



WISCONSIN  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

# Columns

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE WISCONSIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
VOL. 34 NO. 1 | ISSN 0196-1306 | WINTER 2013

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*Collecting, Preserving  
and Sharing Stories  
Since 1846*



The spectacular, sun-drenched mansion seen here, Black Point Estate, a historic house and gardens overlooking Geneva Lake, was the summer home for Chicago business mogul Conrad Seipp and four generations of his descendants. Now it joins the Society's network of 11 other historic sites and museums, and will be open to tours this summer and fall. Read the story on page 10.



Ellsworth H. Brown  
The Ruth and Hartley Barker Director

## At the dawn of a new year,

we can look back on many positive changes in the past 12 months – and forward to anticipated opportunities in the year that lies ahead.

LAST FALL we successfully completed the first major fundraising campaign in the Society's history, a public/private campaign that yielded tremendous tangible milestones: a new Visitor Center and Wesley W. Jung Carriage Museum that will open at Wade House in June; a fully funded Preservation Storage Facility, now in design, to house treasured collections for us and the Wisconsin Veterans Museum; a top-to-bottom restoration of our grand Library Reading Room; and a new Interpreter Training Facility at Old World Wisconsin that now also houses the outdoor museum's staff. The campaign also endowed a full-time preservation specialist position, vastly improved the visitor experience at Old World Wisconsin and Wade House, dramatically increased the scope and content of our online digital collections, and initiated the complete redesign of the Society's third-generation website.

As you can see from the stunning image on the cover, another exciting change for us is that, on January 1, 2013, the Society assumed management responsibility for Black Point Estate, a magnificent historic house and gardens in Lake Geneva. Black Point now becomes the 12th historic site in our statewide network of historic sites and museums. I want to personally thank William O'Connor, a member of our Board of Curators, for shepherding the transfer of the estate from William O. Petersen, great-grandson of Black Point's builder, Chicago brewing magnate Conrad Seipp, to the state of Wisconsin. O'Connor also was instrumental in

transferring management responsibility of the property to the Society. You can read more details about the addition of Black Point to our historic sites and museums on page 10.

The Society Press had a prolific year, publishing 15 books and two audio books. Three books received national media attention and required reprints: *Return to Wake Robin: One Cabin in the Heyday of the Northwoods Resorts* by Marnie Mammaing (recommended by *Parade Magazine* to its 63 million readers); *Green Bay Packers: Trials, Triumphs, and Tradition* by Bill Povletich; and *Bottoms Up: A Toast to Wisconsin's Historic Bars & Breweries* by Jim Draeger and Mark Speltz.

The year 2012 was not, however, without loss to the Society. Last fall we learned of the passing of three of our esteemed colleagues. Marty Perkins, 61, a 35-year Society employee and one of the principle architects behind the planning and development of Old World Wisconsin, died November 3. We also lost John Kerrigan, 76, on November 5. He served with distinction on the Board of Curators from June 2002 to June 2011. Finally, Lincoln scholar, prolific author and eminent historian Richard Current, a Distinguished Society Fellow, died on October 26 at 100.

In closing, I extend the Society's heartfelt gratitude to the Wisconsin Historical Foundation for its tireless work in support of the Society's mission. Much of the successes enumerated above would simply not have been possible without the Foundation's dedication to the Society's goals and aspirations. •

### Columns

Bob Granflaten, Editor  
Composure Graphics, Designer

Published quarterly by the Wisconsin Historical Society and distributed to members as part of their dues. Full membership levels begin at \$45 for individuals and \$65 for institutions (rates subject to change). To join or for more information about membership, visit our website at [support.wisconsinhistory.org](http://support.wisconsinhistory.org) or contact the Membership Office at 888-748-7479, email [membership@wisconsinhistory.org](mailto:membership@wisconsinhistory.org), or write to the Membership Office at the address below. Address inquiries about this publication to the editor, *Columns*. Media may reprint any article provided credit is given to the Wisconsin Historical Society and *Columns*. Periodicals postage paid at Madison, Wisconsin. Postmaster, send address changes to: *Columns*, Wisconsin Historical Society, 816 State Street, Madison, WI 53706.

### 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](mailto: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.

## Thank You for Supporting Our Work Behind the Scenes

WHEN YOU VISIT the Society's historic sites and museums, library and archives, or receive your copy of the *Wisconsin Magazine of History*, what you're seeing represents a massive behind-the-scenes effort to share the stories of Wisconsin's past. Although you may not see all the preservation work, research, collecting, cataloging, digitizing and programming that happens every day, it is your membership that helps make it possible.

With your support, we have assembled one of the finest North American history collections in the world. Our archival and library collections tell stories of struggle and achievement, and our museums show us what makes Wisconsin so special — capturing our history in a way that nothing else can. Thanks to your generosity, we can continue to share these resources with you, your children and your grandchildren.

We are pleased to share with you here the highlights of what you accomplished with your support in the last year.

### Online Collections and Resources

You have helped us expand our digital collections, adding to the 80,000 historic images, 4,000 artifacts, 200,000 images of historic properties and so much more already available online. Millions of people access these online resources each year, including elementary school students, academic researchers, teachers, history lovers, historic property owners, local historical societies, families throughout Wisconsin and many more.

### 11 Historic Sites and Museums

More than 250,000 people (including 53,000 schoolchildren) were able to enjoy the Society's 11 historic sites and museums, and the hundreds of thousands of artifacts they hold. With a wide range of daily activities, changing exhibits and unique special events, your support continually provides new and engaging ways for thousands of people to experience Wisconsin history firsthand.

### Local History Resources Around the State

You helped local history efforts take shape and flourish, including assistance to more than 380 affiliated county, local and specialized historical organizations through regional meetings, workshops, an annual statewide conference and more.

### Historic Places Throughout Wisconsin

With your support, we've been able to help hundreds of people through special tax credit programs we administer. These programs help property owners bring historic buildings back to their original state, safeguard what's in existence, repurpose historic buildings, and rebuild those structures in need of preservation.

### Genealogical Research Services and Tools

Thanks to you, the Society has one of the top five genealogical collections in the nation, which includes an astounding array of birth, marriage, death, census, immigration and military records, biographical sketches and obituaries, plus thousands of eyewitness accounts, memoirs, letters, diaries, family histories, and newspaper and magazine articles. Your support helps make these collections easily accessible via workshops, webinars and person-to-person consultations, as well as online.

These are but a few ways that your membership helps people connect to the past. We are so grateful for your generous support, and we look forward to an exciting year ahead.

