

COLLECTING, PRESERVING AND SHARING STORIES *Since* 1846

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THE NEWSLETTER of the WISCONSIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Agricultural Archives Came to Madison

LEARN HOW THE WISCONSIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY TRIUMPHED OVER 30 INSTITUTIONS

to receive the worldwide archives of the McCormick/International Harvester Collection. *Read more:* PG 11

Director's Column



ELLSWORTH H. BROWN The Ruth and Hartley Barker Director

COLUMNS BOB GRANFLATEN, EDITOR

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

COLUMNS

Wisconsin Historical Society 816 State Street Madison, WI 53706

FINDING UNEXPECTED THINGS IN UNEXPECTED PLACES

IN THIS ISSUE OF COLUMNS we're focusing on two of the Society's most prominent archival collections. The story on page 10 announces the recent acquisition of 28 rare and exquisite Frank Lloyd Wright house designs that add to our nationally important holdings of Wright sources. And on page 11 we describe how the Society came to be the only archives of McCormick/ International Harvester materials in the world. Other holdings that rank the Society as a national leader in American history scholarship include our civil rights collections (see the related story on page 14), labor and mass communications history, film and theater history, and early American exploration and settlement. But what about some of the lesser-known gems researchers can find while exploring our library and archival collections?

One of our archivists, Simone Munson, recently surveyed her Society colleagues, asking them to submit some of their favorite items from the wide-ranging collections for a yearlong exhibit now available for viewing on the fourth floor of the headquarters building. Here are some of the items the staff suggested:

- An 1864 Ojibwe petition and set of grievances submitted to the U.S. Commission of Indian Affairs, written phonetically in the native Anishinaabe language and in English, describing decades of failed treaty obligations.
- Fabric swatches and designs from Academy Award-winning costume designer Dorothy Jeakins for the 1965 production of *The Sound of Music* from the collections of our partners, the Wisconsin Center for Film and Theater Research.
- Several examples of more than 400 daguerreotypes in the Society's collections, the earliest form of photography, from the 1840s.
- From our library's rare book room, the first audit of federal expenditures, printed during George Washington's first term in office. The document's rarity is attributed to the 1814 burning of Washington, D.C., by British troops during the War of 1812.
- From the library's government publications collection, the 1995, 1,000page *Roswell Report: Fact versus Fiction in the New Mexico Desert*, published by the U.S. Air Force and debunking any notion that the government covered up reports of the recovery of an alien spacecraft in 1947 near Roswell, New Mexico.

These and other unexpected finds are just the tip of an enormous array of original sources in the Society's collections. Come see the free exhibit, or browse our easily searchable new website at wisconsinhistory.org to learn more.

EB

THIS VIBRANT WATERCOLOR PAINTING BY RENOWNED **GERMAN AMERICAN FOLK ARTIST PAUL**

SEIFERT documents an early Wisconsin farmstead. See an exhibit of Seifert's paintings, *Wisconsin in Watercolor,* at the Wisconsin Historical Museum in Madison through August 30.





OLD WORLD EXPERIENCE: **WAUSAU, JUNE 21**



Author KARYN SAEMANN gives an interactive presentation



AMELIE OLSON crafts a family tree

YOU ARE INVITED!

AS PART OF THE FIRST

Wisconsin History Tour stop in Wausau, Society members and community members gathered June 21 for Old World Experience: Wausau, a free member and community appreciation event for all ages. The afternoon began with a short, interactive presentation by Karyn Saemann, author of the new Wisconsin Historical **Society Press Badger Biographies** Series book, Electa Quinney: Stockbridge Teacher. Afterward, guests explored the Wisconsin History Tour exhibit, participated in history-related activities like decorating old-fashioned kites and learning one-room school recess games, enjoyed complimentary refreshments, shopped for Wisconsin Historical Society Press books and more.

As part of the *Wisconsin History Tour*, you are invited to attend an Old World Experience event customized for each *Tour* stop. Be sure to join us and pick up your free commemorative *Tour* gift as a thank you for your membership support.



AUGUST 23 – Old World Experience: Verona SEPTEMBER 27 – Old World Experience: Racine OCTOBER 25 – Old World Experience: Sheboygan NOVEMBER TBD – Old World Experience: La Crosse

For more information or to register early, contact the Membership Office at (888) 748-7479 or email membership@wisconsinhistory.org. For complete *Tour* information, visit **WisconsinHistoryTour.org**.





The new Old World Wisconsin tram passing by the Ramsey Barn Photo: BOB JOHNSTON

NEW TRAMS FOR OLD WORLD WISCONSIN

THE FIRST OF TWO NEW TRAMS is busy shuttling guests throughout Old World Wisconsin this summer thanks to a \$250,000 gift from an anonymous donor. The first tram is a wonderful and much-needed addition to an aging fleet. More than 96 percent of visitors rely on trams for transportation around the historic site that covers 576 acres just south of Eagle in Waukesha County. The reliability of the new tram, along with its cleaner, more fuel-efficient liquid propane gas engine and easy access for visitors with limited mobility, made the need for a second tram clear.

Several very generous donors enabled the purchase of a second tram, scheduled to arrive next season. Special thanks to Claire and Marjorie Johnson, Edward U. Demmer Foundation, Patty Schmitt, Dawn and David Stucki, Waukesha County Community Foundation, an anonymous donor and all those who contributed to the project. Donations for the new tram have added value they exceeded a fundraising goal and initiated a matching grant from Robert and Patricia Kern. The Society is ever grateful to the Kerns for their gift toward the design and construction of a new Discovery Station in Old World Wisconsin's crossroads village area.

The Society sincerely thanks all who supported the effort to purchase new trams and enhance the experience of our Old World Wisconsin visitors.

