

Innovation in Wisconsin History: *Impact & Change*



Welcome to National History Day in Wisconsin!

This document will provide you with guidance as you begin your National History Day experience...by picking a topic! We hope that this advice will lead you to an innovation in Wisconsin history that sparks your interest. We have included some questions to ask yourself as you think of topics, as well as sections that give specific ideas on state-focused topics highlighting many types of innovations. We hope this list is helpful and we look forward to working with you this year!

2010 THEME – Innovation in History: Impact and Change



The 2010 National History Day theme gives you the chance to choose and analyze an innovation that made an impact in history.

- This could be the most obvious idea, an invention, a new thing that someone created that might have made life easier, made a task faster, facilitated communication, etc.

- Remember, though, that the theme is *innovation* in history. Your topic doesn't have to be a physical invention. It could be a cultural, social or political movement, idea, or event that brought about change or had an impact on society.

- It's your job as a History Day student to show the judges how your topic is innovative in history. How was your topic new? How did it make changes in the way things were at the time? This theme connection must be in the project itself.

Innovation can happen in any part of our lives. Keep in mind the second half of the theme, impact and change. What innovations changed the way you live compared to earlier Wisconsinites? How did it impact your community or the state?

National History Day projects are long-term projects, so make sure you choose a topic that interests you. This means topics will be as diverse as the interests of students throughout the state. Maybe you are interested in a scientific invention that originated in Wisconsin, or perhaps you want to look at the influence of a change in fashion or entertainment. No matter what you choose, remember to analyze the historical significance of your topic. This is more than fact-telling, as you will need to demonstrate the impact or change that occurred because of your topic. Remember to tell us what makes this topic so important.

It's also important to remember that the time, size, and word limits of an NHD project will make it very challenging to narrate all of the historically significant changes of the innovation you choose. Consider focusing on a specific change or impact that resulted, as most topics will have many to choose from. This year analyzing the historical context of your topic will be very important as well. What was happening at the same time as the innovation you are looking at? Without this information it will be difficult to truly see the impact of your topic.

Why Choose a Wisconsin Topic?

Wisconsin history is full of great ideas for your History Day project. It is easy to overlook the history right around us, but your National History Day project can help you to find these amazing local stories that helped shape our history! Armed with local resources and strong research, you can become an authority on your topic and your project will likely be more competitive than a topic that many other students across the state or nation could choose.

- **Resources**

If you choose a topic based on the state or city in which you live, there may be more resources available to you than if you had selected a more national topic. This is especially evident in the availability of primary sources (such as newspaper articles, photos, or letters), which will provide a strong foundation for your project and are easily accessible through state research outlets.

- **Local Connections**

You may be surprised to find out that an influential individual from Wisconsin lived in your own community, and perhaps helped shape the way you live today. This personal connection may help you throughout the project as you learn more about your home and the ties to your own life.

On the Cover

Find the images on the cover of this supplement as part of Wisconsin Historical Images, online at www.wisconsinhistory.org/whi. Search by ID number: Taliesin (WHi 34990), Malted Milk (WHi 23703), Ripon (WHi 39661), Typewriter (WHi 38797), Harley-Davidson Motorcycle (WHi 4926), WCTU (WHi 56325), McCormick (WHi 57861), Lead Mine (WHi 2414).

Topic Checklist

Once you have a tentative topic selected, it's important to run that topic through a series of questions to see if it's the best topic for you. Picking the right topic can be one of the most important decisions you make – so choose wisely!

Does my topic fit the theme?

No matter what, your topic has to fit the NHD theme for this year. Can you show that this innovation impacted history in some way? Did it do more than make life simpler? Who was affected by this innovation? Were there positive or negative consequences associated with it?

Is my topic historical?