Sincerely,



Cheryl Sullivan, Director  
Division of Museums and Historic Sites



Michael Stevens, State Historic Preservation  
Officer and Director  
Division of Historic Preservation-Public  
History



Matt Blessing, State Archivist and Director  
Division of Library-Archives



JUSTIN WOODWARD

Bill Mulligan, one of thousands of young people across the state who have benefitted from the expanded collections and resources now available to students online.



MIKE MORBECK

A young visitor experiences "Life on the Farm" at Old World Wisconsin.



A historic home in Mineral Point that the owners restored with help from the tax credit program.



Thomas Shriner

## Board of Curators, Foundation Board Welcome New Members

THE SOCIETY WELCOMES two new members of the Board of Curators who have been appointed to fill unexpired vacancies on the 36-member board: Thomas L. Shriner Jr. of Shorewood and Lowell F. Peterson of Appleton.

Shriner, who fills the unexpired term of the late John Kerrigan, is a partner with Foley & Lardner LLP in Milwaukee. He concentrates his practice in commercial and public law litigation and has extensive appellate practice in both state and federal courts. He also is an adjunct professor of law at Marquette University Law School. Shriner served on his law firm's history committee when current Board of Curators President Ellen Langill wrote a history of the firm.

Peterson, who fills a vacancy left by the departure of Mary Buestrin, is a retired cardiologist and author. He served as an Air Force flight surgeon before and during the Vietnam War. In

1970 he entered private practice in Appleton, where he served with the Appleton Heart Institute until his retirement in 2009. Peterson has written and self-published four books about his own or his family's history, including *The Birds Were Silver Then*, stories from the Vietnam air war, and *Heartfelt Journey*, a cardiologist's memoir.

The Wisconsin Historical Foundation also added one new member of the Foundation's Board of Directors, Stephen F. Brenton of Verona. Brenton, who fills a vacancy left by the departure of Fritz Grutzner, is the president and CEO of the Wisconsin Hospital Association in Madison. Brenton's professional background focuses heavily on federal and state government relations and advocacy. He also is a member of the University of Wisconsin-Madison's political science department Board of Governors. •



Lowell Peterson

## Society Press Introduces Spanish Language Fourth-Grade Textbook

SCHOOL DISTRICTS ACROSS WISCONSIN are welcoming the recent publication of a Spanish edition of the Wisconsin Historical Society Press' award-winning fourth-grade textbook, *Wisconsin: Our State, Our Story*. The Press partnered with Milwaukee Public Schools to translate its definitive state textbook into *Wisconsin: Nuestro Estado, Nuestra Historia*.

Dubbed the "first truly comprehensive textbook devoted to Wisconsin history for elementary students" by Tina Flood, executive director of curriculum and instruction for Milwaukee Public Schools, the state history textbook promotes strong literacy and content skills — now in Spanish as well as English.

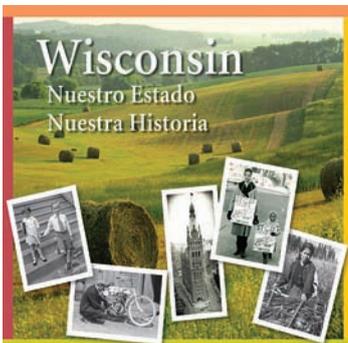
*Wisconsin: Our State, Our Story*, and now *Wisconsin: Nuestro Estado, Nuestra Historia*, teach Wisconsin history through an inquiry-based approach with lively stories from famous and everyday Wisconsinites who shaped our past as well as timelines and pronunciation glossaries.

This Wisconsin history standard also incorporates a wealth of Society resources including illustrations, photographs and maps. The historical information has recently expanded to include interactive lesson materials such as online activities and assessments that encourage student participation with "Thinking Like a Historian" questions, vocabulary, literacy, strategies and other visual materials. Teacher guides and complementary student activity guides are also available.

Since its publication in 2008, the state history textbook has been adopted by districts statewide, including the major districts of Milwaukee, Madison, Janesville, Green Bay, Sheboygan, Wisconsin Rapids and others. Learn more about *Wisconsin: Our State, Our Story* and its interactive enhancements at [wisconsinhistory.org/textbook](http://wisconsinhistory.org/textbook). Underwriting for the translation of *Wisconsin: Nuestro Estado, Nuestra Historia* was provided by the Jane Bradley Pettit Foundation of Milwaukee. •



Stephen Brenton



## State Register of Historic Places Recent Wisconsin Additions



### Charles and Herriete Klingholz House

Town of Manitowoc Rapids, Manitowoc County

Charles Klingholz was an early German settler and prominent citizen in the community, where he operated a mill and a general store. The 1850, two-story, Italianate-style house features segmental arched and hooded windows and doors and a deep trim-band frieze directly below the low-pitched, hipped roof. In addition, the house is an excellent example of the distinctive cream-brick building tradition practiced in eastern Wisconsin, stemming from the types of clay available for local brickmaking along the western shore of Lake Michigan.



### Whitewater Passenger Depot

Whitewater, Walworth County

Noted Wisconsin architect J.T.W. Jennings designed the brick and limestone Whitewater Passenger Depot. The depot represents the growing importance of the railroad, which contributed to the community's development. When completed in 1891, it was a stop on Wisconsin's most important rail line during the height of passenger rail transportation. The former depot currently serves as the home of the Whitewater Historical Society's local history museum.



### John Pritzlaff Hardware Company

Milwaukee, Milwaukee County

The John Pritzlaff Hardware Company facility was the location of the firm's operations and offices from 1875 to 1958, when the company closed. No other hardware concern in Milwaukee compared with the Pritzlaff Hardware Company in terms of volume of business. Additions to the initial building in 1879, 1887, 1895, 1903, 1912, 1915 and 1919 reflect the growth and success of the firm. The facility is also notable for its unique collection of storefront design with examples of decorative cast iron and carved-stone columns. The complex was recently partially rehabilitated under the federal historic preservation tax credit program.



### Upper Twin Falls Bridge

Town of Florence, Florence County

The Upper Twin Falls Bridge is a steel camelback-through-truss structure built 1910-11 by the Central States Bridge Company of Indiana. Designed by Wisconsin engineer M.W. Torkelson, it spans the channel of the Menominee River on the Michigan-Wisconsin border. The truss bridge has a length of 145 feet and, together with its associated causeways, crosses a wide stretch of the river that, known as Badwater Lake, backs up behind the dam associated with the Twin Falls Hydroelectric Facility.



### Pulaski Presbyterian Church Complex

Town of Pulaski, Iowa County

The Pulaski Presbyterian Church's tall steeple has been a prominent visual landmark in the surrounding rural countryside for more than 100 years. The complex contains two buildings: the Gothic Revival-style church and the smaller schoolhouse annex. Congregation members built the clapboard-clad church in 1874 to replace the original log church constructed 1862. They constructed the schoolhouse in 1901. These buildings served the congregation continuously until 2002, when the church suspended services. Currently, the buildings are used for special events.