MONIQUE, SHANDY, JENNICA and ZANDER ROBERTS make kites

WHAT'S ON OUR BOOKSHELF

THE WISCONSIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY Collecting, Preserving and Sharing Stories Since 1846

TWO YEARS BEFORE WISCONSIN became a state, a small gathering of pioneers helped form one of Wisconsin's most cherished institutions — the Wisconsin Historical Society. In the new Society Press book due to arrive in October 2014, *The Wisconsin Historical Society: Collecting, Preserving and Sharing Stories Since 1846*, author John Zimm explores the history of



the Society from its earliest days as pioneers worked to record history as it was happening. The book also covers the Society's struggles to weather the Great Depression and World War II as well as its landmark efforts to record the most important social and political movements of our time.

Though the Wisconsin Historical Society has grown from a small group of committed pioneers into a nationally renowned organization, its basic mission has stayed the same — to collect, preserve and share the stories of Wisconsin, from every walk of life, in every corner of the state. The story behind the Society's creation is a uniquely Wisconsin story, one that belongs to all who call Wisconsin home.

The elegantly restored Library Reading Room

THREE MORE NEW BOOKS FROM THE SOCIETY PRESS

RECALLING THE DEADLIEST FIRESTORM IN U.S. HISTORY

ON OCTOBER 8, 1871, a raging wildfire destroyed the small village of Peshtigo, Wisconsin. Overshadowed by the great Chicago fire, which started the same day, the Peshtigo fire burned 2,400 square miles and whole communities to the ground. Among the first to record the devastation and aftermath was fire survivor, the Reverend Peter Pernin, a Peshtigo clergyman. This fall the Society Press will reprint Pernin's account, The Great Peshtigo Fire: An Eyewitness Account, which it first published in 1971. This year's publication complements the Society's 2013 young readers' book, The Great Peshtigo Fire: Stories and Science from America's Deadliest Firestorm, which draws from Societyheld audio recordings of interviews with people who survived the fire as children. E-book editions of both books are also available.

HEEDING THE NATIVE VOICES OF WISCONSIN

WISCONSIN HAS A RICH

TRADITION and history of sustainability that began with its first Americans who, along with some of the state's most famous conservationists, shaped its landscape and informed its "earth ethics." Seventh Generation Earth Ethics: Native Voices of Wisconsin by Patty Loew is a collection of biographies, one from each of the 12 Indian nations of Wisconsin. These activists. artists, educators and advocates acted in a way that ensures the growth and success of future generations. In this way, they honor the Ojibwe's "Seventh Generation" philosophy, which cautions decision makers to consider how their actions will affect seven generations in the future some 240 years.





PAYING HOMAGE TO LAKE MICHIGAN AUTHOR KEVIN J. MIYAZAKI, a Milwaukee-

based fine-art photographer, has given us Perimeter: A Contemporary Portrait of Lake Michigan, which reflects on and celebrates the importance that Lake Michigan holds in the life of all who visit and use it. Miyazaki embarked on a two-week, 1,800mile drive along the perimeter of Lake Michigan. He photographed the water, which changed with the weather and time, and the people he met along the way - from residents, environmental scientists and artists to a Native American water-rights advocate, surfers and commercial fishermen. Perimeter creates a diverse portrait of both the people and the place, encapsulating Lake Michigan's significance to all those who are drawn to it. An e-book edition will also be available.

SOCIETY MEMBERS RECEIVE A 10-PERCENT DISCOUNT ON ALL BOOK ORDERS.

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

STATE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES **RECENT ADDITIONS**

OTHER PROPERTIES LISTED:

Henry and Mary Heyrman House, De Pere, Brown County Edwin and Jenny Gutknecht House, De Pere, Brown County

INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS LODGE NO. 89

Rosendale, Fond du Lac County

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows Lodge, a simple, two-story frame building constructed in 1891, served the Rosendale community for 89 years. It was used as a meeting hall for fraternal organizations and as a social center for the community, hosting events such as school basketball games, dances, plays, roller skating and dinners. Fraternal groups were devoted to serving their community. In Rosendale they provided mutual relief for members, and helped the elderly and poor. This building stands as a reminder of the importance of social organizations — particularly in small towns. The Rosendale Historical Society owns the building and will open it to the public as a museum in 2014.





MAJOR ANDERSON SHIPWRECK Vicinity of Town of Two Rivers, Manitowoc County

The *Major Anderson*, now lying on the lakebed in three to 10 feet of water, was constructed in 1861 by shipwright Ira Laffrinier. The *Major Anderson* is a barkentine, a vessel type which is one of the least common of the Great Lakes sailing vessels, and is one of only two known in Wisconsin waters. Much of our understanding of this vessel type has come from archaeological data recorded from wreck sites like the *Major Anderson*. This wreck site will continue to yield significant information on barkentine construction, expanding our knowledge and understanding of this vessel type and its role in Great Lakes commerce.

DEVIL'S LAKE STATE PARK *Town of Baraboo, Sauk County*

Devil's Lake State Park is the third oldest, largest, and most popular state park in the Wisconsin state park system. At its center is Devil's Lake, one of Wisconsin's most spectacular geological features. People have been drawn to the beauty of this lake for thousands of years, and the conical, linear and effigy mounds indicate it had sacred meaning to Native American peoples long before the first non-native settlers arrived. Visitation by non-native people led to the growth of tourism, which in turn facilitated the establishment of the lake and its surroundings as a state park. Since its founding in 1911, the park has embodied the full range of recreational uses offered in a state park supported by an intact collection of Rustic-style park architecture, all of which influenced generations of visitors in the way in which they experience the grandeur of natural and geologic features.





HENRY AND CREMORA ROGERS HOUSE Appleton, Outagamie County

The Henry and Cremora Rogers House, built in 1881, was previously listed in the State Register of Historic Places but has been re-nominated to elevate its significance to the national level. While this house is one of Wisconsin's exceptional examples of the Queen Anne style, it is nationally significant as the first house in the United States to be incandescently illuminated by a hydroelectric-powered Western Edison Electric Light Company dynamo power station and an Edison Electric System. Remnants of this original electrical system are intact, making this house a rare glimpse into the early techniques used in residential electrification. The eventual widespread use of electricity and its profound effect on daily life is due, in part, to the success of electrification in this house, which encouraged others to invest in the technology. Today the property serves as the Hearthstone Historic House Museum and is open to public tours.

