designs of architect George A. Rockwell. The other buildings are the rectory, built 1911; the school, built 1956-1957; and the new 1990 parish hall. All of these buildings replaced earlier ones with similar functions on the parcel, which Daniel Whitney donated to the congregation in 1831. A fire that started the night of July 3, 1898, destroyed the original church building, constructed in 1838; a year later, work on the new church began, and the first service was Easter Day 1900.

In 2005 the Episcopal congregation sold the buildings to Divine Temple Church of God in Christ, which continues to use all of the buildings of the complex.



Oehler Mill Complex

Town of Shelby, La Crosse County

Valentine and Gottfried Oehler, recent immigrants from Germany, built the Oehler Flour Mill in 1862. This mill is now a very rare example of what was once a common and highly important

resource type in Wisconsin: the rural flour and grist mill. This was the second mill the brothers built at this location on Mormon Creek. The first, built in 1857, was a sawmill that they converted into a flour and grist mill in 1858. In 1862 they constructed the larger and more substantial sandstone and brick building on the same site. The success of their new mill allowed them to build new houses for their families on either side of the mill in the early 1880s. The brothers built Gottfried's house just to the north in 1884 and Valentine's house just to the south circa 1882. The brothers and later generations of their families lived in these two houses until 1922. Likewise, the Oehler family operated the mill until its closing in 1918.



United State Post Office and Courthouse

Wausau, Marathon County

Built in 1937-1938, the United States Post Office and Courthouse served as the center for the city's postal operations for 30 years, as one of a handful of federal circuit courts in northern Wisconsin, and as the nexus for federal agencies. As such, it is the most prominent manifestation

of the federal government in Wausau. The building is a noteworthy example of the Art Deco style employed for a public building. Designed by prominent Wausau architects Oppenhamer and Obel, the building's relatively simple form and flat surfaces demonstrate a determinedly modernistic pattern that emphasizes verticality. The most noteworthy interior spaces are the postal lobby on the first floor and the courtroom on the second, both of which feature well-executed Art Deco craftsmanship. A notable feature of the lobby is the mural in one of its stairwells, painted by Wisconsin artist Gerrit Van Sinclair. Titled *Lumbering Rural Mail*, it features a tableau of early Wausau lumbering and milling rendered using oil in a Regionalist style.



State Historic Preservation Officer Michael Stevens presents a State Register listing certificate for the Christ Episcopal Church Complex to Sharon Harper, Alice Green and the Rev. L.C. Green of Divine Temple Church of God in Christ.



An exhibit of early telephone equipment in the Footville Telephone Museum

What to Know Before You Go

The museum will be open Saturdays from May 13 through September 8 and by appointment. For more information call (608) 752-1104.

“The fiery trial through which we pass, will light us down, in honor or dishonor, to the latest generation.”

Abraham Lincoln,
December 1, 1862

Collections Highlight

The Luther Valley Historical Society’s Historic Telephone Collection

A COLLECTION of early telephones and related equipment in the Luther Valley Historical Society’s Footville Telephone Museum thoroughly documents the emergence of telephonic communications in rural Wisconsin at the dawn of the 20th century. The first telephones made their appearance in the small Rock County village in February 1900, with a wall switchboard in the office of Strang & Owen Lumber Company. The Footville Telephone Company, incorporated November 1902, moved into a new red brick building in 1914 that would serve as the company’s headquarters for decades to come. Today the building houses the Footville Telephone Museum. The museum exhibits more than 60 period telephones, installation equipment, old telephone directories, early switchboards, telegraph equipment, a wooden

phone booth and other items of the past. A working switchboard connects to several phones, thanks to telephone enthusiast Chris Ricciotti of Boston, who donated his talents to the local historical society in the summer of 2011, allowing visitors to crank the old phones just as the first telephone users did.

The last use of the building for telephone service ended in 1988. In 1993 the Luther Valley Historical Society acquired the vacated building along with the Dial building, built in 1956 to house the equipment necessary for the installation of the new dial telephones. Restoration of the Dial Building began immediately to house historic memorabilia, photos and a meeting room. Renovation of the telephone office began in 1999, and the building opened as the telephone museum in May 2000. •

A Message from the Wisconsin Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission

THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR sometimes seems distant in today’s Wisconsin. Yet we drive on roads named for forgotten heroes of 1861-1865, play in parks displaying the monuments of the era, and even watch sporting events in a place called Camp Randall. The actual battlefields are far away, but it is important to realize the soldiers of Gettysburg and Vicksburg and Shiloh — and dozens of other places — lie in our own cemeteries and churchyards.

President Lincoln correctly called it a “People’s War” and a “fiery trial” of the nation’s character and very existence. Wisconsin was a young state in 1861, and it responded quickly to not only restore the country, but to win recognition as a full partner in the Union. Much of the Wisconsin we live in today is a result of that war.

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the conflict. The Wisconsin Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission was organized last year to commemorate the legacy, service and sacrifice of Wisconsin’s citizen-soldiers as well as the people left at home to raise money and provide food, animals, clothing and other goods to support the war effort. The aim of the commission

is to assist organizations such as the Wisconsin Historical Society as well as local museums, schools, libraries and veterans’ organizations as they develop educational programming, encourage exploration of Wisconsin’s role in the war, make resources available to the public, and preserve Civil War memorabilia.

