

# Columns

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE WISCONSIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY VOL. 35 NO. 1 | ISSN 0196-1306 | WINTER 2014





New Books from the Society Press



Filmmaker's Collection Available for Research



14 Member Events Celebrated Around the

- 2 Director's Column
- 5 State Register of Historic Places
- 6 Local History
- 8 Events Calendar
- 13 | Spotlight on Supporters
- 15 | Statewide Programs and Locations

Collecting, Preserving and Sharing Stories Since 1846



Father James Groppi speaks through a megaphone from atop the hood of a bus at a civil rights demonstration in Milwaukee in the 1960s. Next to him is longtime civil rights activist, and Wisconsin's first African-American judge, Vel Phillips. This photo from the Society's archives is part of one of the most comprehensive civil rights collections in the nation. To learn how the Society came to have such strong civil rights holdings, and to learn about an upcoming civil rights film series, see the story on page 10.

W III 40143



Ellsworth H. Brown
The Ruth and Hartley Barker Director

#### Columns

Bob Granflaten, Editor Composure Graphics, Designe

Published quarterly by the Wisconsin Historical Society, 816 State Street, Madison, WI 53706, 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, WI, account number 688820. Postmaster, send address changes to: Columns, Wisconsin Historical Society, 816 State Street, Madison, WI, 53706

## The Wisconsin Historical Society has a

longstanding tradition of collecting history as it happens.

THAT TRADITION BEGAN with our first director, Lyman Copeland Draper, who, beginning in the 1840s, traversed what he called the "Trans-Allegheny West" to gather reminiscences and documents for what he intended to be a series of volumes on the region's settlement and history. Among the gems in these Draper Manuscripts are the papers of frontiersman and explorer Daniel Boone and a handwritten letter in which Thomas Jefferson proposed a grand expedition to the American West two decades before he, as America's third president, commissioned the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

I will write more in future issues of Columns about the Society's continuing history of collecting. However, in this issue, which coincides with the 50th anniversary of Freedom Summer in Mississippi, I will focus on one of our most important and extensive collections — reams of documents, photographs and manuscripts documenting the civil rights movement. As you can see from the striking image on the cover, the Society's collections extensively document the events of Freedom Summer in 1964. Among the most poignant of these are papers relating to activist Andrew Goodman, ambushed and slain by white supremacists at the very beginning of Freedom Summer in June 1964 for promoting black voter registration in Mississippi.

Altogether, the Society holds more than 350 manuscript collections documenting the civil rights movement, from 150 boxes of Congress of Racial Equality records to single file folders of one-time volunteers. For half a century, every serious

researcher on the civil rights era has consulted the Society's archives. And, as has been a more recent tradition at the Society, we are now adding continuously to our online civil rights holdings. The Freedom Summer digital collection contains records from more than 100 different manuscript collections and will total more than 20,000 pages. It includes internal memos, letters from organizers, diaries of volunteers, notes by host families, minutes of meetings, Freedom School newsletters, photographs, maps, pamphlets, newspaper clippings and interviews. To browse this collection, visit wisconsinhistory.org/freedomsummer.

I am pleased to announce that the Society will host four moderated documentary films on the civil rights movement from February through April. Distinguished humanities scholars will screen segments of each of the four documentaries, then discuss their significance and lead a question-and-answer session with the audience. You can read in more detail about the film series, *Created Equal: America's Civil Rights Struggle*, in the story on page 10. The Society is also working with the Wisconsin Black Historical Society to host a pair of civil rights symposia and a traveling exhibit to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Mississippi Freedom Summer. You can learn more about those on page 7.

While Freedom Summer did not register many black voters, it focused the attention of the nation on the plight of African-American citizens in the Deep South and helped spur passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, a turning point in American history that will also observe its 50th anniversary this year. •

#### **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 *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.

# Thank You for Helping People Complete Their Family History

WE AT THE WISCONSIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY and the Wisconsin Historical Foundation would like to express our sincere appreciation to everyone who generously supports the work we do to collect, preserve and share Wisconsin's amazing history. Because of you, we are able to boast one of the largest genealogical resources in the nation, and a newspaper and periodicals collection that is second only to the Library of Congress. This amazing resource has helped countless people research their family history and find the answers that have been lost to the sands of time — people like Society member JoAnn Youngman (pictured at right).

After JoAnn's sister mentioned that their ancestral grandfather may have served in the Revolutionary War, JoAnn came to the Society on a fact-finding mission. She was able to confirm her sister's story and find that her fifthgeneration grandfather, Colonel John Hendy, did indeed fight in the Revolutionary War, and settled Hendytown, which over time became Elmira, New York.

In October JoAnn and her husband Michael traveled to Elmira to learn more about Colonel Hendy. The town was planning to erect a

historical marker about him. During the trip, JoAnn also intended to have a monument that had been erected in Colonel Hendy's honor in 1858 cleaned, but she learned that the process could have done more harm than good. Unfortunately, the stone inscription had worn so much over time that it was virtually unreadable. JoAnn knew just where to turn — the Society's newspaper holdings.

"We are thankful there was an article in the newspaper that included the exact wording," JoAnn shared. "Now I will have a new granite monument laid in front of his stone that will include the complete inscription of the original. It was so exciting to fill in some of the gaps."

Through your membership and additional gifts, you help the Society to collect, restore and protect thousands of items each year to "fill in the gaps" for families across the state, country and even the world. Thank you.

With sincere gratitude,

Lava Ingersoll

Laura Ingersoll
Director of Membership •



Society member JoAnn Youngman standing by a monument honoring Colonel Hendy that was erected by the citizens of Elmira, New York. Next to it is a gravestone for his daughter, Rebecca Hendy Culp.

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

Creating a lasting legacy often means handing down what we value most. For many of us, that includes passing on our rich heritage to our successors. You can help ensure that future generations inherit our collective history by remembering the Wisconsin Historical Society in your will, naming the Society as a beneficiary of your retirement plan, or establishing a life-income or other planned gift.