Local History

HISTORY IN Your backyard

Museum Studies Students Lend Helping Hands at the Beloit Historical Society



LEFT TO RIGHT: Beloit College museum studies students EMILY STARCK, GLENNE TIETZER and HADLEY SIBON rehoused the Beloit Historical Society's historic shoe collection.

MUSEUM STUDIES PROGRAMS focus their students on high standards and best practices, but reality dictates that people working in museums, historical societies and historic houses need to know how to safely cut corners on a shoestring budget. During the spring semester of 2014, students in the Beloit College undergraduate museum studies program had an opportunity to not only understand the challenges facing a small, local historical society, but conducted a service-learning project that improved preservation of, and access to, the society's textile collections.

Students in an introduction to collections management class visited the museum to learn about the society's history and needs, and developed projects that would address inadequate storage conditions. After learning how to make custom-sized archival boxes in class, students created boxes to fit existing shelving at the society and rehoused historic hats in the newly constructed boxes.

While small in scale, this project demonstrates the mutually beneficial value of collaboration between an undergraduate museum studies program and a local historical organization. Students gained practical experience as well as an appreciation of local history and the many stories these objects hold.

WISCONSIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND WATER COUNCIL ANNOUNCE PARTNERSHIP

THE MILWAUKEE-BASED WATER COUNCIL has

announced that it has formed a partnership with the Wisconsin Historical Society to document the ongoing water initiative that the Council believes will shape the economic future of the state. The Water Council is a conglomerate of industries, educational institutions, nonprofits and other organizations that share a mission to establish the Milwaukee region as the World Water Hub for water research, economic development and education.

The Society will hire a public historian with an office in The Water Council's office at the Global Water Center, recently opened in Milwaukee. This historian will link Society staff and resources in Madison with The Water Council, providing assistance and training with records management and archival documentation, as well as access to the Society's extensive water-related research collections, including maps, images and primary sources that tell the story of the western Great Lakes and Wisconsin's water resources. The Society and The Water Council also plan to partner in providing outreach and educational programming throughout the Milwaukee area in the future.

The Society/Council partnership was made possible, in part, through a generous, one-year, \$40,000 grant from the Sally Mead Hands Foundation whose mission is to support projects that increase human and environmental capital in a world of limited resources.

NOMINATIONS TO THE BOARD OF CURATORS

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

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

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

LOCAL HISTORY HIGHLIGHT

Working to Create a Virtual Local Historical Society in Rio, Wisconsin

AMONG THE CHALLENGES OF ORGANIZING a local historical society in a small community such as Rio, Wisconsin — only about 1,000 people call the Columbia County village home — is lack of financial resources. But, with enough ingenuity and drive, committed



nough ingenuity and drive, committed citizens with an interest in their community history can find ways to overcome such obstacles.

A few years ago a small group of people began discussing the village's history during meetings of the Rio Community Club. The

group got permission from the local library to meet there twice monthly to discuss what they could do to document the history of the Rio area. An outgrowth of those discussions was the incorporation of the Rio Area Historical Society in 2010 as an affiliate of the Wisconsin Historical Society.

One of the fledgling historical society's first realizations was that it didn't have good prospects for building, or even renting, a headquarters facility. The group then began discussing what it would take to create a virtual local historical society that would create a presence for itself on the Internet. Before long the Rio Area Historical Society had a website and a mailing list for communicating with its members.

The local society sought and received a Wisconsin Historical Society mini-grant to help acquire a software application used by local historical societies and museums to document and track their collections. Using donated equipment at a member's house, any member of the Rio Area Historical Society can now log in to that computer and do work on the system from any location with Internet access.

A local business owner donated space for a workstation and the society's relatively small collection of physical items. The group uses digital files produced at the workstation to post content to their website and currently has about 60 gigabytes of local history content available online. The website has Rio history DVDs available for sale, a series of historical essays, oral histories, an image gallery and a news section. Visit the Rio Area Historical Society online at riohistory.org or send an email to admin@riohistory.org for more information.



FALL LOCAL HISTORY AND HISTORIC Preservation conference in elkhart lake



October 24-25

The Society joins the Wisconsin Council for Local History in announcing the Eighth Annual Local History and Historic Preservation Conference. Join us October 24-25 in Elkhart Lake at the Osthoff Resort and Conference Center. This two-day, informationpacked program draws some of the best and brightest in the field. Attendees will have ample opportunities to mingle with others, share ideas and make connections. The Wisconsin Council for Local History will again sponsor the Town Square networking event. Attendees can learn about activities and programs taking place throughout the state. On Saturday morning a coffeeand-conversation hour will provide an opportunity to talk directly with a variety of experts on various topics.

Conference highlights include an expanded schedule that includes more than 30 sessions and 15 workshops plus nationally known speakers on local history and preservation topics. Of particular interest to local historic preservationists will be training modules for both the beginner and the advanced on Saturday, October 25. Keynote speakers include *New York Times* best-selling author, radio show host, and humorist Michael Perry, as well as the Society's own awardwinning underwater archaeologist, Tamara Thomsen.

A special event at the Wade House historic site in nearby Greenbush will offer an opportunity to explore the era of stagecoaches in Wisconsin. Brochures and registration information will be available online in July. With questions, contact Rick Bernstein at rick.bernstein@wisconsinhistory.org or (608) 264-6583. Visit www.wihist.org/1pjM7rU for reservation information.

SUPPORT THE MINI-GRANT PROGRAM: BECOME A MEMBER OF THE WISCONSIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Through this special promotion, when you become a member of the Society, a percentage of your membership fee will benefit the local history mini-grant fund (\$5-\$20 depending on membership level). These funds will go directly to the Wisconsin Council for Local History.

A Wisconsin Historical Society membership includes benefits like half-price or free admission to 12 historic sites and museums around Wisconsin, subscriptions to the *Wisconsin Magazine of History*, *Columns* and more. Learn more at wihist.org/minigrant2014 or contact the membership office at (888) 748-7479 or membership@wisconsinhistory.org.