To learn more about available Society resources to aid in preserving historic homes or properties, visit [wisconsinhistory.org/hp](http://wisconsinhistory.org/hp).



DEKE SLAYTON MUSEUM

### What to Know Before You Go

The museum is open year round. For location, hours, group tour information, admission fees and other details, visit [dekeslaytonmuseum.com/about](http://dekeslaytonmuseum.com/about).

## Collections Highlight: Deke Slayton Museum in Sparta

THE DEKE SLAYTON Memorial Space & Bicycle Museum, founded in 1999, honors the late Sparta native, Donald “Deke” Slayton. He was one of the original Mercury 7 astronauts, a group of seven courageous men chosen in 1959 to be America’s very first astronauts. Sparta also has the earliest rails-to-trails program in the country. This program converts old railroad tracks into bike trails and, because Sparta was the first participant, the community embraces the title, “Bicycling Capital of America.” The museum blends these two unlikely subjects of space and bicycles, attracting more than 7,000 visitors a year.

The museum artifact collection displays more than 100 bikes, ranging from the early 1800s to today. Space memorabilia from every decade of the space program is on display including letters signed by five United States presidents. The museum also features artifacts on loan from NASA, the largest being Deke Slayton’s Mercury 7 space suit from 1959.

A new addition to the museum arrived this past July: Pegasus, the Space Bike. This bike started out as a 1981 Schwinn bicycle that Donovan Hall, inventor of Pegasus, transformed into the “Swiss army knife” of bikes. Hall took his inspiration from NASA’s shuttle program and wanted to make something unique. It took him 10 years to transform the bicycle. Pegasus, as he fondly calls it, has some amazing features: a six-disc CD changer, headlights, parking lights, sirens, a fire extinguisher, air compressor and, of course, live rockets.

The crown jewel of the museum’s artifact collection is a moon rock brought back on the Apollo 16 mission in 1972. It came to the museum in 2006 as part of an Ambassador of Exploration Award the museum received from NASA and Slayton’s wife Bobbie in honor of Deke Slayton. It is the only place in Wisconsin where you can view a piece of the moon. The museum is proud to display it. •



Conference attendees view exhibits in the Society’s recently renovated Library Reading Room

## Sixth Annual Wisconsin Local History-Historic Preservation Conference a Big Hit

THE TWO-DAY 2012 Local History and Historic Preservation Conference in Madison drew almost 300 attendees. Conference participants took advantage of the 23 presentations and 13 workshops. Topics ranged from managing your museum collections and partnering with your local library to repairing ornamental stained glass. Many of the conference presentations are available to view online, print or download at [wisconsinhistory.org/localhistory/presentations](http://wisconsinhistory.org/localhistory/presentations).

This year the Wisconsin Council for Local History, a longtime conference partner, introduced something new – the Town Square – which by all accounts was a huge success. This new feature greatly facilitated everyone’s opportunity to learn more about what other local

and statewide historical groups are doing while simultaneously providing conference attendees with an opportunity to network with colleagues over a hot beverage and a piece of kringle.

Don’t forget to mark your calendar for the 2013 conference, October 11-12, at the Hotel Mead in Wisconsin Rapids ([hotelmead.com](http://hotelmead.com)). This year’s conference will feature an expanded Town Square, a full schedule of sessions and workshops, and tours that highlight the area’s history and natural environment, including Glacial Lake Cranberries, one of the oldest and largest cranberry marshes in Central Wisconsin. The conference is open to anyone with an interest in historic preservation or local history. •

## Local History Highlight

### Try Out the Vernon County Historical Society's New Smart Phone Technology

LOCAL HISTORY ORGANIZATIONS have used technology to connect with audiences in various ways. At recent regional meetings and the annual conferences, conversations have focused on websites, email, social media and, more recently, QR codes.

Short for Quick-Response Code, a QR code is a matrix barcode that you scan with a smart phone to connect to a mobile website. They seem to be popping up everywhere, from billboards to magazine ads, and now even at your local historical society. The Vernon County Historical Society, located in Viroqua, launched its QR code project last year. Mark Troy, a local business owner, approached past president of the society, Gary Krause, about how a QR code project could promote the society's walking tour. Troy had taken the Heritage Hike Tour, which highlights 21 historic buildings, and developed a draft of the mobile site. Gary and other board members saw the potential of the idea.

The purpose of the mobile site is to promote the Vernon County Historical Society to local residents and tourists, with a focus on reaching younger audiences. Visitors new to the area now can access helpful information available on their smart phone, complete with maps, website links, and contact information. The walking tour comprises 21 locations that have their own mobile Web pages with a Google Map and a summary of the historical background of the property. The site also has links to membership, contact and sponsorship information. Local businesses sponsor the site, and the ads renew each year, creating an ongoing source of funding for the society. In the future, Krause hopes to see additional components added, such as museum exhibit information, events, and audio and video components. •



Scan this QR code with your smart phone to visit the Vernon County Historical Society's mobile site.

#### What to Know Before You Go

The Vernon County Historical Society operates four historic sites in the county: the Vernon County Museum, located at 410 South Center Avenue; Old St. Mary's Church Museum; Foreaker One-Room School in Liberty Township; and the historic Sherry-Butt House. For hours and locations, call (608) 637-7396 or visit [vernoncountyhistoricalsociety.com](http://vernoncountyhistoricalsociety.com).

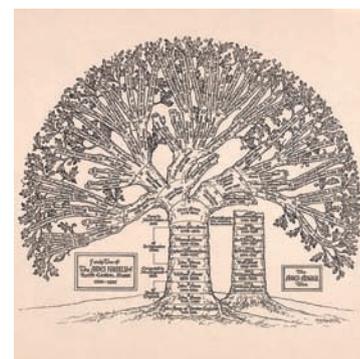
## Another Series of Local History and Genealogy Classes Available Spring 2013

IN 2013 THE FIELD SERVICES PROGRAM and the Division of Library-Archives will partner to offer a new slate of workshops and webinars providing instruction on topics related to the administration of local historical organizations and genealogy research. The cost will range from \$25 to \$45, while a few will be free. Members of the Society and the Wisconsin State Genealogical Society receive \$5 discounts.

Workshop topics will include how to research land records, develop an oral history program, preserve historic barns and work with archival collections. One free webinar will provide tips on submitting mini-grant applications. This program will be especially useful to affiliates

planning to submit a mini-grant application in 2013. Genealogy programming will include information about organizing your research, finding collections that will help fill in the gaps, as well as what you can and cannot find online. Free genealogy webinars will also be available for certain topics.

