



December 2013

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The Wisconsin Historical Society Educator Update curates the most current education-related news from the Wisconsin Historical Society and beyond.

## Education Services

[Kurt Griesemer](#), Director of Education Services

### Like us on Facebook

Like our new [Facebook page](#) to see highlights and tips for educators.



## New from Education Services - Essays for the Elementary Student



Aldo Leopold

Searching for ways to engage reluctant readers in the study of history?

Visit the new Education Services ["Essays for the Elementary Student"](#) site.

Based on notable figures from Wisconsin history, each essay is filled

## Social Studies Teacher of the Year!

The National Council of the Social Studies recognized two outstanding Wisconsin teachers for their expertise and dedication to social studies instruction.

Rhonda Watton, middle school teacher in Sussex, Wisconsin, received the 2013 Outstanding Middle Level Social Studies Teacher of the Year. This award recognizes social studies teacher who show exceptional abilities in the classroom through effective instructional techniques and creative use of instructional materials.

Mike Koren, middle school teacher at Maple Dale-Indian Hill school, is the recipient of the peer-reviewed 2013 National Social Studies Supervisors Association Mel Miller Award.

Congratulations to both!

## Let Your Voice Be Heard! Take the Textbook Survey

There's still time to give us your opinion on the award-winning 4th grade textbook, *Wisconsin: Our State, Our Story*. [Take our survey](#) and be entered into a drawing

with images and information about the people and places of Wisconsin's past.

With new essays added on a regular basis, there's always someone new to discover!

[Send your suggestions](#) today for notable figures in Wisconsin history that you'd like to see covered!



for volumes one and two of "The Slave Families of Thomas Jefferson."

## National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day

[Kurt Griesemer](#), Director of Education Services

"A date which will live in infamy." President Franklin D. Roosevelt, December 8, 1941.

On December 7, 1941, the United States naval base at Pearl Harbor was attacked by the armed forces of Japan. The attack came with little or no warning to the men and women stationed in Hawaii. One of the most destructive sea battles of the war, it lasted just over 90 minutes. The United States suffered over 2300 service members and civilians killed in action and another 1,000+ wounded.



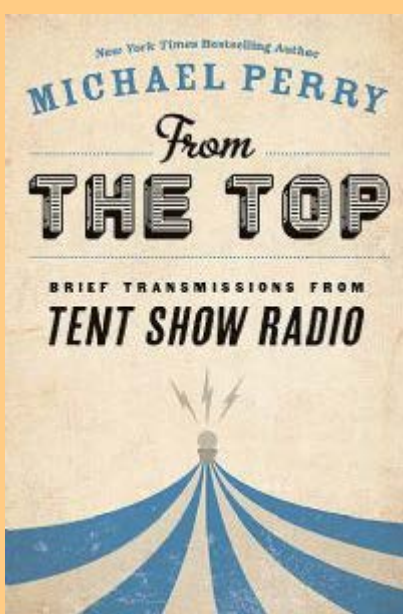
USS Shaw Exploding

Though the Japanese attack was meant to keep the United States out of the war for as long as possible, the exact opposite occurred as the United States Congress officially declared war on the Empire of Japan on December 8, 1941.

We commemorate those who lost their lives during the Pearl Harbor attack on December 7 of each year through [National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day](#).

Use observance days in your classroom to spark ideas and engage your students in conversations about our nation's past. The [Wisconsin Historical Society](#) has gathered resources on Pearl Harbor and World War Two for the classroom educator. Additional primary resources available from the [Wisconsin Historical Society Press](#) are listed below.

- "Letters from the Front" edited by Michael Stevens



From Scandihoovian Spanglish to snickering chickens, New York Times bestselling author and humorist Michael 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.

Fatherhood, dumpster therapy, dangerous wedding rings, Christmas trees, used cars, why you should have bacon in your stock portfolio, loggers in clogs--whatever the subject, Perry has a rare ability to touch both the funny bone and the heart.

[Available now](#) from the Wisconsin Historical Society Press!

- "Women Remember the War, 1941-1945" edited by Michael Stevens
- "Third Down and War to Go" by Terry Frei

## Wisconsin Historical Society Museum

[Jennifer Kolb](#), Museum Director

### Evergleam Aluminum Trees

Aluminum Christmas trees became popular in the 1960s and Wisconsin's Aluminum Specialty Company became the largest manufacturer. Their tree, the Evergleam, became a remarkable success with more than a million trees making their way into American homes.

[Stroll through this display](#) of shiny aluminum Evergleam trees and relive holiday memories.

### Member Event: 'Tis the Season

Please join us for a [festive afternoon](#) at the Wisconsin Historical Museum:

- Enjoy a members-only lounge with treats and door prizes.
- Shop with a double (20 percent) member discount in the Museum Store.
- Explore a 1960s Evergleam Aluminum Trees display.
- Participate in special kid-friendly activities and crafts.
- Sing along to your favorite holiday tunes live on piano.
- Explore the museum's four floors of exhibits.



Photo by [IvoShandor](#)

Give the gift that keeps on giving!



Now through December 31 give the gift of a [Wisconsin Historical Society membership](#) for only \$20 and shipped for free.

Join Our Mailing List!

The museum will be open to the public during regular hours from 9 am to 4 pm. Not a member? Join the [Society](#) today!

### Give the Gift of Wisconsin history!

This [holiday sale](#) features gifts from our Real Wisconsin line and a great selection of Wisconsin books for



young and old readers alike. There's sure to be something for everyone on your shopping list. Society members receive a 10-percent discount.

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## New at Old World Wisconsin

[Jennifer Van Haften](#), Curator of Interpretation

### The Spirit of Christmas Past at Old World Wisconsin

Spread the joy to your students, their families and your friends. Keep your promise to enjoy the holiday season and, at the same time, start a new tradition. Stroll the 1870s Crossroads Village and discover the origins of many of our favorite holiday customs at [Old World Wisconsin](#). Walk house to house, shop to shop, meet Santa as Thomas Nast envisioned him, join in singing carols to enjoy a slower Christmas as it was in the past.



Taste samples of historic treats or, if there's enough snow, stop by in our neighboring field to take a sleigh ride (or a wagon ride if there's no snow) for a small extra fee.

Join us **December 7 and 8 or December 14 and 15 from noon- 4 pm** to experience all our holiday delights. Also check out our holiday dinner theater, [Little Women](#) or our [Breakfast with Father Christmas](#) brunch.

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Thank you for reading our newsletter. Have a wonderful holiday season!

Sincerely,

[Kurt Griesemer](#)

Director of Education Services  
Wisconsin Historical Society