EVENT'S ON around our state!

EXHIBIT

THROUGH AUGUST 30 :: WISCONSIN IN WATERCOLOR: THE FARMSCAPES OF PAUL SEIFERT

Wisconsin Historical Museum I Take in an exhibit of German immigrant Paul Seifert's late-1800s watercolor farm pictures from the Wisconsin River Valley landscape he called home. This is the first major exhibition of Seifert's art. 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Tues. – Sat.

AUGUST

AUG 1 - SEP 1 :: CIVIL WAR ENCOUNTERS

Old World Wisconsin I Experience life on the home front and in a reconstructed army camp. 10 a.m. -5 p.m.

AUG 2 :: 1860S JAMS AND JELLIES

Wade House I Help create flavorful jams and jellies as they were made more than 150 years ago. 10 a.m. -5 p.m.

AUG 2 :: KIDS IN A VICTORIAN KITCHEN

Villa Louis I Hands-on cooking workshop for children entering grades three through eight. 9 a.m. - noon.

AUG 5 :: STORIES FROM THE DAYS OF ONE-ROOM SCHOOLS

Wisconsin Historical Museum I Author Susan Apps-Bodilly chronicles life in Wisconsin's early country schools. 12:15-1~p.m.

AUG 7 :: A MIGRANT WORKER'S JOURNEY FROM FIELDS TO STAGE

Wisconsin Historical Museum | Follow singer-songwriter Cris Plata's journey from migrant worker to stage performer. Dinner event: \$28. 6 - 8 p.m

AUG 9 :: VINTAGE BASE BALL MATCH

Old World Wisconsin | The Eagle Diamonds take on the Wade House Red Jackets. 1:30 p.m.

AUG 9 :: SUMMER ART SATURDAYS: WISCONSIN IN WATERCOLOR

Wisconsin Historical Museum | Let your creativity flow with an activity inspired by the exhibition, *Wisconsin in Watercolor.* 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

AUG 12 :: ART AND HISTORY AT SHAKE RAG ALLEY

Wisconsin Historical Museum I Ainsley Anderson, director of performing arts at Shake Rag Alley Center for the Arts in Mineral Point, will discuss the center's history. 12:15-1 p.m.

AUG 16 - 17 :: RAILROAD DAYS

Stonefield I Take a trip back in time to an era when trains provided the main source of transportation. 10 a.m. -5 p.m.

AUG 16 :: SALUTE TO VETERANS

Circus World I Veterans, their spouses and families receive free admission this date to honor their service. 9:30 a.m. - 6 p.m. (Salute to Veterans program at 9:30 a.m.)

AUG 17 :: VINTAGE BASE BALL MATCH

Wade House I The Wade House Red Jackets defend their home turf against another vintage team. 1:30 p.m.

AUG 19 :: THE FOLK ART TREASURE OF ERNEST Hüpeden's painted forest murals

Wisconsin Historical Museum I David Smith, Edgewood College art professor, discusses the visionary murals painted in the late 1890s by itinerant, self-taught artist, Ernest Hüpeden. 12:15 - 1 p.m.



AUG 19 – 23 :: WISCONSIN HISTORY TOUR: VERONA Enjoy five days of activities presented at the Verona Public Library in Verona as part of the monthlong *Wisconsin History Tour.*

Complete Event Schedule at WisconsinHistoryTour.org

AUG 21 :: PORCH, PARLOR AND PLAY KIDS' CRUISE

Black Point Estate I Learn about the daily life of the youngsters who vacationed here. Narrated lake cruise, lawn games, storytelling. Best suited for children 6 through 12 years of age. Noon – 3:30 p.m.

AUG 22 :: VILLA LOUIS BEHIND THE SCENES

Villa Louis I Tours include visits to nooks and crannies of this restored mansion seldom seen by the public. 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

AUG 23 - 24 :: CIVIL WAR ENCOUNTERS: Gone for a soldier

Old World Wisconsin I Become a Civil War soldier as you experience the process of recruiting, enlisting, drilling and marching as a member of a Wisconsin regiment in the Iron Brigade. 10 a.m. -5 p.m.

AUG 24 :: 54TH ANNUAL ARTS AND CRAFTS FAIR

Wade House I Artisans and craftspeople from Wisconsin and across the Midwest display and sell their wares. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

AUG 30 - SEP 1 :: CIRCUS WORLD EQUINE WEEKEND

Circus World I Enjoy train-loading shows using horse power to load circus wagons onto circus railroad flatcars, driving demonstrations with circus wagons and a mini street parade. 9:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.

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

SEPTEMBER

SEP 5 - 7 :: VILLA LOUIS CARRIAGE CLASSIC

Villa Louis I This elegant event is one of the largest carriage driving competitions in the nation. 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. (mansion tours 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.)

SEP 6 :: OLD WORLD WEDDING

Old World Wisconsin I An Old World Wisconsin first: you'll witness the actual, legal union of our bride and groom in a historic Pomeranian wedding ceremony. 10 a.m. -5 p.m.

SEP 6 - 28 :: AUTUMN ON THE FARMS

Old World Wisconsin I Celebrate the harvest season, and help our farm families and villagers bring in their crops every weekend in September. Different activities each weekend. 10 a.m. -5 p.m. weekends only.

SEP 12 - 14 :: WO-ZHA-WA FESTIVAL AND PARADE

H.H. Bennett Studio I All of downtown Wisconsin Dells, the H.H. Bennett Studio included, marks the end of the summer tourism season with this huge festival named for the Ho-Chunk phrase meaning "to have fun." 10 a.m. -4 p.m.

SEP 13 :: BREAKFAST IN A VICTORIAN KITCHEN

Villa Louis I Hands-on cooking workshop for adults. Participants take a culinary tour of the late 19th century through the preparation and consumption of a Victorian breakfast. 8:30 a.m. -1 p.m.