For details and information about registering for these workshops or webinars, visit [wisconsinhistory.org/localhistory/workshops](http://wisconsinhistory.org/localhistory/workshops) or call Amy Norlin at (608) 264-6579. If you want your name added to an email list for notifications of classes, email [AskLibrary@wisconsinhistory.org](mailto:AskLibrary@wisconsinhistory.org). •



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

WHI 50491

The following are special event highlights for the Winter 2013 quarter. For a complete listing of events, visit [wisconsinhistory.org/calendar](http://wisconsinhistory.org/calendar).

## > JANUARY



### January 9 Bottoms Up Book Event in Shorewood

Jim Draeger, co-author of *Bottoms Up: A Toast to Wisconsin's Historic Bars & Breweries*, will discuss the book and sign copies. **Shorewood Public Library, 3920 North Murray Avenue, Shorewood, 10 a.m. (414) 847-2670**



### January 12 Hearthside Dinner

Live the history of the 1860s as you prepare a meal in the kitchen of the historic Wade House stagecoach inn. **Wade House, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. \$45. (920) 526-3271 or [wadehouse@wisconsinhistory.org](mailto:wadehouse@wisconsinhistory.org)**



### January 14 Bottoms Up Co-Author to Address Portage Historical Society

Jim Draeger, co-author of *Bottoms Up: A Toast to Wisconsin's Historic Bars & Breweries*, will speak at the local historical society's annual dinner. A book signing will follow. **Trail's Lounge Supper Club, 125 Wauona Trail, Portage, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Reservations required. \$15 includes meal and presentation (\$5 for presentation only). (608) 429-9214 or [info@portagemuseum.org](mailto:info@portagemuseum.org)**

## > FEBRUARY



### February 6 Bottoms Up Book Event in Madison

Culinary History Enthusiasts of Wisconsin will host Jim Draeger, co-author of *Bottoms Up: A Toast to Wisconsin's Historic Bars & Breweries*, at its February meeting. **Goodman Community Center, 149 Waubesa Street, Madison, 7:15 p.m. (608) 241-1574**



### February 9 Hearthside Dinner

See the January 12 event description. **Wade House, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. \$45. (920) 526-3271 or [wadehouse@wisconsinhistory.org](mailto:wadehouse@wisconsinhistory.org)**



### February 23 Upper Midwest Scuba and Adventure Travel Show in Minneapolis

Society underwater archaeologists will host an informational table at the annual travel show. **Crowne Plaza North, 2200 Freeway Boulevard, Minneapolis, 9 a.m. – 9:30 p.m. (877) 834-3613. \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door.**

### Save the Date: FREE Member Even

Thursday evening, February 21  
Hollywood in the Heartland  
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

More details coming soon.  
For more information call (888) 748-7479

## > MARCH



### March 9 Hearthside Dinner

See the January 12 event description. **Wade House, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. \$45. (920) 526-3271 or [wadehouse@wisconsinhistory.org](mailto:wadehouse@wisconsinhistory.org)**



### March 15 – 16 Annual Ghost Ships Festival in Milwaukee

Society underwater archaeologists will host an informational table at the festival, where exhibits, workshops and presentations cover just about every aspect of Great Lakes maritime history and scuba diving. **Crowne Plaza, 6401 South 13th Street, Milwaukee, 3 – 9:30 p.m. Friday, 8 a.m. – 7 p.m. Saturday. (414) 764-5300. \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door.**



### March 16 Bottoms Up Book Party in Mineral Point

Jim Draeger and Mark Speltz, co-authors of *Bottoms Up: A Toast to Wisconsin's Historic Bars & Breweries*, will help mark St. Patrick's Day and toast the history and culture of bars and brewing in Wisconsin. A book signing will follow. **Pendarvis, 5:30 – 9 p.m. (608) 987-2122 or [pendarvis@wisconsinhistory.org](mailto:pendarvis@wisconsinhistory.org)**



### March 21 Building Taliesin Book Talk in Middleton

Ron McCrea, author of *Building Taliesin: Frank Lloyd Wright's Home of Love and Loss*, tells the fascinating story of building the architect's principal residence through previously unpublished memoirs, letters and photos. **Middleton Public Library, 7425 Hubbard Avenue, Middleton, 7 p.m. (608) 831-5564 or [mid@scls.lib.wi.us](mailto:mid@scls.lib.wi.us)**



### March 24 Building Taliesin Book Talk in Middleton

See the March 21 event description. **A Room of One's Own, 315 W Gorham Street, 2 p.m. (608) 257-7888 or [room@chorus.net](mailto:room@chorus.net)**

See more winter events on page 9.

## Winter Events and Exhibits at the Wisconsin Historical Museum

*Admission by donation (unless otherwise noted)*

### Through March 23 **Bottoms Up: A Toast to Wisconsin's Historic Bars & Breweries**

Explore Wisconsin's tavern culture through historic photos and breweriana, and discover how the state came to dominate the brewing industry. **9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday**

### Through August 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**

### January 12 **Toasting Our Fermented Past**

Kevin Cullen, archaeology associate at Discovery World, will explore the archaeological evidence of brewing beer throughout the world and Wisconsin, including a discussion of recent re-creations of ancient recipes. **1 – 2:30 p.m.**

**Registration required by Friday, January 11**

### January 15 **History Sandwiched In: Life, Death and Archaeology at Fort Blue Mounds**

Robert A. Birmingham, author of *Life, Death and Archaeology at Fort Blue Mounds*, will summarize the 1832 conflict and details the history of Fort Blue Mounds. **12:15 – 1 p.m.**

### January 26 **The Science of Beer**

David Ryder, chief brew master at MillerCoors, will give an entertaining romp through brewing history as he traces back various styles of beer, ingredients and processing methods, and where the industry is headed today.