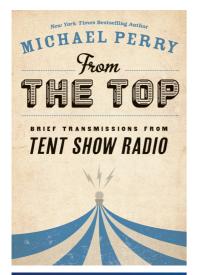
In honor of your commitment, we are pleased to recognize you as a distinguished member of the Robert B.L. Murphy Legacy Circle. For more information about the various ways you can support the Society through gift planning, please contact Sarah Milestone at (608) 264-6585 or sarah. milestone@wisconsinhistory.org

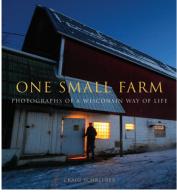
## **Randolph Family Reunites with Restored Painting**

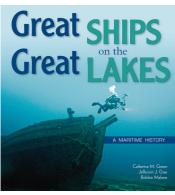


(Left to right) Brothers Dave, Jim and Don Randolph recently visited the Society to view a painting made by German immigrant folk artist Ernest Hupeden in 1903. The painting depicts the homestead of the Randolph brothers' great-grandparents, Augustus and Rebecca Randolph, in Juneau County. A handwritten inscription on the reverse fully describes the scene, including the names of the family's animals, adding rich historical value to the painting. The Randolphs had not seen the painting since the Kohler Foundation purchased it and had it restored by the Parma Corporation in 2010. The Kohler Foundation then donated it to the Society.

WINTER 2014 wisconsinhistory.org







10-percent discount on all book books published by the Wisconsin

## **New Society Press Titles**

#### Snickering Chickens and Other Big Top Stories

THE SOCIETY PRESS had the privilege to work with New York Times bestselling author — and Wisconsinite — Michael Perry, to publish his newest book, From the Top: Brief Transmissions from Tent Show Radio. From "Scandihoovian Spanglish" to snickering chickens, Perry navigates a wide range of topics in this collection of brief essays drawn from his weekly appearances on the nationally syndicated Tent Show Radio program done at Big Top Chautauqua in Wisconsin's Northwoods and from his weekly column in the Wisconsin State Journal. Fatherhood, dumpster therapy, Christmas trees, used cars, loggers in clogs — whatever the subject, Perry's essays touch both the funny bone and the heart. •

#### Documenting a Wisconsin Way of Life

PHOTOGRAPHER CRAIG SCHREINER captures the life of one family on their small dairy farm near Pine Bluff, Wisconsin, in the new Society Press photo-essay book, One Small Farm: Photographs of a Wisconsin Way of Life. Schreiner spent a year photographing the Lamberty family as they maintained the rhythms and routines of everyday life on the farm in all seasons, providing viewers a window into a world that is quickly fading. Schreiner's original photo essay in the Wisconsin State Journal inspired the book. One Small Farm was made possible, in part, by a generous grant from The Edwin E. & Janet L. Bryant Foundation, with additional funding from Dairyland Power Cooperative and The D.C. Everest Fellowship Fund and a post-production partnership with the Wisconsin State Journal. •

## **New Books for Young Readers**

#### **Book Sails Through Great Lakes** Maritime History

THE SOCIETY PRESS partnered with Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary in Michigan to produce another new book, Great Ships on the Great Lakes: A Maritime History, and together take young readers on a rip-roaring journey through the waterways of the Midwest's "inland seas." Authors Catherine M. Green, Jefferson J. Gray and Bobbie Malone explore the history of ships and the people who navigated them, battled upon them, and traveled with them to settle in the Great Lakes region. From birch-bark paddlers and European voyageurs to settlers, sailors and lighthouse keepers, this book tells the stories of those whose livelihoods depended on the often-dangerous waters of the Great Lakes. Readers join underwater archaeologists, including some from the Wisconsin Historical Society, as they dive into the mysteries of Great Lakes shipwrecks. •

#### One-Room School Days Detailed for Kids

WHAT WAS IT LIKE to attend a one-room school, to be in the same classroom as your older brother, or to have your teacher live with your family for part of the school year? Young readers find out in a new Wisconsin Historical Society Press book, One Room Schools: Stories from the Days of 1 Room, 1 Teacher, 8 Grades, by present-day schoolteacher Susan Apps-Bodilly, who drew from the experiences of her father and fellow Society Press author Jerry Apps. The book chronicles life in Wisconsin's early country schools, detailing teachers' roles and tasks, the curriculum, and students' experiences and chores, including the importance of Wisconsin School of the Air radio programs. Also included are instructions for recess games like Fox and Geese and Anti-I-Over. •

### Reprint Chronicles Civil War from a Female Perspective

In 1911 Ethel Alice Hurn gathered first-person accounts of the contributions Northern women made during the Civil War in a Society Press book, Wisconsin Women in the War between the States. This year the Press printed a facsimile of that landmark publication, which remains a resource treasure. Modern-day Civil War historian and author, Lance J. Herdegen, chair of Wisconsin's Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission, introduces the new edition. As it did more than 100 years ago, the book captures the landmark documentation of the overlooked and almost forgotten role women played in the war.

## State Register of Historic Places Recent Wisconsin Additions



#### **Hotel Northland**

Green Bay, Brown County

Located in downtown Green Bay, the Hotel Northland played an important role in the early 20th-century social and commercial development of the city. Completed in 1924, the hotel was one of the largest and most important buildings constructed in Green Bay prior to the end of World War II and reflected the city's

growth into one of the state's foremost industrial centers. Designed by prominent Milwaukee architect Herbert W. Tullgren, the Northland joined the growing chain of Wisconsin hotels built by Walter Schroeder, a Milwaukee hotelier whose collection of hotels would become the largest in the state. The Hotel Northland not only reflected the look and appeal of some of Schroeder's other hotels, but also incorporated many significant elements of the new efficiently designed, elegant and affordable urban commercial hotel. With its prominent downtown setting, its tall and monolithic urban scale, its Tudor Revival-style exterior, its intact interior public spaces, and its importance both as a hotel and a local social center, Green Bay's Hotel Northland remains an excellent example of the 1920s urban commercial hotel.



#### Florence Town Hall

Florence, Florence County

Designed by architect Max L. Hanisch Sr. and built in the Art Moderne style in 1937 using WPA-funded labor and materials, the Florence Town Hall housed the offices of the town of Florence as well as an auditorium that served as a community center. Massive glued and laminated arched-wood beams manufactured by Unit Structures Inc. support this large room's tall, arched ceiling.

Hanisch (1882–1950) was a native of Germany and already a highly trained and experienced architect before arriving in the United States in 1923. He is best known today for introducing glued, laminated, structural wood-beam construction in the United States and for co-founding Unit Structures Inc. in Peshtigo in 1934. The firm pioneered the manufacture of laminated wooden beams in this country.