To assist in that mission, the commission has developed a Wisconsin 150th anniversary website as a source of information. It includes a schedule of upcoming events as well as images, historical information, and links to participating institutions, historical organizations and sites. I ask that you send us information and timely notification of events to meet this goal. The website address is civilwarwisconsin.com and includes contact information. Please give it a look and go back to it often.

We hope that Wisconsin’s observation of the sesquicentennial will be remembered not for itself but for an increased understanding of the Civil War. Thank you.

Lance J. Herdegen, chair, Wisconsin Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission •

Prairie du Sac Museum “Worth the Tripp”

Sauk Prairie Area Historical Society

WHEN PROMINENT BANKER J.S. Tripp donated funds in 1912 to build a library for his home village of Prairie du Sac, located 30 minutes north of Madison along the Wisconsin River, there is little doubt he would be quite proud of the legacy he created a century later. Today, the Tripp Memorial Museum, located in the heart of the downtown Prairie du Sac business district, serves as the home of the Sauk Prairie Area Historical Society and is a fine example of Classical Revival architecture. The building, having fallen prey to the ubiquitous drop ceiling and fluorescent light fixtures of the 1960s, has recently undergone a revival of sorts to restore its original, understated grandeur in preparation for a unique homecoming five millennia in the making.

The story begins in 2005 when a 7-year-old boy out for a walk near the Prairie du Sac Hydroelectric Dam unearthed a 5,000- to 6,000-year-old partial Bison *occidentalis* skull from the riverbed. The Wisconsin Historical Society took in the skull for study, and archaeologists determined this was the easternmost this species of prehistoric bison

had ever been found. It was the find of a lifetime for young Joshua Bradford, for whom the skull is named.

To bring Joshua’s discovery full-circle, in 2011 the Sauk Prairie Historical Society began preparing for the return of the Bradford Bison to the Tripp Museum through creation of a companion exhibit worthy of its prominence. “The Bradford Bison Returns: Explore the Nature and Culture of the Sauk Prairie Riverway” will feature an interactive, hands-on look at the natural and cultural landscape of this corner of the state from the time of the bison, through the days when the gabled bark houses of the Sauk Indians graced the Wisconsin river’s edge, to the arrival of French and English fur traders.

This new permanent exhibit, opening in May of 2012, will complement the museum’s extensive display of birds mounted by self-taught taxidermist Ed Ochsner. The collection, including eagles, owls, waterfowl and more than 100 birds of song, is one of the largest of its kind in the state. •



Joshua Bradford with his amazing discovery

SAUK PRAIRIE AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

What to Know Before You Go

Visitors to the Tripp Memorial Museum can look forward to quirky annual events and additional rotating exhibits Fridays and Saturdays, year-round, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. or any time by appointment. The society also preserves two country churches in Honey Creek and Denzer available for touring. To reserve a group or school tour, contact Jody Kapp at (608) 644-8444 or via email at spahs@frontier.com. Advance planning can be arranged to accommodate curriculum needs as well as virtual field trips through the Tripp’s SMART Board system.

Reminder to Affiliates:

The Internal Revenue Service is continuing to monitor tax-exempt status and will revoke the 501c3 status of organizations that have not properly filed for three consecutive years. Even organizations with very small budgets are now required to file a version of Form 990 every year. Please take the time to review your records to ensure that your organization is in compliance. You can learn about the automatic revocation process for not filing and how to regain exempt status at irs.gov/eo or by contacting the IRS exempt organizations department toll free at (877) 829-5500.

2012 Regional Meeting Schedule

Join your local history colleagues for networking and learning opportunities. The 2012 regional meetings will feature a regional roundtable, local history tours and presentations, plus a workshop presented by Society staff. Rick Bernstein will present a workshop on caring for photographic collections, and Janet Seymour’s presentation will focus on creating quality public programs. Mark your calendars now and look for detailed agendas in your mailbox and online at wisconsinhistory.org/localhistory/regional.asp later this spring.

June 27	East Central regional, hosted by Dodge County Historical Society, Beaver Dam	August 20	Southwest regional, hosted by Tomah Area Historical Society, Tomah
July 11	Capital regional, hosted by Oregon Area Historical Society, Oregon	August 27	Northwoods regional, hosted by Stratford Area Historical Society, Stratford
July 14	Metropolitan regional, hosted by Franklin Historical Society, Franklin	September 7	West Central regional, hosted by Thorp Area Historical Society, Thorp
July 27	Southeast regional, hosted by Hoard Museum/Fort Atkinson Historical Society, Fort Atkinson	September 17	Northwest regional co-hosted by Drummond Historical Museum and Cable/Namakagon Area Historical Society, Drummond
August 10	Northeast regional, hosted by Pulaski Area Historical Society, Pulaski		
August 18	Central regional, hosted by Marquette County Historical Society, Westfield		

The following are special event highlights for May and June 2012. For a complete listing of events, visit wisconsinhistory.org/calendar.