**1 – 3 p.m. Registration required by Friday, January 18.**

### February 2 **Beer and Chocolate**

Furthermore Beer will provide its best brews to complement Gail Ambrosius' sweet treats as they take you on a delicious journey through new flavor combinations. **1 – 3 p.m.**

**Registration required by Friday, January 25. Must be 21+.**

February 5 **History Sandwiched In: Teju the Storyteller**  
Come and listen to tales of African heritage by Teju (Tejumola Ologboni), a master storyteller and folklorist of international renown. **12:15 – 1 p.m.**

### February 9 **Ojibwe Songwriting**

Join folk music singer and songwriter Bobby Bullet St. Germaine for a compelling performance as he shares his story and his Ojibwe heritage. **1:30 – 2:30 p.m.**

### February 9 **Omeyocan Dance Company**

Watch the Omeyocan Dance Company performance featuring authentic dances, costumes and music as they entertain and educate about Mexico's colorful cultural history. **11 a.m. – noon**

### February 16 – 17 **Madison Winter Festival**

Madison Winter Festival revelers can drop in to warm up with hot chocolate and explore Wisconsin's distinct heritage through the museum's exhibits. **Saturday 10 a.m. – 3 p.m., Sunday 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.**

### February 19 **History Sandwiched In: Civil War Quilts and Stories**

Join quilter Pat Ehrenberg as she shares her knowledge of the stories of quilts made during the Civil War. **12:15 – 1 p.m.**

### February 23 **Woodland Flutes**

Frank Montano plays and makes a unique type of flute called the Woodland flute after the people who historically played it, Woodland Indians. Come learn more about this traditional instrument, and listen to Frank as he shares his knowledge of the Woodland flute. **11 a.m. – noon**

### February 23 **Iroquois Raised Beadwork**

Join Karen Ann Hoffman, a member of the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin, as she discusses Iroquois raised beadwork. **1:30 – 2:30 p.m.**

The museum is located at 30 North Carroll Street on Madison's Capitol Square. For more information call (608) 264-6555, email [museum@wisconsinhistory.org](mailto:museum@wisconsinhistory.org) or visit [wisconsinhistory.org/museum](http://wisconsinhistory.org/museum).

\* Wisconsin Innovations is made possible by a lead grant from the Madison Community Foundation, generous gifts from American Family Insurance, the Evjue Foundation, Inc., and Sentry Equipment Corporation, with additional support from Ann L. Koski, Promega Corporation, Madison Gas and Electric Foundation, U.S. Bank and Wisconsin Public Radio.

### Save the Date

#### Looking for a Home: An African-American Genealogy Conference

Friday and Saturday, June 21-22, 2013

The Pyle Center, 702 Langdon Street, Madison

For more information email [asklibrary@wisconsinhistory.org](mailto:asklibrary@wisconsinhistory.org)

## Society Welcomes Black Point Estate in Lake Geneva to its Family of Historic Sites



One of the elegant rooms of Black Point Estate



The front porch overlooks the scenic Geneva Lake shoreline

ONE OF WISCONSIN'S most magnificent properties, Black Point Estate, a historic house and gardens on the shore of Geneva Lake, joined the other 11 historic sites and museums managed by the Society, effective January 1. Chicago beer baron Conrad Seipp built the grand Queen Anne-style home in 1888 as a summer family getaway to give his family respite from the heat and bustle of the city. Seipp's great-grandson, William O. Petersen, donated the 20-room house, its grounds and furnishings to the state of Wisconsin in September 2005 for use as a state historic site.

Part of Petersen's motivation for donating the lakefront property is that he lamented the loss of so many of Lake Geneva's original homes and wanted to avoid the same fate for Black Point. Following a \$1.9 million state-financed restoration overseen by the Department of Administration, Black Point opened for visitation in June 2007. Between then and January 1, 2013, the Black Point Preserve Inc. Board of Directors, composed of dedicated volunteers, ably managed the house and property. During that time the Preserve has shared the story of the house and family with tens of thousands of visitors who arrive at the estate the most authentic and popular way, by boat, just as family and friends did in a bygone era.

The house is one of the oldest mansions in Lake Geneva. The Seipp family, while building Black Point, was simultaneously building a new mansion in Chicago and moved much of the

furniture from the family's previous Chicago home into Black Point. The four generations of Seipps kept all of those furnishings in the house, making it a rare time capsule for historians. As each generation took its place, though, it added its own touches so that now everyday household items range from Victorian to modern but share the same family provenance.

"We're delighted to welcome Black Point into our network of historic sites and museums," said Ellsworth Brown, The Ruth and Hartley Barker Director of the Society. "We have a longstanding tradition of interpreting the state's history through historic homes and buildings, and Black Point is a real treasure chest of Wisconsin history."

As was typical of Lake Geneva mansions built in the late 19th century, Black Point's creators saw it as a "summer cottage." With no roads or access to utilities, the owners of these splendid structures never envisioned that they could ever be more. Black Point is open for tours from May through October. For the rest of the year, it quietly sleeps as it has for more than 124 years.

A conservation easement protects Black Point and its 620 feet of shoreline from future development, and a conditional use permit helps define the parameters of operation so that Black Point will continue the operating traditions that protect the privacy of nearby residents.

Look for more details about Black Point's 2013 operating season in the spring issue of *Columns*. •

Staff of the Lake Geneva Regional News contributed to this story.



The front hall



The dining room

## \$237,000 Awarded for Local Preservation Training

IN SEPTEMBER THE Society received a \$237,000 grant from the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services' "Connecting to Collections" program to help preserve historical collections in local institutions. Working with the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, the Wisconsin Federation of Museums and Wisconsin Library Services, the Society will train more than 300 local staff in low-cost, practical measures that improve their current collections care and help them respond to emergencies. The training will consist of 28 statewide and regional conferences over the next two years. Conference workshops will also cover risk assessment, disaster planning and salvage strategies, so local organizations can respond professionally to floods, fires, storms and other catastrophes.

Society Preservation Coordinator Katie Mullen, who administers the grant, said, "it allows us to address the greatest preservation needs of Wisconsin cultural heritage institutions in the most effective manner possible – through

hands-on training held across the state and by strengthening the networks among all small and large Wisconsin collecting institutions to better share resources and information."

Matt Blessing, director of the Society's Library-Archives Division, views the grant as a direct result of the Society's recently completed capital campaign: "Our ability to offer this kind of substantive training is a fine example of the direct benefits stemming from the endowed preservation coordinator position, a major initiative within the recently completed *Forward!* Campaign."

The institute's "Connecting to Collections" program funded the project, which is the federal government's principal way of supporting the nation's 17,500 museums and 123,000 libraries. Wisconsin was one of only eight states to receive the award this year.

For more information, contact Katie Mullen, the Society's preservation coordinator, at (608) 264-6489 or via email to [kathleen.mullen@wisconsinhistory.org](mailto:kathleen.mullen@wisconsinhistory.org). •



The Society's Preservation Coordinator  
Katie Mullen

## Easier Access to Society Headquarters on the Horizon

THE SOCIETY APPRECIATES your patience as its headquarters at 816 State Street in Madison undergoes a flurry of construction that will result in a new ADA-compliant wheelchair ramp on the north side facing the Memorial Union. Additional work involves waterproofing the film vault, which lies beneath the sidewalk and lawn in front of the building, and repair of the carved stone lions that overlook the front entrance, which will remain closed until spring or early summer. Miron Construction of Neenah is the general contractor for the \$2.9 million project.