SEP 13 :: VINTAGE BASE BALL MATCH

Old World Wisconsin | The Eagle Diamonds take on the Chicago Salmon. 1:30 p.m.



SEP 16 – 20 :: WISCONSIN HISTORY TOUR: RACINE Enjoy five days of activities presented at the Racine Public Library in Racine as part of the monthlong *Wisconsin History Tour.*

Complete Event Schedule at WisconsinHistoryTour.org

SEP 20 :: GREAT RIVER ROAD FESTIVAL

Stonefield I This riverside historic site will celebrate the history of the Great River Road with a variety of river-related activities on this day. 10 a.m. -5 p.m.

SEP 21 :: VINTAGE BASE BALL MATCH

Wade House I The Wade House Red Jackets defend their home turf against another vintage team. 1:30 p.m.

SEP 26 :: CORNISH FESTIVAL PUB NIGHT

Pendarvis I The quaint Kiddleywink Pub offers a special evening with live music, a cash bar, and a variety of pub games. 7 - 10 p.m.

SEP 27 :: CROWDY CRAWN

Pendarvis I A mixed bag of learning, lore and laughter awaits visitors to this event that will include traditional domestic crafts and Cornish storytelling. 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

SEP 27 :: SAMHAIN SPIRITS

Pendarvis I In ancient Celtic lore, Samhain marked the end of the harvest season, a time when spirits and other mythological creatures can associate with humans. 4-6 p.m.

SEP 27 :: BREAKFAST IN A VICTORIAN KITCHEN

Villa Louis I See the September 13 event description. 8:30 a.m. -1 p.m.

SEP 27 - 28 :: ANISHINAABE CULTURAL DAYS

Madeline Island Museum I Celebrate Ojibwe culture with special programs, demonstrations and exhibits. 10 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

SEP 27 - 28 :: ANNUAL CIVIL WAR WEEKEND

Wade House I Two full days of Civil War drama unfold in the largest Civil War re-enactment and encampment in Wisconsin.

9 a.m. – 7 p.m. Saturday,

9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Sunday (skirmishes at 11 a.m., full-scale battles at 2 p.m.)

OCTOBER

OCT 4 :: BREAKFAST IN A VICTORIAN KITCHEN

Villa Louis I See the September 13 event description. 8:30 a.m. -1 p.m.

OCT 4, 11 AND 18 :: DEATH AND MOURNING IN THE VICTORIAN ERA

Black Point Estate | These programs will feature Victorian funeral and mourning customs, a first-floor house tour and a narrated lake boat tour on the Lake Geneva Cruise Line. $4-7:30~{\rm p.m.}$

OCT 4 – 26 \colon AUTUMN ON THE FARMS

Old World Wisconsin I Celebrate the harvest season, and help our farm families and villagers bring in their crops every weekend in October. Different activities each weekend. 10 a.m. -5 p.m. weekends only.

FIRST YEAR OF TOUR STOPS 2014-2015

Wausau in June Ephraim in July Verona in August Racine in September Sheboygan in October La Crosse in November Milwaukee in January Green Bay in February Appleton in March Waukesha in April Eau Claire in May Schedule subject to change.

OCT 7 :: WISCONSIN TALK: LINGUISTIC DIVERSITY In the badger state

Wisconsin Historical Museum I Join professors Joseph Salmons, Thomas Purnell and Eric Raimy as they present some of their latest findings about language in Wisconsin. 12:15-1 p.m.

OCT 11 - 12 :: AUTUMN CELEBRATION

Wade House I Learn about the origins of American Halloween customs in the 19th century, and enjoy seasonal games of the period. 10 a.m. -5 p.m.

OCT 11, 18, 25 AND 31 :: Halloween legends and lore

Old World Wisconsin I These evening events will feature the folk and fairytales of the Old World as well as Wisconsin ghost stories from the 19th and early 20th centuries. 5-8:30 p.m. Event sponsored by WaterStone Bank.

OCT 18 :: STRATEGIES AND STORIES: AFRICAN-AMERICAN Genealogy Conference

See the story on page 14.



OCT 21 – 25 :: WISCONSIN HISTORY TOUR: SHEBOYGAN Enjoy five days of activities presented at the Military Heritage Museum in Sheboygan as part of the monthlong *Wisconsin History Tour.*

Complete Event Schedule at WisconsinHistoryTour.org

OCT 21 :: RETHINKING JEAN NICOLET'S JOURNEY TO WISCONSIN

Wisconsin Historical Museum I Hear historian Patrick Jung's reinterpretation of the French explorer's story and the myths surrounding it. 12:15-1 p.m.

OCT 25 :: HEARTHSIDE DINNER

Wade House I Guests work together to prepare and enjoy a meal in the kitchens of the Wade House stagecoach hotel. $45.\ 11\ a.m.-3\ p.m.$

LOCATION KEY

BLACK POINT ESTATE, LAKE GENEVA (262) 248-1888 or blackpointestate@wisconsinhistory.org

CIRCUS WORLD, MADISON Toll free (866) 693-1500 or ringmaster@circusworldbaraboo.org

H.H. BENNETT STUDIO, WISCONSIN DELLS (608) 253-3523 or hhbennett@wisconsinhistory.org

MADELINE ISLAND MUSEUM, LA POINTE (715) 747-2415 or madelineisland@wisconsinhistory.org

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

PENDARVIS, MINERAL POINT (608) 987-2122 or

pendarvis@wisconsinhistory.org

STONEFIELD, CASSVILLE (608) 725-5210 or stonefield@wisconsinhistory.org

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

SHARING WISCONSIN'S STORIES ONE COMMUNITY AT A TIME

The Wisconsin Historical Society invites everyone with an interest in the heritage of their community or county to celebrate that heritage as the Society takes history on the road as part of our ongoing *Wisconsin History Tour*. During each *Tour* stop, our local hosts will provide a venue for our *Wisconsin History Tour* traveling exhibit, *Sharing Wisconsin's Stories One Community at a Time*. During each stop, we will present free public programming and a festive Taste Traditions of Wisconsin dinner. In August join us in Verona, in Racine in September and Sheboygan in October.