> M A Y



May 5 Early Morning Bird Walk
Stroll through Old World Wisconsin with expert naturalists in search of feathered wildlife. Continental breakfast. **Old World Wisconsin. 6 – 9 a.m. Reservations required: \$15 (\$10 for members of the Old World Wisconsin Foundation).** (262) 594-2922 or friends@friendsoww.org



May 6 Bustle Hustle 5K Run/Walk
Take part in this run/walk through the fields and farms of Old World Wisconsin. **Old World Wisconsin. Registration at 8:30 a.m. Run/walk at 10 a.m. Children's 1K race at 11 a.m. Museum opens at noon.** (262) 594-6301 or oww@wisconsinhistory.org



May 13 Mothers Day Brunch Buffet
Treat Mom to a bountiful brunch buffet in our historic Clausing Barn. **Old World Wisconsin. Seatings 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. (museum hours 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Saturday, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Sunday).** (262) 594-6301 or oww@wisconsinhistory.org



May 19 Breakfast in a Victorian Kitchen
Guests take part in a culinary tour of the late 19th century, preparing and enjoying a Victorian breakfast **Villa Louis. 8:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. \$40 (\$35 for Society members).** (608) 326-2721 or villalouis@wisconsinhistory.org



May 19 – 20 At Work and at Play at Wade House
Come help Wade House get ready for spring by lending a hand with the spring chores. Vintage base ball game at 1:30 p.m. Sunday. **Wade House. 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. (920) 526-3271 or wadehouse@wisconsinhistory.org**



May 26 Rousing with the Roosters
Experience 19th-century farm life firsthand, then enjoy a breakfast you help prepare. **Old World Wisconsin. 6:30 – 9:30 a.m. \$45 includes breakfast and museum admission.** (262) 594-6301 or oww@wisconsinhistory.org

Rituals of Spring at Old World Wisconsin

Each of the four weekends in May you can join in preparing the outdoor museum's farms for the growing season. Each weekend focuses on a different theme: sheep shearing May 5-6; women's roles in farming May 12-13; plowing and planting May 19-20; and honoring veterans May 26-27.

10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Saturdays, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Sundays (except May 6 when the museum opens at noon)

> J U N E



June 2 – 3 Vintage Base Ball Weekend
Enjoy a vintage 1860s base ball game on Saturday or World War II-era women's baseball on Sunday. Game time is 1:30 p.m. both days. **Old World Wisconsin. 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Saturday, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Sunday.** (262) 594-6301 or oww@wisconsinhistory.org



June 8 12th Anniversary Celebration
Celebrate the 12th anniversary of H.H. Bennett Studio's operation as a historic site. **H.H. Bennett Studio. 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Free admission this date only.** (608) 253-3523 or hbbennett@wisconsinhistory.org



June 8 Life on the Farm Preview Event at Old World Wisconsin
See the story on page 11.



June 10 Circus of Chefs ... The Gala 2012
Sample some of the most delicious food and tempting beverages from more than 30 of Wisconsin's finest restaurants, breweries and vineyards at this gala fundraiser for **Circus World. Live and silent auctions too. Circus World, 5 – 9 p.m. \$125 per person.** (866) 693-1500 or ringmaster@circusworldmuseum.com



June 10 History and Mystery Tour
Enjoy a behind-the-scenes tour of scenes in the books, *Old World Murder* and *The Heirloom Murders* in the company of their author Kathleen Ernst and research curator Marty Perkins. **Old World Wisconsin. 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. Reception to follow. \$25 includes museum admission. Museum opens at 11.** (262) 594-6301 or oww@wisconsinhistory.org



June 13 – 17 Circus Model Builders Convention and Show
Explore an exhibit of miniature circus creations. **Circus World. 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. (866) 693-1500 or ringmaster@circusworldmuseum.com**



June 15 Farmhand Buffet and After-Hours Barn Dance
Enjoy a hearty after-hours dance meal in the historic Clausing Barn, then kick up your heels at an old-fashioned barn dance. **Old World Wisconsin. Buffet 4 – 7 p.m., barn dance 6 – 9 p.m. (262) 594-6301 or oww@wisconsinhistory.org**



June 16 Breakfast in a Victorian Kitchen
Guests take part in a culinary tour of the late 19th century, preparing and enjoying a Victorian breakfast. **Villa Louis. 8:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. \$40 (\$35 for Society members).** (608) 326-2721 or villalouis@wisconsinhistory.org



June 16 Rousing with the Roosters

Experience 19th-century farm life firsthand, then enjoy a breakfast you help prepare. **Old World Wisconsin.** 6:30 – 9:30 a.m. \$45 includes breakfast and museum admission. (262) 594-6301 or oww@wisconsinhistory.org



June 16 1860s Dairy Day

Take part in cheese, butter and ice cream making. Stagecoach rides. **Wade House.** 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. (920) 526-3271 or wadehouse@wisconsinhistory.org



June 17 Breakfast at the Inn

Help prepare an 1860s breakfast in the Wade House kitchens and savor the hearty meal in the inn's dining room. **Wade House.** 8 – 11 a.m. \$35. (920) 526-3271 or wadehouse@wisconsinhistory.org