All of this much-need work coincides with a demolition and construction project on the Memorial Union. Langdon Street is temporarily restricted to one-way, westbound traffic, and fences cordon off much of the University of Wisconsin's Library Mall. Please allow a few extra minutes of travel time when visiting the Society. The best nearby public parking is Madison's Lake Street Parking Ramp. For questions about access to the building during construction, scheduled for completion in August 2013, please call (608) 264-6535. •



Miron construction workers excavate near the area where a new wheelchair ramp will begin at street level



Workers remove the balustrade's corner block



Workers begin removing the front steps



LISA MCGOVERN

Raspberry School at Old World Wisconsin

## Old World Wisconsin Field Trips Meet State Academic Standards

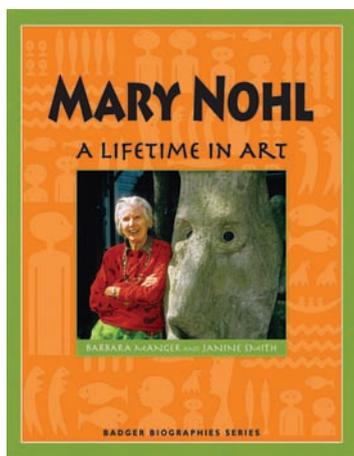
OLD WORLD WISCONSIN strives to continually create programs for students that align with state academic standards for social studies. Students participate in a variety of activities that vividly demonstrate how life in the past connects to the ideas they are learning in the classroom. Teachers choose two or three one-hour programs from among the seven offered. Each program comprises visits to selected buildings on the site that illustrate an immigration theme. One can experience the life of a newly arrived immigrant at the 1840s Fossebrekke house in the Norwegian area, where students cooperate in packing trunks, as if they are leaving on their voyage to America.

At the 1860s Kvaale house, inhabited by an immigrant family who had been in the U.S. for 20 years, students card wool – signaling they had become part of the local economy and community – and furnishings reflect an American influence on the family. A trip to the 1900s Raspberry School includes a mock lesson

and a short recess activity. Together the activities weave a story of how immigrants arrived, adopted American characteristics and held hopes that their children would embrace the culture of their new homeland.

The education staff encourages teachers to rate Old World Wisconsin school programs on a scale of one to five, using the feedback to adjust programs to make sure that a field trip to Old World Wisconsin is a winning experience for students and teachers alike. The teacher input also gives them a voice in how modifications to the field trip programs will help them achieve their teaching goals.

Teachers planning on scheduling a field trip should contact Old World Wisconsin at (262) 594-6301 or email [owwschooltours@wisconsinhistory.org](mailto:owwschooltours@wisconsinhistory.org). For more information, visit the museum's website at [oldworldwisconsin.org](http://oldworldwisconsin.org) and follow the field trips link.



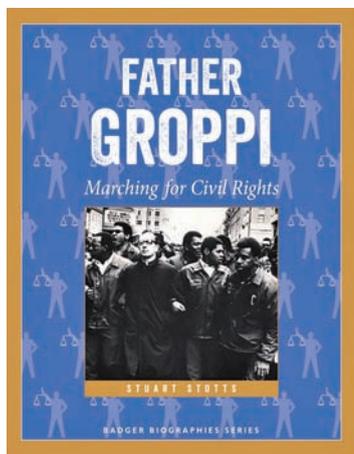
## Mary Nohl and Father Groppi Featured in Two New Badger Biographies

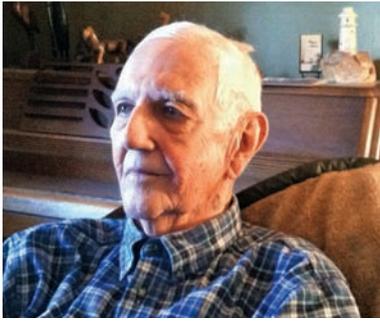
THE SOCIETY PRESS expands its Badger Biographies offerings to young readers with biographies about Milwaukee artist, Mary Nohl, and Milwaukee civil rights activist, Father James Groppi.

*Mary Nohl: A Lifetime in Art* by Barbara Manger and Janine Smith tells the story of a Milwaukee-born artist who made her home on the shores of Lake Michigan. From the time she was young, Mary Nohl enjoyed making things and working with tools. Her interest in art blossomed at the Chicago Institute of Art, where she developed a lifetime of curiosity and ventured into new mediums. From pottery and silver jewelry to oil painting and concrete sculpture, Mary explored new ways of making art. She made many of her pieces from “found” objects that other people might think of as junk, such as chicken bones, bedsprings and sand. Though she died in 2001, Mary's legacy continues. The John Michael Kohler Arts Center in Sheboygan holds a collection of her art, and her home in Fox Point is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

*Father Groppi: Marching for Civil Rights* by Stuart Stotts tells the story of the Catholic priest who stood up for civil rights in the 1960s and '70s. Growing up on Milwaukee's south side as the son of Italian immigrants, Father James Groppi knew what it felt like to be treated poorly because of who you are and learned to respect people from other groups. While studying to become a priest, Groppi saw the discrimination African Americans faced. Father Groppi marched with Martin Luther King Jr. and other leaders of the civil rights movement, but he focused much of his work on his own city. In Milwaukee he teamed up with the NAACP and other organizations, protesting discrimination and segregation. This important story of a turbulent time in Wisconsin history sheds light on the civil rights movement and its place in the North.

The Badger Biographies series helps kids ages 7 to 12 explore the stories of real Wisconsin people. Learn more about our Badger Biographies at [wisconsinhistory.org/whspress/series-young.asp](http://wisconsinhistory.org/whspress/series-young.asp).





## Meet: George Elder

### Spotlight on Supporters

#### Lifelong Madisonian Creates Lasting Legacy

George Elder has not only lived in Madison, Wisconsin, his entire life, he has also resided in the same house that whole time, nestled on a tree-lined block in the Williamson-Marquette neighborhood. Elder inherited his childhood home from his parents, who purchased the dwelling in 1920. But don't let that fool you, he is no homebody — Elder has a fondness for travel and his global voyages have taken him “just about anywhere you can think of.”

Recently, Elder informed the Wisconsin Historical Foundation that he has included a provision in his will to support the Wisconsin Historical Society. Following is a transcript of a recent interview with him.

#### Why does history matter to you?

If you visit the National Archives building in Washington, D.C., there is an enormous sculpture on the Pennsylvania Avenue side of the building called “The Future” by Robert Aitken. It is a statue of a young woman who lifts her eyes from the pages of an open book and gazes into the future. Its base is inscribed with a line inspired by Shakespeare's play *The Tempest*: “What is Past is Prologue.” I believe history matters because it influences the present. It is important to make certain history is passed onto today's young people. That's what generations before us did, so why not continue that arrangement?