#### **East Third Street Residential Historic District**

Washburn, Bayfield County

The district's earliest houses date to the 1880s and '90s, however the majority of its buildings date between 1916 and 1918, built to house the administrative staff of the E.I. DuPont Co.'s nearby Barksdale TNT manufacturing factory, founded in 1905. By 1916 orders for explosives generated by World War I had grown so large that DuPont began to build houses for its most valued workers. The district comprises 20 residential buildings dating from the DuPont era. DuPont purchased several of these houses and duplexes from the Aladdin and Lewis companies in Michigan, who shipped these manufactured buildings to Washburn, where local contractors erected them. The single non-residential building is the former DuPont Co.'s Haskell Club, built in 1918 to house a company social club that was later converted to a hospital.



Every year in May the Wisconsin Historical Society celebrates Historic Preservation and Archaeology Month. Communities all over Wisconsin conduct events and activities to highlight the importance of the state's rich historic resources. If your community has an event scheduled in May that relates to historic preservation or archaeology, visit wisconsinhistory.org/hp/hpmonth to enter the event into the Society's online Historic Preservation and Archaeology Month events



#### Milwaukee Paper Box Company Milwaukee, Milwaukee County

Walter C. Carlson founded the Milwaukee Paper Box Company in 1905 and quickly aligned his company with the city's growing confectionery industry, which ranked fourth in the nation by

1920. An innovative business leader, Carlson recognized that attractive packaging helped sell fine candies, and he employed a team of artists to design decorative labels that adorned his company's signature boxes, which the firm shipped as far as Europe and China. Encouraged by a candy boom following World War I, Carlson built this property in 1920. Designed by local architects Schnetzky and Son, the building represents the final and largest facility occupied by the Milwaukee Paper Box Company. When it opened, accounts at the time hailed the factory as "the most complete paper box plant in the world."

**Additional listings:** 

David and Lottie Fulmer House, town of Florence, Florence County

Chapple and MacArthur Avenues Residential Historic District, Ashland, Ashland County

Robert and Estelle Webb House, town of Florence, Florence County

Lincoln School, Shawano, Shawano County

wisconsinhistory.org 5 WINTER 2014



Student volunteers help process the Pulaski Area Historical Society's collections

#### What to Know Before You Go

To learn more about the Pulaski Area Historical Society and its museum, visit pulaskiwihistory. com, contact the local historical society at 129 West Pulaski Street, P.O. Box 944, Pulaski, WI 54162, or call (920) 822-5856.

## **Collections Highlight:**

## University Staff, Students Help Pulaski Area Historical Society Improve Collections Care

A COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIP between a University of Wisconsin-Madison anthropology curator, her students and a local historical society has helped the organization better care for its collections. Chris Jaworski, past president of the Pulaski Area Historical Society, met anthropology curator Danielle Benden at a Wisconsin Federation of Museums workshop where Benden gave a presentation on best curatorial practices. Jaworksi sought Benden's expertise and assistance in improving the local historical society's collections care.

To kick off the project, Benden and two of her students dedicated three days in the summer of 2011 to renovate the local historical society's collections storage space as well as to clean, inventory and reorganize the collection. They trained energetic Pulaski High School volunteers and board members on the inventory process and created an outline of how to organize the

collection into categories. They also developed an integrated pest management and cleaning plan to keep the storage area free of harmful insects and rodents that can often wreak havoc on museum artifacts.

Together, the group made substantial improvements to the collections storage space and implemented a new computerized catalog system to track and organize the collections. Following the initial three-day project, Benden's students spent the rest of the summer traveling to Pulaski two days per week, working alongside the high school volunteers and local society members. The outreach project was a success on several accounts: the collections were organized and made more accessible for exhibits; undergraduate students at UW-Madison were able to put their training to work in the field; and high school students and Pulaski residents took a vested and active interest in the history of their community. •

#### Spring Webinars for Local Historians

In spring 2014 the Field Services program will offer a new slate of webinars related to the administration of local historical organizations and museums. The cost will range from \$25 to \$45 for most, while some will be free. Members of the Wisconsin Historical Society receive a \$5 discount.

Webinar topics this year will include: basic archival conservation measures; how to work with your local schools; how to get and keep your tax-exempt status; and helpful tips on submitting minigrant applications (free). For information about registering for these programs, visit wihist.org/localhistoryworkshops or call Amy Norlin at (608) 264-6579.

# Reminder to Local Affiliates to File Their Annual Reports

STATE LAW REQUIRES all local historical affiliates to file an annual report with the Wisconsin Historical Society by February 28, 2014. Filing an annual report ensures:

- Your organization maintains its legal status as a private non-stock corporation and a taxexempt organization.
- Your organization's contact information remains updated.
- Your board members receive email and mailings regarding workshops and conference opportunities.
- Your organization is eligible for the Wisconsin Council for Local History-Wisconsin Historical Society mini-grant program. Last year this program provided 25 grants totaling almost \$15,000.

Last year 91 percent of local affiliates took advantage of the online filing option, saving time and money. This free online service simplifies the statutorily required annual report filing process by making it quicker, easier and paper free. To file an annual report online, visit wihist. org/localhistoryreport.

If you have had any changes to your organization's contact information, or have questions about annual reports, contact Amy Norlin at (608) 264-6579 or amy.norlin@wisconsinhistory.org.

## **Local History Highlight:**

#### Pleasant Prairie Historical Society

STIRRED BY THE DESIRE to begin preserving the area's local heritage, and encouraged by initial funding from the Elizabeth J. Riley Charitable Trust, a group of residents organized the Pleasant Prairie Historical Society in 2010 with the mission to "Preserve the Past and Educate the Future." The volunteer-based society established the operational framework and policies that will guide its efforts and has continued work to secure funding. During the first two years, membership grew to 80 individuals. The fledgling society held annual meetings, community gatherings with guest speakers, and events to foster deeper community engagement. The society had a growing historical collection but had no dedicated space from which to operate.

That changed in 2012 with the announcement at the society's annual meeting that the Elizabeth J. Riley Charitable Trust had acquired the historic Dublin School. The 1927 brick, tworoom schoolhouse became the new home for the Pleasant Prairie Historical Society. This generous donation turned what had been a distant dream into a solid reality. After months of site work and minor maintenance, the Dublin School building reopened its doors to the public as the new home of the Pleasant Prairie Historical Society.