June 17 Fathers Day Base Ball Match

Come cheer on the Greenbush Dead City's vintage base ball team, and join in the fun as they engage in a rousing pick-up game with fans. **Wade House.** 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. (game time 1:30 p.m.). (920) 526-3271 or wadehouse@wisconsinhistory.org



June 17 Fathers Day Dairy Breakfast Plus Men at Work

Treat dad to a hearty dairy breakfast and a visit to the museum to learn about the historic work men in rural Wisconsin performed in days gone by. **Old World Wisconsin.** Seatings 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. (museum hours 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.). Dads admitted to the museum free this day. (262) 594-6301 or oww@wisconsinhistory.org



June 18 Midsummer Magic

Sample food and beverages from local restaurants, specialty shops, breweries and wineries. Live music. **Old World Wisconsin.** 6 – 9 p.m. \$55 (\$45 for members of the Old World Wisconsin Foundation). Reservations recommended (21 or older). (262) 594-2922 or friends@friendsoww.org



June 23 Midsummer Spirits

Celtic "spirits" come to life and mingle with human kind in a special evening celebration of midsummer. **Pendarvis.** 7 – 9:30 p.m. \$10 adults \$5 children 5-17. (608) 987-2122 or pendarvis@wisconsinhistory.org



June 24 Scandinavian Midsummer Celebration

Celebrate the year's longest days at this free event, sponsored by the Swedish American Historical Society of Wisconsin (admission to the museum is separate). **Old World Wisconsin.** 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. (museum hours 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.). (262) 594-6300 or oww@wisconsinhistory.org



June 30 Wildflower Walk

Enjoy a delicious continental breakfast and a guided walk through Old World Wisconsin's restored prairies and woodland trails. **Old World Wisconsin.** 7 – 10 a.m. \$15 (\$10 for members of the Old World Wisconsin Foundation). Reservations required. (262) 594-2922 or friends@friendsoww.org

Events and Exhibits at the Wisconsin Historical Museum

Admission by donation (unless otherwise noted)

May 1 – December 31 Wisconsin Innovations: From the Iconic to the Unexpected

Discover the diverse array of inventions, concepts and traditions that originated, in one way or another, in Wisconsin. 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday

May 1 – June 9 Milwaukee Lost!

Explore a wall and case exhibit on the 1929 wreck of the railroad car ferry *SS Milwaukee*. 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday

May 1 – June 9 Ghost Ships of the Schooner Coast

Explore the underwater world of Lake Michigan through an exhibit of the photography of Wisconsin Historical Society underwater archaeologist Tamara Thomsen. 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday

May 1 – 31 Movies on Demand: Wisconsin Barns

Stop in the museum theater for a viewing at any time during your visit of the film "Wisconsin Barns: Stories in Wood and Stone" (2009) 70 min. Screenings on demand when other programs are not in session.

May 15 The Death of the Fishing Vessel, Linda-E

Learn about the mystery of a missing Milwaukee fishing boat and its crew. 12:15 – 1 p.m.

May 19 A Schooner Songbag: Songs of the Great Lakes

Wisconsin folksinger and songsmith David Drake presents the life and times and music of a 19th-century Great Lakes sailor. 1 p.m.

The museum is located at 30 North Carroll Street on the Capitol Square. For more information call (608) 264-6555, e-mail museum@wisconsinhistory.org or visit wisconsinhistory.org/museum.

AMANDA MCQUEEN



A decomposing reel of nitrate film

Society and University Collaborate on Nitrate Film Project

IN A COLLABORATIVE PROJECT with the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Society conservation staff members are studying the effects of cellulose nitrate film decomposition and the associated fire risk. The Society partners with the university's Wisconsin Center for Film and Theater Research, which holds one of the world's major archives of research materials relating to the entertainment industry. And while the university administers the film and theater program, the Society houses and cares for the center's manuscript collections, motion pictures and television shows, still photographs and sound recordings.

Among the motion pictures in the collections are more than 60 titles shot on nitrate film, which decomposes, producing toxic gases that combine with moisture in the air to form highly corrosive acids. Decayed nitrate film can become very unstable and can suddenly ignite. The Society has joined forces with the staff of the university's film and theater center and chemistry department to study the decaying films and to come up with strategies for dealing with the problem film reels.

"This project offers a vital opportunity to improve our understanding of nitrate film, a medium that has proved problematic for many in the conservation field," said Katie Mullen, the Society's preservation coordinator. "The project results will be of great value not just to the Society and its partner institution, the Wisconsin Center for Film and Theater Research, but also to the wider field of historic preservation."

Mahesh Mahanthappa of the university's chemistry department is using his expertise with

polymers to best design the study. Meanwhile, Vance Kepley, the film and theater research center's director, film archivist Maxine Ducey, and staff from the Society are providing samples of nitrate film and soliciting other samples from other national institutions.

In 2010 a report by Society staff identified nitrate moving image films that were in an advanced state of decay, identified as duplicates of films preserved elsewhere, or that were not candidates for preservation reformatting. "Current thinking tells us that these nitrate films pose a significant threat to the continued preservation of all other collections in the Society," said Mullen. "Federal fire codes require nitrate film to be disposed of through controlled incineration by a certified hazmat vendor. But former student and Society staff member Heather Heckman published a study that demonstrated a need for new research."