For more information visit **WisconsinHistoryTour.org** or email tourinfo@wisconsinhistory.org.





SOCIETY ACQUIRES TREASURE TROVE OF FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT'S AMERICAN SYSTEM-BUILT HOUSE DESIGNS

A collaborative fundraising effort led by Society Board of Curators member John "Jack" Holzhueter has resulted in the Society's acquisition of 28 exquisite prints of Frank Lloyd Wright house designs for his unique American System-Built Homes. Only a few of the early 20th-century homes were actually constructed. Still extant are six houses in Milwaukee's Burnham Street Historic District and a handful of others in Chicago and nearby Midwestern states. The rare homes represent Wright's first efforts to design affordable housing for middle-class homeowners.

Holzhueter, a well-recognized scholar of Wright's work and a former Society staff editor, learned that the prints were available from an antiquarian collector in Great Britain. Recognizing that acquiring the prints would necessitate raising funds to secure the collection, Holzhueter succeeded in garnering a significant lead gift from members of the Frank Lloyd Wright Wisconsin Heritage Tourism Program Inc. All told, 21 donors from across the country contributed to the fund in less than a week, ensuring the Society's success in acquiring the collection.

Wright designed the modest homes between 1912 and 1916 to fulfill his interest in providing beautiful, yet affordable, housing. His draftsmen produced nearly 1,000 drawings for the ambitious project, the largest number of drawings for any project in Wright's prolific body of work. Buyers could select from a series of standardized designs, allowing builders to precut lumber at the factory, thereby reducing both waste and the amount of skilled labor needed for construction. America's entry into World War I in April 1917 diverted building materials to the war effort, ultimately bringing the American System-Built Homes project to an end later that year.

The 28 new Wright prints, when combined with an earlier acquisition of the papers of Taliesin architect John Howe, constitute the nation's most complete set of prints documenting the American System-Built Homes project. They include interior and exterior designs of the homes as well as detailed floor plans.

"Our acquisitions budget remains strong, but securing rare materials in the antiquarian marketplace is always a challenge," said Matt Blessing, administrator of the Society's Division of Library-Archives, "so we are immensely grateful for the financial support provided by so many donors."

Over the past two decades, the Society has amassed other Wright materials documenting the life and work of America's most famous architect. The Society's visual materials laboratory will digitize the newly acquired prints and make them available online along with other Wright holdings. The Society also hopes to partner with other cultural heritage institutions to exhibit these treasures.

The Society extends its gratitude to Jack Holzhueter and members of the Frank Lloyd Wright Wisconsin Heritage Tourism Program Inc. along with Natalie and Daniel Erdman, Ann and Fred Stratton, and the Wisconsin Preservation Fund. We are grateful to all who contributed to make this outstanding acquisition possible.

FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT AND CYRUS MCCORMICK:

HOW TWO AMERICAN ICONS CAME TO SHARE THE SAME QUARTERS IN WISCONSIN

Rare works by America's most celebrated architect, Wisconsin native Frank Lloyd Wright, are just what you might expect to find while exploring the archives of a cultural institution such as the Society. Since 1846 it has dedicated itself to collecting, preserving and sharing Wisconsin stories. But if you're a McCormick-International Harvester buff and researcher living outside Wisconsin, where do you go for help with a special project for fellow enthusiasts of the time-honored brand's now-rare product line? To the very same institution, it turns out — the Wisconsin Historical Society.

The story of how the McCormick-International Harvester Collection wound up in the same archives that houses a nationally prominent collection of Frank Lloyd Wright material begins shortly after the turn of the 20th century. In 1915, many years after inventor and industrialist Cyrus McCormick's death, the McCormick family hired historian Herbert Kellar to manage the McCormick Collection and to head the McCormick Historical Association in the family mansion in Chicago.

For the next three decades Kellar collected company records, papers, photographs and artifacts. The collection grew from 10,000 to more than 1 million items. In 1949 McCormick's daughter, Anita McCormick Blaine, assigned Kellar the task of finding a permanent home for the McCormick Collection. After traveling more than 15,000 miles investigating 30 institutions that coveted the prize, Kellar settled on the Wisconsin Historical Society in 1951. It was close to McCormick's Chicago base and had established a national reputation as a first-rate research institution.

The McCormick-International Harvester Collection continued to grow over the next several decades. Today the collection consists of more than 12 million manuscript pages, 350,000 photographs and 300 films. No serious researcher of the International Harvester brand or its subsidiaries could conduct the study without turning to the Society — the national mecca for the deeply devoted following that the former industrial giant attracts.

Today, the still-growing collection enjoys financial support from Navistar and Case IH, two companies that grew out of the former International Harvester Company, as well as hundreds of International Harvester collectors from throughout the United States. The stories and photos found on these pages speak volumes about the Society's reputation as a national leader in documenting and preserving Wisconsin and American history in its many diverse forms.





CYRUS MCCORMICK WHI 63742



FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT WHI 63742

CATCH WHEEL FEVER!

EXPERIENCE THE CATCH WHEEL FEVER! experience was made possible, in part, by a generous lead grant from the Sally Mead Hands Foundation. Additional support has been provided by the Old World Foundation, We Energies Foundation and Wheel & Sprocket.

The Reed School historic site celebration and new exhibit opening was generously sponsored by Associated Bank. The Wisconsin Historical Society is also deeply grateful to the Gordon V. and Helen C. Smith Foundation for its magnificent gift of the restored Reed School along with an endowment that will support the operation, interpretive program and maintenance of the historic site in perpetuity.

Support for the Robert B.L. Murphy Legacy Circle Luncheon was generously provided by Murphy Desmond S.C.

MANY THANKS TO OUR HOSTS AND SPONSORS

The *Wisconsin History Tour* is off to a great start, with many popular and well-attended events during our first two stops. And we couldn't have done it without the tremendous help and hospitality of our hosts. We gratefully acknowledge the Marathon County Historical Society for making us feel at home during our monthlong stay in Wausau and the Ephraim Historical Foundation for doing the same in Door County.