#### Are you particularly interested in any specific aspects of history?

I suspect that I have been captivated by history since I was a child. I am especially interested in the history and development of the United States. I greatly admire George Washington and Thomas Jefferson and the other prominent statesmen of America's revolutionary generation. However, my favorite American president is Abraham Lincoln. His career as a lawyer is often overlooked and is truly fascinating. I recently discovered that Lincoln argued many important cases in defense of the railroad companies. As president, Lincoln signed the Pacific Railway Act, which led to the creation of the Transcontinental Railroad.

#### What is special, in your view, about the Wisconsin Historical Society?

I have vivid memories of going to see the museum as a child when it was housed in the same building as the Society's headquarters on the UW-Madison campus. Today the museum is located on the Capitol Square and remains an excellent place to visit. The Society also operates several wonderful historic sites throughout the state, many which are museums themselves. The historic sites really tell the story of Wisconsin — how it evolved, its various ethnic cultures, and what life used to be like. They serve both a recreational and academic purpose. I've used the Society's library from time to time, and I believe the archives provide an invaluable service to both individuals and private companies. In addition to personal papers, many people don't realize that the archives also

houses incorporation papers and charter documents for thousands of Wisconsin corporations.

#### What inspired you to include the Wisconsin Historical Society in your estate plans?

I have decided to include several organizations that have enriched my life in Madison in my will and that have a legitimate and worthy need for funds. The Wisconsin Historical Society is one organization that has a rather diverse field of functions, including academic and recreational. It serves millions of people statewide, which requires a substantial amount of funding, making it a very appropriate place to make a donation. I am generally a “tight-fisted” individual, but I have realized you can't take it with you, and the next best thing is to direct it towards beneficial causes that make sense. •

### Create a Lasting Legacy – Join the Robert B.L. Murphy Legacy Circle

Creating a legacy often means handing down what we value most. For many of us, that includes making certain that our successors will inherit our history and heritage.

You can help ensure future generations will become heir to the stories of our state and nation by including the Wisconsin Historical Foundation in your will, naming the Foundation as a beneficiary of your retirement plan or establishing a life-income or other planned gift. For more information about the various ways you can support the Society through gift planning, please contact Sarah Milestone at (608) 264-6585 or via email at sarah.milestone@wisconsinhistory.org.



Diane Nixa

## Meet the Wisconsin Historical Foundation's New Co-Directors

WE ARE PLEASED to announce that Diane Nixa and Wes Mosman Block have been appointed co-directors of the Wisconsin Historical Foundation.

**Diane L. Nixa**  
**Co-Director and Chief Advancement Officer**

DIANE JOINED THE Wisconsin Historical Foundation in October 2010 as director of philanthropy. Before moving to Wisconsin to be closer to family in Minnesota, Diane served as managing director, development and special events with New York City Ballet. Previously she was vice president of development with Friends of the High Line in New York City, and vice president of development at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center where she oversaw a comprehensive \$180 million campaign to build

an endowment and enhance ongoing operational and capital fundraising programs. She holds a bachelor's degree in literature-communications from the University of North Florida and an MBA from the University of California-Davis.

**Wesley E. Mosman Block**  
**Co-Director and Chief Operations Officer**

WES JOINED THE Wisconsin Historical Foundation in 2006 and has served the Foundation as annual giving manager, operations manager and director of operations. Wes is a native of Bayside, Wisconsin, and earned his bachelor's degree from St. Olaf College in political science. He relocated to Madison to join the Foundation staff and has since earned his MBA from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.



Wes Mosman Block

## Members Toast Wisconsin's Historic Bars and Breweries

MEMBERS TOASTED WISCONSIN'S storied tavern culture at two events in September and October. Guests celebrated the release of a new book from the Wisconsin Historical Society Press, *Bottoms Up: A Toast to Wisconsin's Historic Bars & Breweries*, in La Crosse, where they also

enjoyed a sneak preview of Wisconsin Public Television's companion documentary. Members also celebrated the opening of a new Bottoms Up companion exhibit at the Wisconsin Historical Museum in Madison.

To purchase a copy of *Bottoms Up: A Toast to Wisconsin's Historic Bars & Breweries*, or its companion documentary from Wisconsin Public Television, visit [wisconsinhistory.org/shop](http://wisconsinhistory.org/shop) or call (888) 999-1669.

For more information about viewing the Bottoms Up exhibit at the Wisconsin Historical Museum, visit [wisconsinhistory.org/museum](http://wisconsinhistory.org/museum) or call (608) 264-6555.



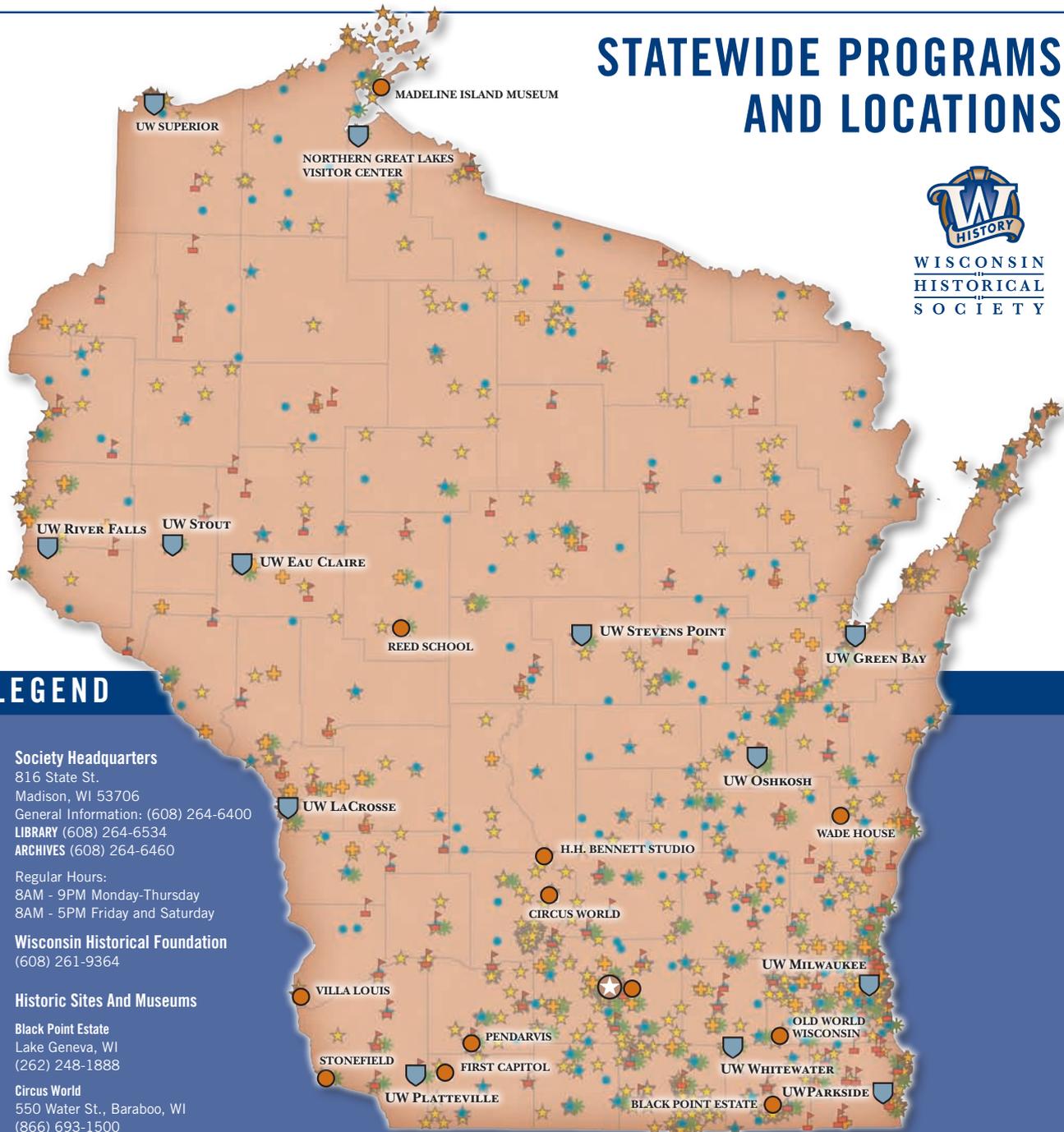
(Above) Erik and Neal Ford  
(Right) Karen Rude and Gail Cleary