An open house on September 7, 2013, drew more than 300 people who toured the facility, enjoyed a picnic, and shared stories of life in

Pleasant Prairie and memories of attending Dublin School. Many brought old photographs of life in Pleasant Prairie, past school events and former classmates. When Anthony Bisciglia, the final Dublin School Principal, rang the old brass bell to bring the community into the school, many former students heeded the call. He gave an informative and fun presentation on his life as principal, teacher and student in both the Dublin School and others schools in the district's past.

Additional rehabilitative work at Dublin School will be necessary before the society can realize its next dream of converting it into a museum and community gathering space. With the help of local society members and generous community partners, plans are in place to stage fundraising events to support the effort. •



The new headquarters of the Pleasant Prairie Historical Society

#### **Freedom Summer** Symposia Set in April

The Society will work with the Wisconsin Black Historical Society to share its unique civil rights collections in a pair of symposia to mark the 50th anniversary of Freedom Summer. Between 1965 and 1967 six student employees who had worked in the South visited activists in Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Arkansas, and asked for their papers.

During the week of April 14, the six will return to Wisconsin so the Society can celebrate their achievements in building one of the nation's finest research collections on civil rights. You can join them in a symposium discussing their historic collecting trips on Tuesday, April 15, at the Wisconsin Black Historical Society and Museum in Milwaukee and on Thursday, April 17, at the Society headquarters in Madison (times to be announced).

A civil rights exhibit showing facsimiles of historical photographs and manuscripts will also be shared in Milwaukee high schools this spring and fall, accompanied by a curriculum package designed by local teachers. When schools are not in session over the summer, the exhibit will also be installed in local public libraries and museums. including the Wisconsin Black Historical Society and Museum. Look for more details in future issues of *Columns*. The Freedom Summer project is made possible through a generous grant from the Jane Bradley Pettit Foundation. Additional support for the symposia has been provided by Andrea Brisben whose late husband, J. Quinn Brisben, was a Freedom Summer volunteer.

#### **Mini-Grants Notice**

The Wisconsin Historical Society, in conjunction with the Wisconsin Council for Local History, is pleased to announce another round of mini-grants. The mini-grant program supports collections care and access activities with grants of up

The Society looks forward to working with the Wisconsin Council for Local History again this year to offer this muchneeded grant program. The Council works collaboratively with the Society to organize regional meetings and the annual fall Local History-Historic Preservation Conference.

Grant materials will be distributed in February by mail and email. Completed applications must be received or postmarked by Friday, June 6. Only Wisconsin Historical Society affiliates who file an annual report by February 28 are eligible to apply (see page 6). For more information contact Janet Seymour, northern representative, at (715) 836-2250

wisconsinhistory.org WINTER 2014

The following are special event highlights for the Winter 2014 quarter. For a complete listing of events, visit wisconsinhistory.org/calendar.



## March 13 This Wicked Rebellion Book Talk in Madison

John Zimm, editor of *This Wicked Rebellion: Wisconsin Civil War Soldiers Write Home*, shares Civil War letters and their histories. **Radisson Hotel West, 517 Grand Canyon Drive, Madison, 7 p.m. (608) 274-9342** 





## February 5 **Created Equal:** The Abolitionists

See the story on page 10. Wisconsin Historical Society, 816 State Street, Madison, 7 p.m. (608) 264-6586 or info@wisconsinhistory.org



#### March 15 **Hearthside Dinner**

See the February 15 event description. Wade House, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. (920) 526-3271 or wadehouse@ wisconsinhistory.org



## February 8-9 **Garden Wisdom Book Events at Garden Expo**

Rural historian Jerry Apps, author of *Garden Wisdom:* Lessons Learned from 60 Years of Gardening, presents a pair of gardening talks. Alliant Energy Center, 1919
Alliant Energy Center Way, Madison, 2:15 p.m. Saturday and 10:15 a.m. Sunday. Garden Expo admission required. (608) 267-3976



#### March 21 Villa Louis Behind the Scenes

See Villa Louis from top to bottom. Tours include visits to the nooks and crannies of this restored mansion.

Villa Louis, 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. \$15 (608) 326-2721 or villalouis@wisconsinhistory.org



#### February 15 Hearthside Dinner

Guests prepare a meal in the kitchen of the stagecoach inn. Reservations required. Wade House, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. (920) 526-3271 or wadehouse@wisconsinhistory.org



#### March 25 **Created Equal: Freedom Riders**

See the story on page 10. Wisconsin Historical Society, 816 State Street, Madison, 7 p.m. (608) 264-6586 or info@wisconsinhistory.org



## February 21-23 Villa Louis Eagle Appreciation Weekend

Visit Villa Louis for a celebration of our national bird, the eagle. Mansion tours leave at the top of the hour. Villa Louis, 9:30 a.m. – 6 p.m. (608) 326-2721 or villalouis@wisconsinhistory.org



## March 25 Wheel Fever Book Talk in Janesville

Jesse Gant, co-author of the Society Press book, Wheel Fever: How Wisconsin Became a Great Bicycling State, will discuss the history of bicycling in the state. Hedberg Public Library, 316 South Main Street, Janesville, 6:30 p.m. (608) 758-6600

## > MARCH



### March 4 Created Equal: The Loving Story

See the story on page 10. Wisconsin Historical Society, 816 State Street, Madison, 7 p.m. (608) 264-6586 or info@wisconsinhistory.org



> APRIL

## April 10 Limping Through Life Book Talk in Sun Prairie

Rural historian Jerry Apps, author of *Limping Through Life: A Farm Boy's Polio Memoir*, will discuss his struggle with the disease. **Sun Prairie Public Library**, 1350 Linnerud Drive, Sun Prairie, 6:30 p.m. (608) 825-7323



#### March 7 Wheel Fever Book Talk in Cable

Nick Hoffman, co-author of the Society Press book, Wheel Fever: How Wisconsin Became a Great Bicycling State, will discuss the history of bicycling in the state on the eve of the Fat Bike Birkie bike race. Redberry Books, 43455 Kavanaugh Road, Cable, 7 p.m. (715) 798-5014 or read@redberrybooks.com



## April 11-12 Villa Louis Behind the Scenes

See the March 21 event description. Villa Louis, 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. \$15 (608) 326-2721 or villalouis@wisconsinhistory.org