We are also grateful to the sponsors who have generously underwritten in part the *Wisconsin History Tour*: the Kohler Trust for Preservation, with additional funding from the Judd S. Alexander Foundation, Culver's, Murco Fund, Racine Community Foundation and We Energies Foundation and in-kind support from American Printing and Wisconsin Public Radio.

News



THE BIG TOP IS BACK AT CIRCUS WORLD

AFTER A NINE-YEAR

ABSENCE, the big-top tent is back at Circus World in Baraboo. To commemorate the 130th anniversary of the Ringling Bros. Circus, Circus World Executive Director Scott O'Donnell and

Ringmaster Dave SaLoutos decided it was time to return to the time-honored tradition of a tented circus.

O'Donnell and SaLoutos began searching for circus tents last fall, and they selected an 85-foot diameter Europeanstyle tent belonging to the Royal Hanneford Circus. The tent arrived just ahead of the season opening and is providing the venue for Circus World's 2014 performance season lineup. The daily shows are at 11:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.

The Hippodrome building that had been the performance setting for the past nine seasons still is in use as the venue for popular programs like the *Kids' World Interactive Circus* and *Clowning Around with Roger the Clown*. At the nearby Fox wagon restoration building, master illusionist Tristan Crist presents his magic show twice daily through Halloween at 10:15 a.m. and 4:45 p.m.

For more information call Circus World toll free at (866) 693-1500, visit the website at circusworldbaraboo.org or email ringmaster@circusworldbaraboo.org.

RECORD NUMBER OF NATIONAL HISTORY DAY AWARD WINNERS

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY'S TEAM WISCONSIN had a record number of award winners at the event's national finals in June. In the Junior Individual Documentary category, Lance Letellier from Reagan School in New Berlin placed second in the nation for his documentary on "The Ojibwe Spearfishing Controversy." He also received a special award from the National Park Service on the best entry on Native American History.

In the Junior Group Website category, Olivia Hulan and Sophie Blumenstein from EAGLE School in Madison placed third nationally for their website, "The Little Rock Nine and Daisy Bates."

Each state is also awarded an outstanding entry award in both the Junior and Senior Divisions. This year's Wisconsin winners were:

Brett Manion, Junior Individual Documentary, from Kettle Moraine Middle School for "Hammurabi's Code"; and Anna Stoneman, Senior Paper, from Stanford University Online High School, for "Perestroika, Glasnost, and the Surge to Freedom."

The Wisconsin Historical Society is proud to sponsor National History Day in Wisconsin with generous support from Alliant Energy/Alliant Energy Foundation, Madison Gas and Electric Foundation, Inc., The Gardner Foundation, Mrs. Carroll A. Heideman, The QTI Group, Dr. and Mrs. Michael E. Stevens, Wisconsin Society of Mayflower Descendants and Worzalla.

Spotlight on Supporters

MEMBERS OUT AND ABOUT **AROUND THE STATE**

MEMBERS GATHERED JUNE 13 in Eagle for a sneak preview of the new *Catch Wheel Fever!* experience at Old World Wisconsin.

Photos:

- 1. KAREN, KENNETH, LYDIA AND PRAKASH MATHEW
- 2. ROBERT AND BABETTE LOESCH
- 3. ANDREW, ABIGAIL AND NANCY PORTERS

MEMBERS GATHERED JUNE 5 in

Neillsville for the Reed School historic site celebration and new exhibit opening.

- 4. EMORY GILES AND JOYCE MCKENZIE
- 5. GUESTS ENJOY A ONE-ROOM SCHOOL EXPERIENCE AT REED SCHOOL

6. HELEN SMITH, SOCIETY DIRECTOR ELLSWORTH BROWN AND GORDON SMITH*

*Gordon Smith is a former Reed School student who funded the restoration of Reed School and an endowment to support a fourth-grade field trip program and ensure the continued first-class maintenance of Reed School.

GUESTS GATHERED APRIL 29 for

the annual Robert B.L. Murphy Legacy Circle Luncheon at the Nakoma Golf Club in Madison, where they enjoyed a presentation by Wisconsin Historical Society Press author, Jerry Apps.

7. KAREN AND TOM BINDER

8. BETTY BERENS, DAVID HALL AND DAWN STUCKI BROWSING BOOKS BY WISONSIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESS AUTHOR, JERRY APPS

9. JERRY APPS, WISCONSIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESS AUTHOR, WITH TODD BERENS



To view more photos, visit facebook.com/wisconsinhistoricalsociety.

CIVIL RIGHTS MANUSCRIPTS HIT THE ROAD (AND THE WEB)

DURING THIS YEAR'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY of Mississippi Freedom Summer, the Society shared its massive civil rights collections with the nation in multiple ways. Since 1964, archivists have gathered more than 1,000 boxes of movement letters, diaries, meeting minutes, photographs, fliers, newsletters and other unique materials. Today's technology lets thousands of people discover and use them.

First, archivists digitized and published online more than 30,000 pages of Freedom Summer manuscripts at wisconsinhistory.org/freedomsummer. Advanced researchers view about 10,000 documents each month. But most of us want our history in smaller doses. So the Society's library and archives staff repurposed the digital collection to reach more audiences in easier ways.

With funding from the Jane Bradley Pettit Foundation, they mounted facsimiles of 70 photos and manuscripts in an exhibit traveling through Milwaukee-area schools and libraries. More than 3,500 school children viewed it last spring, and five more schools will host it this fall. A second copy of the exhibit is traveling through the South, where libraries and museums in St. Louis, Memphis, Jackson, Birmingham and other cities are hosting it. A companion website at fsxbt.tumblr.com contains all the information on the exhibit panels as well as free lesson plans for educators.