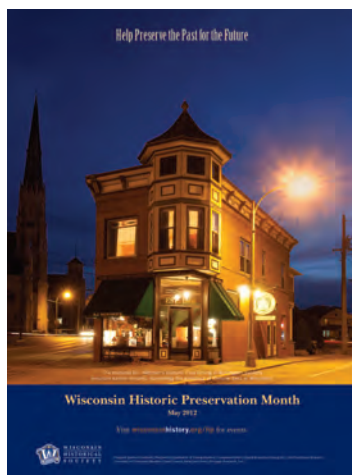
With additional information from this collaboration project, Mullen added that it might be possible to petition the National Fire Protection Association to reconsider their codes regulating the storage and handling of nitrate films, which, in the end, would give archivists a little bit of breathing room.

Collaborating with other disciplines on campus proves to be a great opportunity for all involved. "This is the first time in modern film preservation that scientific metrics have been applied consistently to the questions of nitrate film decomposition," said Ducey. •

Celebrate Historic Preservation and Archaeology Month

MAY IS THE DESIGNATED MONTH across the country to celebrate historic preservation and archaeology. Throughout Wisconsin, communities plan events that honor local historic places including buildings and archaeological sites. These events remind us how important it is to preserve the historic places that tell the stories

of our communities. Special events can include tours, open houses, lectures and preservation workshops. The Society coordinates an online calendar in which our local partners can post their Historic Preservation and Archaeology Month events. To find an event in your area, visit our calendar at wisconsinhistory.org/hp/hpmonth. •



The 2012 Historic Preservation Month poster

Life on the Farm: Coming in June at Old World Wisconsin

BEGINNING JUNE 9, Old World Wisconsin's visitors are welcome to experience Life on the Farm, where they will discover firsthand what life was really like working and living on a farm in the Upper Midwest in the 19th century. The Koepsell Farm in the German area of the outdoor museum will be the scene for this new family friendly, hands-on experience.

When guests arrive they will receive a biography card. There are six cards in all; each tells the story of a different individual who performed many of the same tasks visitors will experience at the Koepsell Farm. Exploring Life on the Farm through the lens of these inspirational, everyday figures who shaped life in Wisconsin's German farm community will help today's guests make a very real connection to our agrarian past.

Guests may don a pair of wooden barn shoes and help "muck" the barn's stalls or move straw for bedding. They can put on an apron and help clean up after making a meal, roll out pie dough,

beat rugs or piece quilt squares. Just as it was for early Midwestern immigrants, the work will vary by season — gardening and planting in spring; dairy work, canning and field work in summer; and harvesting hops and making apple cider in fall. This will offer many changing experiences for visitor participation.

Visitors will be able to interact with a rotating collection of young farm animals in a shed where guests will learn more about the animals' habits and care from farm staff. Reproductions of original artifacts will allow visitors to use them in the manner of early settlers.

The Society's *Forward!* Campaign funded this engaging new initiative, which is part of the Old World Wisconsin multi-year Master Plan. "Life on the Farm is the first in a series of new experiences designed to make a visit to Old World Wisconsin more interactive, fun and memorable for all ages," said the museum's director Dan Freas. •

Historic Sites Set to Begin the 2012 Season

IN MAY AND JUNE all of the Society's historic sites and museums get into full swing. All over the state our Wisconsin history enthusiasts will have new experiences and returning favorite special events in store for visitors of all ages. Each weekend in May Old World Wisconsin will celebrate Rituals of Spring, with the historical focus shifting each weekend to a different facet of 19th-century farm life, ranging from sheep shearing and the role women played in farming to plowing and planting the outdoor museum's many farm fields.

Both Old World Wisconsin and Wade House will celebrate spring with the return of their two vintage base ball teams (spelled as two words just as was the convention in the 1860s): Old World Wisconsin's Eagle Diamonds and the Wade House Greenbush Dead Citys. The

teams both have busy schedules as they take to their homegrown ball parks to play the time-honored game by 1860s rules and using quaint terminology of the times: the batter is a "striker," the pitcher is a "hurler" and the catcher is a "behind," among other unfamiliar terms.

Circus World kicks off its spring and summer performance season on May 19 with a lineup of acts that include magician and illusionist Tristan Crist and his new show, Theatre of Illusion. Others include the KidsWorld Interactive Circus, the Lucky Star Miniature Trick Horse Show, the Circus Skills Adventure and the Novelty Instruments Concert.

See the calendar of events on pages 8 and 9 for more special events at the historic sites or visit wisconsinhistory.org. •

Visitor Appreciation Days at Five Historic Sites and Museums

Madeline Island Museum, Pendarvis, Stonefield, Villa Louis and Wade House will all welcome visitors at deeply discounted admission rates in June. Villa Louis will host its event on Saturday, June 2, while all the other museums will hold their events on Sunday, June 3. For more information visit wisconsinhistory.org/sites.

Life on the Farm Sneak Preview Event

Join fellow Wisconsin Historical Society members for a sneak preview of Life on the Farm at Old World Wisconsin.