Your topic must have taken place far enough in the past in order for you to understand the impact it had in history. For topics that are too current, it is simply too difficult to determine the actual changes that occurred because of it. You won't be able to understand the topic's *long term* significance. This can also make for a challenging, if not impossible, research process. As a general rule of thumb, look for topics that happened 20 years or more in the past and you will have an easier time determining the *impact* and *change* that resulted from your topic.

Have I narrowed my topic down?

Your topic needs to be specific! Just narrowing it down to an invention or event may not be narrow enough. For example, consider the invention of the motorcycle by Harley-Davidson. Is that topic narrow enough? Not really, as this innovation had impacts in many different facets of history: Will you be looking at the impact it had on urban transportation? Or how it changed the automobile industry? What changed for the rural Wisconsin resident because of it? There are many aspects to consider, so narrow your topic down, don't just think of an but also think about its application. Choosing a more specific topic than Harley-Davidson such as, Harley-Davidson and its use in military campaigns. This narrower topic will be more manageable to research and present within the scope of an NHD project.

Have I checked the availability of resources on my topic?

No matter how interesting your topic is, without available primary and secondary sources you won't have a very good project. Are there quality primary sources within reach? Secondary sources? Enough material to completely support your argument? Talk with a librarian to do a preliminary search in a library or online catalog to see what you might find on your potential topic.

Is my topic unique?

It's good to brainstorm a variety of ideas that go beyond the popular topics for this year's theme. While your topic doesn't have to be totally unheard of, it's exciting to be able to research and present something unique—where you'll get to be the expert. It's okay to pick a more popular topic, but think about how you are presenting it. Can you present that innovation in a new light or from an unexpected perspective? This might help observers to distinguish your project from the rest!

National Topics

Of course you can choose a national topic! We highlight local and state topics because we have so many resources available on them, but if an innovation on the national—or international—stage strikes your interest, please pursue it.

- While there may be more books, articles, or web sites devoted to these topic, make sure you will still have access to primary sources.
- Is there a local connection you could investigate? This will also help you focus your topic so it's narrow enough for you to properly research. So instead of looking at women's roles in manufacturing during WWII in general, how did women in your community respond to the war effort?
- Changing your point-of-view is another way to give your project an attention grabbing twist. While you may already know a lot about a group that supported a cause or contributed to an event, what about the other side or those who opposed it?

Topic Ideas

What follows is a very general list of topic ideas for you to consider. **This list is by no means complete or exhaustive of Wisconsin history.** There are many, many more fantastic topics to consider!

Early Wisconsin & Native American Innovation

Treaties: These negotiations became central to Wisconsin's Native American communities as the federal government and groups of settlers moved into Wisconsin. Removal policies began in the 19th century and relocated many Native American groups. Consider a specific treaty in Wisconsin's history. How did the ideas that emerged through the negotiation process change the lives of Native Americans? What new ideas were brought up as these agreements were created? What impact did the negotiations have on the federal government's Native American policies?

▶ Check out **Turning Points in Wisconsin History** to learn more!

Spear Fishing: In the late 1980s and early 1990s there were significant protests against Native American practices granted through U.S. treaties on the issue of spear fishing. The movement especially affected the Ojibwa, who live in northern Wisconsin. How did these new ideas on an old practice change the lives of Native peoples?

▶ Take a look at *Walleye Warriors: The Chippewa Treaty Rights Story* by Walt Bresette and Rick Whaley or *Chippewa Treaty Rights: The Reserved Rights of Wisconsin's Chippewa Indians in Historical Perspective* by Ronald Satz

Innovation in Communication

Project ELF: This facility was built by the U.S. Navy in Clam Lake and served as a place to signal the Navy's nuclear submarines by using extremely low frequency waves to transmit information into the deep ocean through the granite bedrock of this region. Since its construction in 1969 it was a controversial facility. It has since closed, but changed the region through its presence. How did this innovation impact the military's communication capabilities? How did it change the lives of those living in the area?