## March 13 Bottoms Up Book Event in River Falls

Jim Draeger, co-author of *Bottoms Up: A Toast to Wisconsin's Historic Bars & Breweries*, will discuss the book and sign copies. **River Falls Public Library**, **140 Union Street**, **River Falls**, **7 p.m.** (715) **425-0905** 



## April 15 Freedom Summer Symposium See the story on page 7. Wisconsin Black Historical

Society Museum, 2620 W Center St, Milwaukee, time TBA (414) 372-7677



# April 17 Freedom Summer Symposium See the story on page 7. Wisconsin Historical Society, 816 State Street, Madison, time TBA (608) 264-6586 or info@wisconsinhistory.org



## April 22 Created Equal: Slavery by Another Name

See the story on page 10. Wisconsin Historical Society, 816 State Street, Madison, 7 p.m. (608) 264-6586 or info@wisconsinhistory.org



## April 25-26 **30th Star Benefit Auction and Preview Night**

See the story on page 11. Old World Wisconsin, (608) 264-6586 or info@wisconsinhistory.org



## April 26 Breakfast in a Victorian Kitchen

Participants prepare and enjoy a Victorian breakfast. Villa Louis, 8:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. \$45. (608) 326-2721 or villalouis@wisconsinhistory.org



#### April 26 **Hearthside Dinner**

See the February 15 event description. Wade House, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. (920) 526-3271 or wadehouse@wisconsinhistory.org

#### Events and Exhibits at the Wisconsin Historical Museum

Admission by donation (unless otherwise noted). Free admission for members.

Through March 29 **Wisconsin Women of Style**Explore spectacular gowns and garments, and discover the stories of the remarkable Wisconsin women who wore them.

9 a.m.–4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday

## April 8—August 30 Wisconsin in Watercolor: The Farmscapes of Paul Seifert

Explore German immigrant Paul Seifert's late 1800s watercolor farm pictures from the Wisconsin River valley landscape he called home. **9 a.m.–4 p.m.** 

#### **Tuesday through Saturday**

## February 4 **History Sandwiched In: An African-American Woman's Life in Search of Justice**

Join historian and co-author Jody LePage as she presents the story of Sylvia Bell White's life as it tracks the roots and routes of many working-class African-American people of her generation. 12:15–1 p.m.

# February 8 **Wisconsin Women of Style: Victorians' Secret** Join Leslie Bellais, the Society's curator of costume and textiles, as she shares how Victorian undergarment styles changed over time. Afterward, tour the exhibit (see first entry above). **1–2 p.m.**

#### February 15-16 Madison Winter Festival

Drop in for hot chocolate, and explore the exhibit, Wisconsin Women of Style. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday

## February 18 History Sandwiched In: Collecting Civil Rights Manuscripts During the 1960s

Join historian Michael Edmonds to discover how the Society came to own one of the nation's richest archives on the civil rights movement. 12:15–1 p.m.

## March 4 History Sandwiched In: A Schenk-Huegel Family History

Join a group of Madison historians as they present the history of the city's Shenck's Corners neighborhood. **12:15–1 p.m.** 

#### March 8 From Bonnets to Hats, 1830-1930

Leslie Bellais, the Society's curator of costume and textiles, will explore the reasons for the shift from bonnets to hats over the course of a century. 1–2 p.m.

## March 11 Taste Traditions of Wisconsin: Wisconsin's Best-Dressed Actress, Lynn Fontanne

Mount Mary University Historic Costume Collection Curator Elizabeth Gaston will highlight the stage wardrobe of Lynn Fontanne from the 1920s to the 1960s. 6:30–8:30 p.m. \$28 (10-percent discount for members). Registration required by March 4.

## March 18 History Sandwiched In: Wisconsin Women in the War Between the States

Join historian John Zimm for a discussion of the roles Wisconsin women played during the Civil War. 12:15–1 p.m.

April 1 **History Sandwiched In: Wisconsin Lighthouses**Ken and Barb Wardius, authors of *Wisconsin Lighthouses: A Photographic and Historical Guide*, tell tales of historic structures and mariners of old. **12:15–1 p.m.** 

April 9 Taste Traditions of Wisconsin: This Superior Place
Join Wisconsin Historical Society Press author Dennis
McCann as he discusses the history of Bayfield and the
Apostle Islands. 6:30–8:30 p.m. \$28 (10-percent discount
for members). Registration required by April 2.

# April 15 **History Sandwiched in: People of the Sturgeon** Kathleen Kline, co-author of *People of the Sturgeon: Wisconsin's Love Affair with an Ancient Fish*, will discuss the "dinosaur fish" and how the sturgeon population has thrived in the Lake Winnebago area. **12:15–1 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 or visit wisconsinhistory.org/museum.

WINTER 2014 Wisconsinhistory.org



A young man at a nighttime civil rights rally, August 1964

#### Coming Soon: The Wisconsin History Tour

The Society will launch a traveling exhibition in 2014, the *Wisconsin History Tour*, which will bring exhibitions, educational programs, lectures, book signings and performances directly to your community. Our first visit will be to Wausau in June. Watch for further details about the *Wisconsin History Tour* in the mail, in upcoming issues of *Columns* and via email. To sign up to receive member emails and the Society's Weekly E-Newsletter, visit wihist.org/MemberEmails.

## America's Civil Rights Struggles the Focus of New Film Series

FORWARD-THINKING STUDENT WORKERS on the Society's staff in 1964 who witnessed firsthand the turbulent events taking place in the American South — and recognized they were seeing history in the making — encouraged the Society to proactively document the struggle for civil rights. Consequently, a half century later, the Society's civil rights holdings are among the most comprehensive in the nation.

In part to commemorate the vision of those pioneering historians, and the 50th anniversary of Freedom Summer this year, the Society will host a series of four moderated documentary film screenings — *Created Equal: America's Civil Rights Struggle* — from February through April. The Society will screen select scenes from each of the four documentaries, each introduced by a humanities scholar who will lead a post-screening question-and-answer period in the auditorium of the headquarters building on the University of Wisconsin-Madison campus.

Professor Andrew Kahrl of Marquette University will introduce the first film in the series, *The Abolitionists*, on Wednesday, February 5. It vividly brings to life the struggles of the men and women who led the battle to end slavery.