Private member event
Free reception
5 – 8 p.m.
Friday, June 8

Complimentary hors d'oeuvres and beverages

Two adults and all dependent children welcome

RSVP by June 1 to:
membership@wisconsinhistory.org
or (888) 748-7479.
Space is limited.



A young visitor uses a hand-operated device to shuck corn

MIKE MORBECK

Make the most of your membership at the historic sites this year.

All members receive:

- **Half-price or free admission** to all historic sites and museum (depending on membership level)
- **10-percent discount** at all museum and historic sites gift shop

For a complete list of your membership benefits, visit wisconsinhistory.org/membership.



James Morton Smith

Former Society Director James Morton Smith Dies at 92

JAMES MORTON SMITH, who served as the eighth director of the Society from 1970 to 1976, died on March 19 at the age of 92. Smith presided over the Society during its commemoration of the American Bicentennial, which included the campaign to create Old World Wisconsin as the state's official Bicentennial project. The outdoor living history museum opened on June 30, 1976, under Smith's watch. Other seminal events during Smith's tenure included publication of the first volume of the six-volume *History of Wisconsin* series in 1973 and the first two volumes of the *Documentary History of the Ratification of the Constitution* in 1976. Smith left the Society in 1976 to become the director of the Winterthur Museum, Garden and Library in Delaware.

A distinguished historian in his own right, Smith specialized in the Colonial, Revolutionary and Constitutional periods of American history. He held a doctorate in history from Cornell University and had taught American history at Butler University, The Ohio State University, the

College of William and Mary, Duke University, the University of Wisconsin-Madison and Cornell.

Smith was a prolific writer of articles and scholarly reviews and had been the recipient of many awards and fellowships, including a Guggenheim Fellowship. Among his major publications are *Freedom's Fetters: The Alien and Sedition Laws and American Civil Liberties*; *Liberty and Justice: A Historical Record of American Constitutional Development*; *17th-Century America: Essays in Colonial History*; *George Washington: A Profile*; *The Republic of Letters: The Correspondence Between Thomas Jefferson and James Madison*; *Politics and Society in American History*; and *The Constitution*.

During World War II Smith was a lieutenant in the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve. He is survived by his wife Kathryn ("Kassie") of Elkton, Maryland, and two children, Melissa ("Missy") and James Morton Jr. •



TAMARA THOMSEN

A diver explores the wreck of the *Australasia*.

Take Part in a Shipwreck Survey in Door County in June

THE SOCIETY'S MARITIME PROGRAM will survey one of Captain James Davidson's famed Goliath steamers, the *Australasia*, from June 21 through 25 at Whitefish Dunes State Park in Door County. Jet skiers discovered the massive, 300-foot wooden vessel about five years ago in 20 feet of water in Lake Michigan. The ship sank offshore from the present-day site of the park in 1896. The maritime program received a grant from University of Wisconsin Sea Grant Institute to conduct a phase-two archaeological survey of the site.

In partnership with Whitefish Dunes State Park, there will be several public events. There

will be a changing display at the park updating visitors on what's going on with the survey, a public presentation on James Davidson's Goliaths and the history of the *Australasia*. Each day of the survey, when divers are on site, children and guests of the park will be invited "Ask Diver Paul" questions about the wreck site, maritime history of Wisconsin, and questions about diving in general. Paul Bentley, one of the Society's longtime volunteer divers, will answer questions live from the *Australasia* wreck site through radio communications. •



Meet: Diane Nixa

Philanthropy Director, Wisconsin Historical Foundation

As director of philanthropy, what does your job entail?

The Wisconsin Historical Society receives a significant share of its annual funding from the private sector — gifts and grants from individuals, foundations and corporations, and, as the Society's programs and services grow, that private sector share must grow. I work closely with Society staff and with the Foundation's Board of Directors and the Society's Board of Curators to create and implement activities that will expand our fundraising potential and results. In order to raise the private dollars needed for the Society to carry out its ever-expanding programs, it is important to always stay on top of, and understand, the Society's priorities — one of the great rewards of my job!

My Foundation colleagues and I assist Ellsworth Brown, other Society staff and board members in connecting with existing donors, and identifying individuals and organizations who may be interested in investing in a specific program (for example the Library-Archives Division, National History Day or a new exhibition at the Wisconsin Historical Museum), or the overall broad mission of the Society. Together we listen to our donors and friends and learn their passions so that we can present the most relevant opportunities to contribute and really make a difference.

Please tell us a bit about your professional background before joining the Foundation.

I have worked with some amazing organizations on both the East and West coasts, and want to emphasize how thrilled I am to now be in Wisconsin and working with the phenomenal Wisconsin Historical Society. Before moving to Wisconsin in the fall of 2010, I was the managing director of development with New York City Ballet. Prior to that I spent time at Friends of the High Line, helping to raise funds for what is now the wildly popular High Line Park on the west side of Manhattan. Before that I was vice president of development with the New Jersey Performing Arts Center, leading a five-year, \$180 million campaign. Early in my career I served as the major gifts director with the National Audubon Society, and I began my journey in the nonprofit arena as development director with a symphony orchestra.