Students at Nicolet High School in Glendale enjoy the exhibit with State Representative Mandela Barnes

Finally, the Wisconsin Historical Society Press issued an anthology of eyewitness accounts in May. *Risking Everything: A Freedom Summer Reader*, edited by Society Division of Library-Archives Deputy Director Michael Edmonds, is for sale at bookstores nationwide and online.

Generous underwriting for *Risking Everything* and the Freedom Summer project has been provided by the Herzfeld Foundation and Northwestern Mutual Foundation, with additional support from CG Schmidt.

STRATEGIES AND STORIES: THE SECOND ANNUAL AFRICAN-AMERICAN GENEALOGY CONFERENCE



MARK 🔿 Saturday, October 18, Madison

CALENDAR AWARD-WINNING GENEALOGIST, lecturer and writer Janis Minor Forté will headline Strategies and Stories: The Second Annual African-American Genealogy Conference in Madison on Saturday,



Studio portrait of an So

African-American woman in a formal dress. WHI 37384

October 18, at the Sheraton Hotel, 706 John Nolen Drive. The Society will host the conference.

In 2013 Forté won first prize in the Excellence in Writing contest sponsored by the International Society of Family History Writers and Editors for her article, "What Legacy for David H. Driver." Forté also served as the chair of the publication committee for the Afro-American Genealogical and Historical Society of Chicago's book, 30th Anniversary Our Heritage Family Stories.

Forté will present two sessions at the conference, including a lecture on conducting research into World War I records and an account of how she verified the 16 children of her great-grandmother, with strategies designed to account for every ancestor. Also presenting is retired Society archivist, Carolyn Mattern, who will discuss her research into Wisconsin's African-American Civil War soldiers. Society reference librarian, Lori Bessler, will discuss strategies for organizing and analyzing genealogy research and for finding and using online collections related to African-American genealogy.

Members of any African-American genealogical society or organization, as well as members of the Wisconsin Historical Society and Wisconsin State Genealogical Society, will receive discounted registration. A limited number of discounted rooms at the Sheraton Hotel are also available.

The Wisconsin Historical Society invites all conference attendees to visit the Society's library and archives, which hold one of the nation's premier collections of published and unpublished materials essential to researching family lineage and history. The Society library's newspaper and periodical collection is one of the largest in the country and includes a nationally important collection of African-American publications.

For additional information or to register, email asklibrary@wisconsinhistory.org or call (608) 264-6519.



Historic Sites and Museums

Find Your Place In History, Then Go There

MADELINE ISLAND MUSEUM

Visitor Information Line: (866) 944-7483 (SITE)

historicsites@wisconsinhistory.org

Enjoy These Member Benefits Each Time You Visit:

- FREE admission to the Wisconsin Historical Museum located on the Capitol Square in Madison
- Half-price or FREE* admission to Old World Wisconsin, Circus World, Wade House, Madeline Island Museum, Villa Louis, Pendarvis, H.H. Bennett Studio, Black Point Estate, Stonefield, First Capitol** and Reed School**
- 10% discount on purchases at all historic site and museum stores

*Free admission for History Lover members & levels above **Admission to First Capitol and Reed School is free to the public

BLACK POINT ESTATE

812 Wrigley Dr. Lake Geneva (262) 248-1888 blackpointestate.org

CIRCUS WORLD

550 Water St. Baraboo (866) 693-1500 circusworldbaraboo.org **FIRST CAPITOL** 19101 County Hwy. G Belmont (608) 987-2122 firstcapitol.org

H.H. BENNETT STUDIO 215 Broadway Wisconsin Dells (608) 253-3523 hhbennettstudio.org

MADELINE ISLAND MUSEUM 226 Col. Woods Ave. La Pointe (715) 747-2415 madelineislandmuseum.org

STONEFIELD

OLD WORLD WISCONSIN W372 S9727 Hwy. 67 Eagle (262) 594-6301 oldworldwisconsin.org

PENDARVIS 114 Shake Rag St. Mineral Point (608) 987-2122 pendarvishistoricsite.org

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VILLA LOUIS 521 N Villa Louis Rd. Prairie du Chien (608) 326-2721 villalouis.org

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OLD WORLD

WISCONSIN

W7965 State Hwy. 23 Greenbush (920) 526-3271 wadehouse.org

WADE HOUSE

WISCONSIN **HISTORICAL MUSEUM** 30 N Carroll St.

Madison (608) 264-6555 wisconsinhistory.org/ museum

Explore four centuries of Wisconsin history at many of the places where it happened. Enjoy a wide range of daily activities, changing exhibits and unique special events that bring history to life.

REED SCHOOL



WISCONSIN HISTORICAL

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stonefieldhistoricsite.org

For season dates, hours and admission fees-visit wisconsinhistory.org/sites

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

SIGN UP FOR THE SOCIETY'S E-NEWSLETTER

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



You Are Invited!

In appreciation of your support, the Society invites you to attend two special events included at each *Wisconsin History Tour* location.

SAVE THE DATES!



AUG 21, Verona SEPT 25, Racine



Bottoms Up: A Toast to Wisconsin's Historic Bars & Breweries book talk with author Jim Draeger

OCT 24, Sheboygan



Entertaining presentations

and dinner – a fun night out!

A Special Evening at Wade House with Leslie Bellais, Wisconsin Historical Museum curator of social history

NOV 13, La Crosse



On the Hunt: The History of Deer Hunting in Wisconsin book talk with author Robert Willging



SATURDAYS FREE Old World *Experience* FAMILY DAY

Each *Wisconsin History Tour* stop includes a free Old World Experience member and community appreciation event for all ages with historyrelated activities, an interactive presentation, refreshments and more. See page 3 inside for more details.

> AUG 23 – Old World Experience: Verona SEPT 27 – Old World Experience: Racine OCT 25 – Old World Experience: Sheboygan NOV TBD – Old World Experience: La Crosse

For more information or to register early, contact the Membership Office toll free at (888) 748-7479 or membership@wisconsinhistory.org.

Members receive a 10-percent discount. Seating is limited. Ticket cost varies by event. For more information or to register early, call (608) 264-6555.