Professor Tonya Brito of the University of Wisconsin–Madison Law School will moderate the second film, *The Loving Story*, on Tuesday, March 4. Through little-known filmed interviews and photographs shot for *Life* magazine, the film tells the story of Mildred and Richard Loving. Virginia police woke them up in their bedroom in the middle of the night and arrested them for being an interracial couple.

On Tuesday, March 25, Professor Edward Schmitt of UW-Parkside will moderate the Emmy-Award-winning *Freedom Riders*. The film tells the terrifying story of white and black volunteers who rode a bus into the Deep South, risking assaults and arrest as white local and state authorities ignored or encouraged violent attacks.

Professor Will Jones of UW-Madison (and a member of the Society's Board of Curators) will close out the series with a talk and discussion of *Slavery by Another Name* on Tuesday, April 22. This film features interviews with the descendants of victims and perpetrators of trumped-up crimes in the Deep South intended to create a captive force of unpaid labor.

All the screenings begin at 7 p.m. The *Created Equal* film series is free to the public and is generously underwritten by grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History and the Bridging Cultures initiative. •



"Beatle Bob" Barry, disc jockey for Milwaukee radio station WOKY, posed for a photograph with Paul McCartney, September 4, 1964

# Records of 'Beatle Bob' Barry Donated to the Society

THE SOCIETY'S ARCHIVES recently received a donation of documents, audio recordings, photographs and artifacts from longtime Milwaukee disc jockey Bob Barry's storied career. As part of its mission to document all aspects of Wisconsin history and help to make the past meaningful for researchers in the present and the future, the Society recognizes the importance of documenting the tremendous power of radio and popular music in the post-World War II era and into the 1960s.

Barry was a disc jockey for 35 years, beginning in 1963. The following year he emceed the Beatles' only Wisconsin concert at the

Milwaukee Arena, and after that became known as "Beatle Bob." Billboard named Barry to its Top 40 Air Personalities of the Year in 1975, and the Wisconsin Broadcasters Hall of Fame inducted him in 2001. The more than 100 audio recordings include promotional spots and interviews with celebrities from his *Bob Barry Calls the World* segments. The donation also includes celebrity promos for Barry's shows as well as songs from regional and local Milwaukee bands. The films consist of Bob Barry interviewing musicians and Milwaukee teens regarding their views on various topics. •

## **Celebrated Filmmaker's Collection Available for Research**

THE WISCONSIN CENTER for Film and Theater Research — with funding from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission — recently completed a yearlong project to fully process the collection of celebrated American documentary filmmaker Emile de Antonio (1919–1989). The collection reflects de Antonio's personal and professional life and includes material on all his film projects. It also reflects his role as an advisor, editor and mentor to many other filmmakers and his research interests in revolutionary movements, the modern art world, and documentary and independent film production.

Emile de Antonio's first feature film was *Point* of *Order* (1964), constructed from kinescopes of

the Army-McCarthy hearings. Subsequent films include *Rush to Judgment* (1966); *In the Year of the Pig* (1968); *Millhouse: A White Comedy* (1971); *Painters Painting* (1972); and *Underground* (1976). The Emile de Antonio collection is one of the film center's many collections on pioneering documentary filmmakers.

The Wisconsin Center for Film and Theater Research will celebrate Emile de Antonio and the conclusion of the project with retrospective screenings and an online exhibition in spring 2014. For more information on the center's collections and services, visit wisconsinhistory. org/wcftr. •



Emile de Antonio

## **Two Prestigious Maritime Awards Go to Tamara Thomsen**

TAMARA THOMSEN, the Society's underwater archaeologist, is the recipient of two prestigious maritime achievement awards. In 2013 she received the Joyce S. Hayward Award for Historic Interpretation from the Association for Great Lakes Maritime History. The award is presented annually to an individual who has made a major contribution, over many years, to the interpretation of Great Lakes maritime history, in furtherance of the goals of the association.

On March 29 Thomsen will be inducted into the Women Divers Hall of Fame Class of 2014. She will be among six women so honored at the Beneath the Sea Awards Banquet in Secaucus, New Jersey. Bonnie Toth, president of the Women Divers Hall of Fame, stated that the award, "... has affirmed our belief that women throughout the world are doing great things to make a difference in the diving community and the marine environment." •

### **Antique Show at Old World Wisconsin April 26**

Mark your spring calendars now for the April 26 30th Star Benefit Antiques Auction at Old World Wisconsin, sponsored by the FRIENDS of the Wisconsin Historical Society. Prior auctions provided important funding for Old World Wisconsin, National History Day and the restoration of artwork in the Society's collections. Proceeds from the 2014 auction will support art restoration projects at Black Point Estate in Lake Geneva, the Society's newest historic site.

A special preview night on Friday, April 25, will include a reservation-only dinner and a private viewing of the antiques from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m. David Desimone, site director of Black Point Estate, will deliver the keynote address at 6:30 p.m. Viewing of the antiques begins at 9 a.m. Saturday with the auction set to begin at 10 a.m. Carol Miller of Bailey's Honor Auction Service in Oconomowoc will call the auction, which is free to the public.

For questions about the 2014 30th Star Benefit Antiques Auction or to make a donation of an antique or vintage item, please contact Riene Wells at (262) 363-4700 or info@eagle-house.com or contact Debbie McArdle at (815) 575-1272 or jjmcard@comcast.net.

The Wisconsin Antiques Dealers Association generously sponsors the 30th Star Benefit Antiques Auction.



Tamara Thomsen

WINTER 2014 Wisconsinhistory.org 11

#### Old World Wisconsin to Launch Time Travelers Adventure Camps for Kids

Sign up now for the newest adventure camps for kids at Old World Wisconsin. Use your wits to solve puzzles and decipher riddles as you compete in a heart-thumping scavenger hunt through the 1800s and early 1900s in the brand new "Amazing Race Through Time." Not challenging enough? Find out if you could make it as a settler at "Survivor: Pioneer Wisconsin." You'll pick up some pioneering skills as you meet your challenge.

"Animals Up Close" received big thumbs up last year and will return for 2014. Your favorite camps will also return. Look for "One-Room Schoolhouse Rocks," "Civil War Camp," "Little House Adventures," "Moo Baa Preschool Camp" and "Old World Apprentice." Costs range from \$30 to \$160. Registration opens Monday, February 3. To register, visit wihist.org/owwdaycamps or call (262) 594-6301.