Now might be a good time to explain that I am a native of Minnesota, and I moved to Wisconsin to be closer to family. I very quickly became a Wisconsinite through and through! And several of my family and Minnesota friends have become members of the Wisconsin Historical Society.

It must be very gratifying to see a long-term fundraising initiative like the *Forward!* Campaign come to fruition. What are some of the satisfactions you derive from what you do?

It is truly a joy to show people the results of their generosity. Our donors have made the Wisconsin Historical Society a pre-eminent institution, and it makes me proud to share the impact. Just being in the headquarters building with the newly restored reading room is a reminder that we are doing something great for the state of Wisconsin and the nation as a whole. The *Forward!* Campaign has made us stronger and more ambitious about what we can achieve, too. From making our vast collections more readily available through our soon-to-be unveiled new website to the expanded reach of our historic preservation programs and all of the wonderful publications from the Wisconsin Historical Society Press, I am constantly reminded that it is our donors who set us apart — as a historical society and as an amazingly effective state agency.

What are some of the more memorable experiences you've had in the work you've done for the Foundation?

Whether it's the synchronized hoisting of shovels by public officials and major donors at the Wade House Visitor Center groundbreaking last November or viewing the 195,000th historic home image posted on the Society's website, history comes alive here and everyone in Wisconsin benefits. Occasions such as these make coming to work each day something that I really look forward to. •



Wisconsin Historical FOUNDATION



WHI 77798

To learn how a business partnership with the Wisconsin Historical Society can help meet your marketing and business objectives, please contact Georgene Pomplun at (608) 261-9587 or georgene.pomplun@wisconsinhistory.org.

Good Deeds are Also Good Business. Become a Business Partner Today!

BY FORGING A PARTNERSHIP with the Wisconsin Historical Society, you can achieve your organization's business goals while advancing our mission. It is a true win-win! We rely ever increasingly upon private-sector investment to ensure a margin of excellence that public dollars alone cannot provide. In recognition of your company's commitment, we offer our Business Partners a variety of benefits that can help increase employee satisfaction, strengthen client and customer relations, and build awareness of your company.

Be a Community Leader

As a Business Partner, your company will be positioned at the forefront of a growing movement of business, civic and community leaders who take pride in our rich heritage and want to ensure that we pass it on to succeeding generations.

Educate the Next Generation

Business Partners help the Society remain at the forefront of history education through their

support of initiatives like the Society's Wisconsin fourth-grade history textbook, National History Day in Wisconsin, field trips to the Society's 11 historic sites and museums, online resources for students and teachers, and more.

Reward Your Employees

Business Partner benefits include passes for free admission to the Society's 11 historic sites and museums, behind-the-scenes tours and invitations to special events.

Make a Difference

Whether it is providing a student with an "aha" moment, helping someone create a family tree, or ensuring a community saves a historic landmark, you will have the satisfaction of knowing that your organization's investment made a real difference in the lives of millions of people in communities throughout the state. •

Wisconsin Historical Society Business Partners

THE WISCONSIN HISTORICAL FOUNDATION extends its deepest thanks to the following organizations whose generous support plays a vital role in ensuring the Society remains one of our nation's finest historical institutions.

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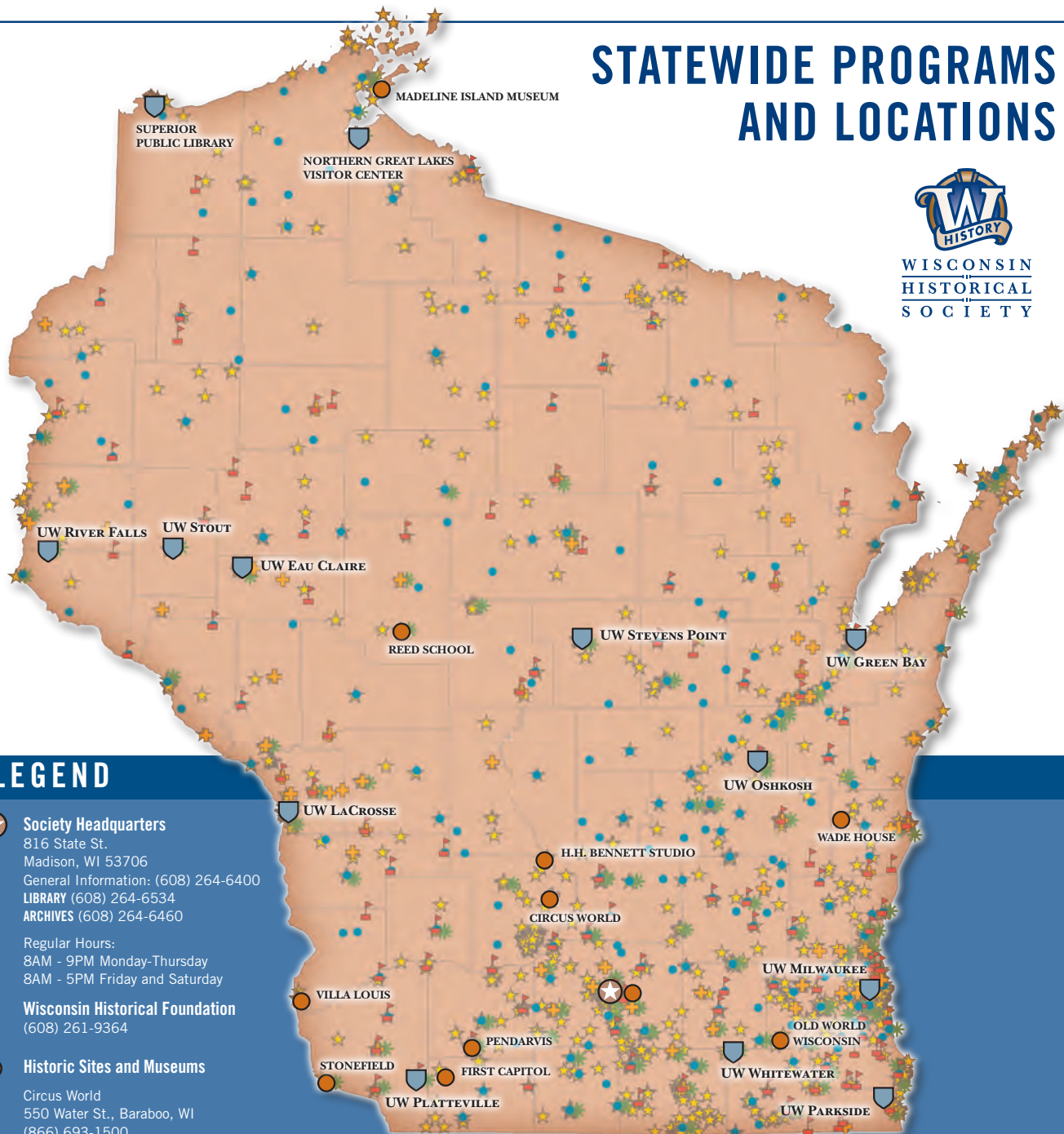
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STATEWIDE PROGRAMS AND LOCATIONS