# STATEWIDE PROGRAMS AND LOCATIONS



WISCONSIN  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY



## LEGEND



### Society Headquarters

816 State St.  
Madison, WI 53706  
General Information: (608) 264-6400  
LIBRARY (608) 264-6534  
ARCHIVES (608) 264-6460

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

**Wisconsin Historical Foundation**  
(608) 261-9364



### Historic Sites And Museums

**Black Point Estate**  
Lake Geneva, WI  
(262) 248-1888

**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. VV, 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](http://wisconsinhistory.org/museum)  
Museum Store  
(888) 999-1669



### Area Research Centers

[wisconsinhistory.org/library/archives/arcnet](http://wisconsinhistory.org/library/archives/arcnet)



### Affiliated Historical Societies



### Active Historic Preservation Commissions



### Participating National History Day Schools



### Fourth-grade Textbook In Use

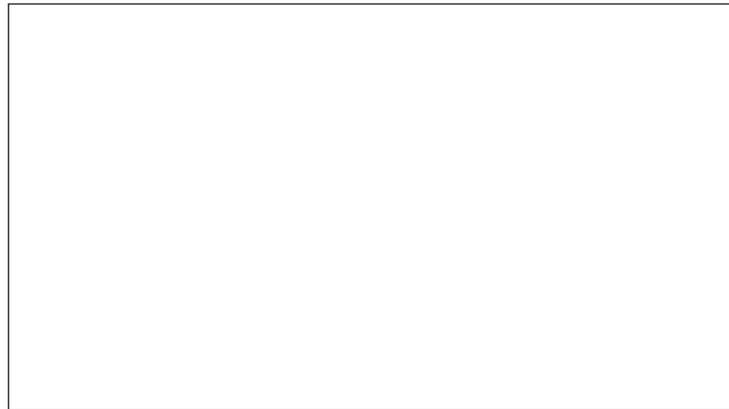


### National Register Listings

# Columns

Published Quarterly by the Wisconsin Historical Society  
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Periodical Class



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## *Did you know?*

- The Sunday afternoon ritual during summers at Black Point was to make ice cream, with each child taking a turn at the churn.
- To teach responsibility, each child in the Black Point household was assigned a goat for the summer to care for and keep out of the gardens.
- Alma Schmidt Petersen was the first to envision Black Point as a house museum, but it was her son William and his wife Jane who made it happen.

Though Black Point always served the Conrad Seipp family as a summer home only, the elegantly furnished house exudes an air of opulence and wealth.



### 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](http://wisconsinhistory.org).



Wisconsin Historical  
FOUNDATION

# Thank You to Our Donors

## 2011 - 2012

The Wisconsin Historical Foundation and Wisconsin Historical Society thank the following individuals and organizations for their invaluable annual contributions. Your generous support provided over \$2.8 million in critical funding for our ongoing education, genealogy, local history and historic preservation programs, historic sites and museums activities, and the preservation of the priceless evidence of Wisconsin's heritage.

The following giving levels and listed contributions represent cumulative gifts of \$500 or more to the annual fund from July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012.



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*Family at History on the Square*



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 Coburn Company, Inc.  
 Commonwealth Cultural Resources Group  
 Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation  
 International Harvester Collectors, Missouri  
 Murphy Desmond S.C.  
 The QTI Group  
 Sensient Technologies Corporation  
 U.S. Bank, NA  
 Wisconsin Society of Mayflower Descendants

### **\$1,000 TO \$2,499**

Anonymous  
Alliant Energy/Alliant Energy Foundation  
Alpha Investment  
Bad River Band of Lake Superior Tribe of  
Chippewa Indians  
City of Madison  
Friends of Wade House, Inc.  
German Interest Group  
International Harvester Collectors - Indiana  
International Harvester Collectors, Inc  
Marshfield Clinic  
Mead & Hunt  
Name Badge Productions, LLC  
Navistar  
Needle Arts Association  
Northland College  
University Of Wisconsin - Extension  
WPS Health Insurance  
Xcel Energy Foundation  
Zebradog

### **\$500 TO \$999**

Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest  
CUES (Credit Union Executives Society)  
Fisher Barton Inc.  
Fond du Lac Area Foundation  
Herbert H. Kohl Charities  
International Harvester Collectors,  
Chapter #15 of Minnesota  
Isthmus Architecture, Inc.  
Keweenaw Bay Indian Community  
MGIC  
Spacesaver  
University League  
Wisconsin Archeological Survey  
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources  
Wisconsin Department of Transportation  
Wisconsin Genealogical Society

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*In recognition of individuals who have  
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*\*In Memoriam*



*Ruth & Will Bloedow*

*If you are aware of an omission or error in the lists above, please accept our apologies and  
contact the Wisconsin Historical Foundation Advancement Office at 608-261-9364.*

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*The Wisconsin Historical Foundation and the Wisconsin Historical Society value the generosity and support from all members.  
We owe a debt of gratitude to you and so many others too numerous to mention here. Thank you for your support.*