## New Furnishings Plan Reinterprets St. Peter's Church at Old World Wisconsin

ST. PETER'S CHURCH, one of the oldest historic buildings at Old World Wisconsin, is about to take on a new identity as a prototypical rural 1880s Catholic church thanks to a new furnishings plan. Researchers Nicholas Hoffman and Kristi Helmkamp developed the plan in 2010 as part of a project funded by The Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation. Generous financial support from the FRIENDS of the Wisconsin Historical Society, the Old World Foundation and a Questers International Preservation and Restoration grant supported implementation of the plan and painting the exterior.

St. Peter's Church, built in 1839, has the distinction of being the first Catholic church



New, reproduced or antique ecclesiastical artifacts adorn the altar of St. Peter's Church

and first cathedral built in Milwaukee. St. John's Cathedral, a much larger brick structure, replaced it in 1853. By the 1880s the original St. Peter's Church served as a private residence. Movers relocated the building to Milwaukee's 18th Ward for preservation purposes in 1889, and it moved twice more in the 20th century before arriving at Old World Wisconsin in 1975. Thus, reinterpreting St. Peter's Church within the context of Old World Wisconsin's Crossroad Village is a story of the structure's evolving function and meaning.

Because St. Peter's was not a functioning parish in the 1880s, the building's new furnishing plan suggests a nonspecific 1880s Catholic church interior. The new ecclesiastical furnishings include statuary, side altars, a dossal hanging, sanctuary lamp, baptismal font and many other religious objects representative of a rural Wisconsin Catholic church in the late 19th century. Study of 19th-century liturgical law, coupled with close study of historic photographs of Wisconsin Catholic church interiors, guided the selection and arrangement of the furnishings. The multiyear project reconciles the building's history with a visual presentation of a rural, late-19th-century Catholic church interior. •



A new tram like this one will join the Old World Wisconsin tram fleet in 2014.

## **Challenge Grant for Old World Wisconsin**

A VISIT TO OLD WORLD WISCONSIN is a journey back in time — through the rich culture of our state, to working farmsteads and immigrant settlements in America's heartland. Unfortunately, the vehicles we use to make the journey through the Society's largest outdoor living-history museum are in great need of replacement.

"Ninety-six percent of our visitors use a tram to navigate all or part of the historic site," said Dan Freas, director of Old World Wisconsin. "Research has revealed that trams are perceived not just as an amenity, but as an 'attraction' that is a major part of the value of admission. Our existing vehicles have served us well over the past two decades, but it's time for them to be replaced."

An anonymous \$250,000 gift will provide funding for one new tram. Robert and Patricia Kern have challenged the Wisconsin Historical Foundation to raise \$250,000 to purchase a second vehicle — which the Kerns will then match with a generous \$500,000 gift to finance a much-needed amenities station at Old World Wisconsin.

This is a unique opportunity to double the impact of your support. Your gift of any amount toward a new tram will make a tremendous difference. If you have any questions or would like to make a gift of stock, please contact Sarah Milestone at (608) 264-6585 or sarah.milestone@wisconsinhistory.org.

## **Endowed Funds Support the Society in Perpetuity**

ENDOWMENT FUNDS are established in perpetuity and represent an investment in the long term well-being of the Wisconsin Historical Society. Five percent of the value of each endowed fund, computed on a trailing 12-quarter average, is available for use on an annual basis. Deepest thanks to the individuals and families who have created the following named funds through gifts of cash, stock or a bequest.

George Banta Director Fund Ruth and Hartley Barker Advised Fund through Incourage Community Foundation Helmut R. and Nancy M. Bauer Endowment Fund William Best Hesseltine Award Black Point Historic Preserve Operation and Maintenance Fund through Greater Milwaukee Foundation Black Point Historic Site Preservation Fund Allan and Margaret Bogue Endowment for Archives Processing Vernon Carstensen Endowment Fund Scott M. Cutlip Endowment Fund Danky Fellowship Endowment Fuldner Heritage Fund John C. Geilfuss Endowment Margaret Gleason Library Fund

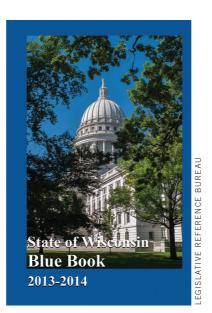
Mary C. Hoard Endowment Fund Amy Louise Hunter Fellowship Endowment Ruth Ketterer Harris Endowment Evelyn A. Krueger Endowment Fund The Ralph and Virginia Kurtzman Fund for National History Day in Wisconsin Library and Archives Preservation Endowment Fund Miller Public History Endowment National Great Lakes Visitor Center **Endowment Fund** National History Day Endowment Old World Wisconsin Caldwell Hall Fund Old World Wisconsin Development Fund Planned Giving Endowment Fund Reed School Historic Site Endowment Daniel Steele Durrie Genealogy Fund Wade House Endowment Fund •

## Society Featured in the Wisconsin Blue Book

THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE history of the Wisconsin Historical Society since the 1967 publication of *Clio's Servant: The State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1846–1954* by Clifford Lord and Carl Ubbelohde appears in the 2013–2014 edition of the *Wisconsin Blue Book.* Published biennially in odd-numbered years by the state Legislative Reference Bureau, the *Blue Book* is the official state guide to Wisconsin state government.

The richly illustrated 72-page feature article by Society Press author and editor John Zimm, with contributions by Society staff members Michael Edmonds, Helmut Knies and Michael Stevens, traces the Society's history from its founding in 1846. The article covers the establishment of the Society's library, archives, museum and historic sites; the founding of the Society Press; its historic preservation work and K-12 educational initiatives; the establishment of the Wisconsin Historical Foundation as the Society's fundraising and membership organization; and other facets of the Society's 167-year history.

To request a copy of the *Wisconsin Blue Book*, contact your local legislator. To view the feature article online, visit http://legis.wisconsin.gov/lrb/bb/13bb/Feature.pdf. •



#### Preserve America Grant Funds Digital Imaging Project

In 2013 the Society completed a Preserve America Grant of \$150,000 from the National Park Service, U.S. Department of Interior, to digitize and post online more than 234,000 images of historic properties. This includes a partnership with the city of Milwaukee to digitize 9,100 images of landmark properties in the city. The digital images augment more than 135,000 records in the Architecture and History Inventory that document historic properties throughout Wisconsin.