LEGEND

- 
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LIBRARY (608) 264-6534
ARCHIVES (608) 264-6460

 Regular Hours:
 8AM - 9PM Monday-Thursday
 8AM - 5PM Friday and Saturday
- 
Historic Sites and Museums

Circus World
 550 Water St., Baraboo, WI
 (866) 693-1500

First Capitol
 County Hwy. G, Belmont, WI
 (608) 987-2122

H.H. Bennett Studio
 215 Broadway, Wisconsin Dells, WI
 (608) 253-3523

Madeline Island Museum
 226 Col. Woods Ave., La Pointe, WI
 (715) 747-2415

Old World Wisconsin
 W372 S9727 Hwy. 67, Eagle, WI
 (262) 594-6301

Pendarvis
 114 Shake Rag St., Mineral Point, WI
 (608) 987-2122

Reed School
 U.S. Hwy. 10 & Cardinal Ave., Neillsville, WI
 (608) 253-3523

- Stonefield**
 12195 Hwy. W, Cassville, WI
 (608) 725-5210

Villa Louis
 521 N. Villa Louis Rd., Prairie du Chien, WI
 (608) 326-2721

Wade House
 W7824 Center St., Greenbush, WI
 (920) 526-3271

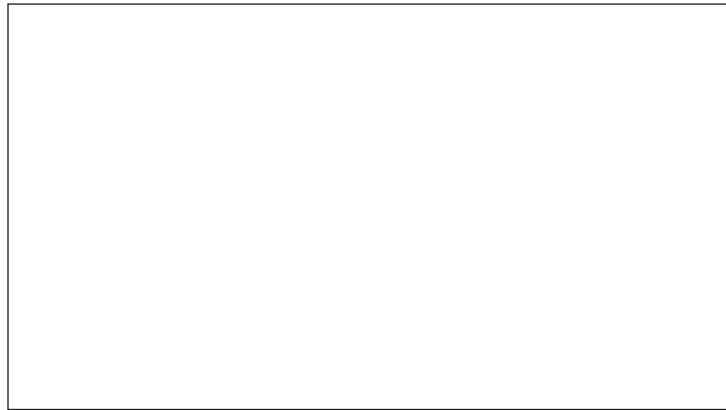
Wisconsin Historical Museum
 30 N. Carroll St.
 Madison, WI 53703
 (608) 264-6555
 Hours: 9AM-4PM Tuesday-Saturday
wisconsinhistory.org/museum
 Museum Store
 (888) 999-1669

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Columns

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Periodical Class



Did you know?

- No 16 mm or 8 mm nitrate film was ever produced. So if you have film that is only about as wide as your finger or less it's "safety" film.
- Nitrate had a higher silver content than the safety film that replaced it. So, in addition to capturing brilliant blacks and whites, those who have seen nitrate projected say it truly sparkles silver on the screen.
- The safety film that replaced nitrate, variations of cellulose acetate, also degrades over time. It turns into acetic acid, better known to us as vinegar.



Nitrate films present a significant hazard to other collections because they decompose and produce toxic gases and acids that can cause them to ignite. Now the Society and the University of Wisconsin-Madison are engaged in a study on how best to deal with nitrate materials in the Society's collections. Read more about the story on page 10.

Sign up for the Society's e-newsletter!

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