You can view these images online in the Preserve Your Homes and Properties section at preview. wisconsinhistory.org. There you can explore the Architecture and History Inventory of historic properties in your community and find more information about these important places. The Society encourages owners of historic buildings to search the inventory for their properties' records and report any errors or updates through the website's feedback link.

Society recognizes the following individuals and organizations who contributed \$1,000 or more to the Preserve America project: Bob and Sharon Gilson in memory of Rebecca Gilson; Richard H. Driehaus; Judd S. Alexander Foundation; FRIENDS of the Wisconsin Historical Society: Bert L. & Patricia S. Steigleder Charitable Trust: Anne W. Bolz: Jeffrey M. Dean; Gorman & Company, Inc.; Thomas DeChant; Charles Trainer and Anne Booth; Beyer Construction; Jeffris Family Foundation Ltd.; Arlan and Lori Kay; Mead & Hunt; Philip and Phyllis Sillman; and Dave Stroik, President, Zimmerman Architectural Studios, Inc.

WINTER 2014 Wisconsinhistory.org

## Members Toast Wisconsin's Historic Bars and Breweries, **Supper Clubs and Beloved Green and Gold**



(Top) Members gathered September 7 at Old World Wisconsin for An Old World Toast to Wisconsin Beer & Brewing History. Guests toured the Koepsell Farm and enjoyed live music, beer tastings, historic pub games and a presentation by Jim Draeger, historian and co-author of Bottoms Up: A Toast to Wisconsin's Historic Bars & Breweries.

From left to right: Cory Geiger and Krista Knigge; Kari Nicolai, Rick, Sherene and David Fintak; Bob and Julie McGill

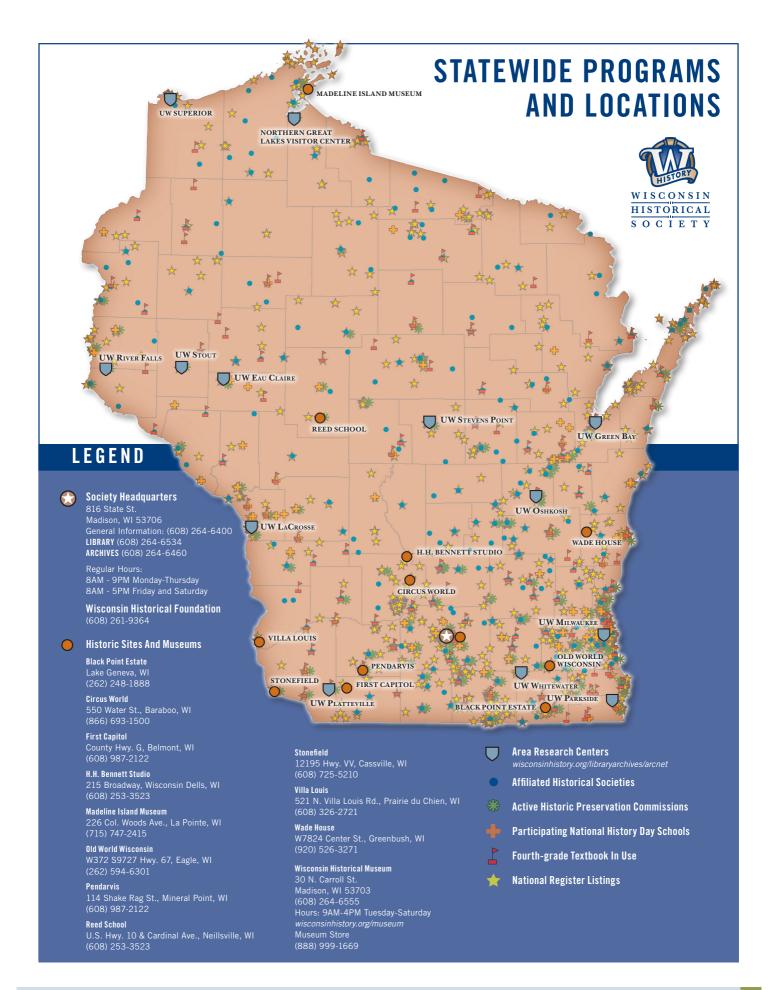
at wihist.org/MemberEmails. To learn more about the Society Press publications listed above, visit wisconsinhistory.org/whspress.

(Middle) Members gathered November 2 in Hudson for Supper Clubs of Wisconsin at The Hangar: American Sky Beer's Taproom. Guests enjoyed supper club fare, beer tastings, brewery tours and a presentation by writer and supper club enthusiast Brenda Bredahl.

From left to right: Ellsworth Brown, The Ruth and Hartley Barker Director of the Wisconsin Historical Society, Tom and Jill Barland, Christopher Berry, President, Wisconsin Historical Foundation; David and Emmy Vandenlangenberg; John Grump, Amy Alpine, Terry Mesch and Lori Miller in the foreground with friends.

(Bottom) Nearly 500 members entered the online, members-only drawing to win a Green Bay Game Day Experience. The grand prize winners and their guests gathered November 10 at the Radisson Hotel & Conference Center in Green Bay for an exclusive Packers viewing party with Jessie Garcia, TV sportscaster and author of the new Society Press title, My Life with the Green & Gold: Tales from 20 Years of Sportscasting.

From left to right: Dan Jackson, Jessie Garcia and Joanne Jackson; Jessie Garcia with some of the Green Bay Game Day grand prize winners and their guests To view more photos, visit facebook.com/WisconsinHistoricalSociety. To learn about upcoming member events and activities, sign up to receive member emails



WINTER 2014 wisconsinhistory.org 15



## Columns

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

# Did you know? now?

- In 1889 Milwaukee African-American leaders held a state convention that demanded an end to legal segregation in public places and state employment.
- Between 1940 and 1960, Wisconsin's African-American population increased by nearly 600 percent, with most of the new residents coming from Mississippi, Arkansas and Tennessee.
- In 1964 more than 20 Wisconsin residents risked their lives to promote black voter registration during Mississippi Freedom Summer.



The Society Hill Missionary Baptist Church in McComb, Mississippi, shown here after being bombed on September 20, 1964, was one of 36 African-American churches bombed or burned in Mississippi that year. See the related story on page 10.

### Sign up for the Society's e-newsletter!

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