▶ *The ELF Odyssey: National Security versus Environmental Protection* by Lowell L. Klessig and Victor L. Strite

Telephone Co-Ops: Wisconsin's Progressive politics and the customs of several immigrant groups to the state fostered a strong cooperative movement. Telephone co-ops helped tie much of the Wisconsin countryside together and provided an important new communication link for rural families. How did this innovative idea enhance the communication abilities of rural families? How was it different from other telephone systems in the state?

WHA Radio: In 1915, the University of Wisconsin began transmitting radio signals on 9XM (now WHA), making it the oldest radio station in the nation. This broadcast was only Morse code at first, but as technology improved, the station began to air weather, news, and music for its listeners. Today we think of radio as just for entertainment, but the WHA was much more. The Wisconsin School of the Air and College of the Air brought educational programming to homes and classrooms across the state. How did this new way of communicating over long distance change the way people received information?

▶ Check out the WHA records, photographs, and the Harold Engel Papers at the WHS

Innovation in Architecture and City Planning

Frank Lloyd Wright: Wright's architectural work and influence extends far beyond the state of Wisconsin and his hometown of Richland Center. More than just designing homes and buildings, Wright created a whole new architectural style in which the buildings harmonized with their environment. How did the innovative architecture of Wright change the way buildings were designed? What impact did this new style have on the future of architecture?

▶ See **Topics in Wisconsin History** for more.

John Nolen: Although not from Wisconsin, famed landscape architect John Nolen left a lasting mark on the state, developing plans for the University of Wisconsin, the city of Madison, and the state park system. What innovative ideas did Nolen incorporate into his work and designs? What impact did it have?

▶ Check out **Topics in Wisconsin History** to learn more.

Samuel C. Mazzuchelli: Mazzuchelli was a religious leader, architect, and educator from Italy who lived and worked in Wisconsin. Through his work, he emphasized the importance of school, community, and religion. He designed more than two dozen churches and community buildings in the region and implemented new teaching methods in the classroom. How did Mazzuchelli's innovative ideas on education, religion, and social progress change Wisconsin?

Innovation in Industry

William Dempster Hoard: Hoard not only helped establish the School of Agriculture at the University of Wisconsin, but is well known for creating the first national dairy magazine, Hoard's Dairyman, among many other reforms and dairy-related innovations. The magazine is still published to this day, showing the importance of informing and connecting those in the dairy industry. How did his work change communication and further knowledge between isolated farmers? What impact did his innovation have on dairying?

► See **Turning Points in Wisconsin History** for more information.

William Horlick: After coming to Wisconsin in 1869, Horlick worked in food manufacturing. He found a solution to problems associated with the transport and spoiling of dairy products. He invented a dried milk product that could be transported without spoilage, known as malted milk. How did this invention impact the dairy industry? How did it change the way people in Wisconsin and other parts of the country ate and shopped?

Jerome Increase Case: The shift from manual labor to large scale mechanized farming had significant impacts and changes throughout the United States. One of the innovations behind this began in Wisconsin with Case and his threshing machines. This innovation allowed farmers to harvest more effectively and made Case a rich man and a leader in his field. What impact did this innovation have on agriculture? Consider the context of the United States at this time. Why did this machinery become so popular so quickly?

John Michael Kohler & Kohler Company: Founded in 1873 by John Michael Kohler, the Kohler Company began by purchasing the Sheboygan Union Iron and Steel Foundry. Their earliest products were made from these materials, but the major breakthrough came when Kohler enameled a cast iron horse trough in 1883 to create the first bathtub. Today the company creates numerous plumbing fixtures, which can be found in bathrooms across the globe. How did this invention change the way people lived? How did this innovation impact other industries?

► See **Turning Points in Wisconsin History** for more.

Kimberly-Clark: Founded in 1872 in Neenah, this company began by operating paper mills. In 1914 the company created cellu-cotton that was used as a cotton substitute in WWI. They also developed the first disposable handkerchief, Kleenex, in 1924. Since its inception the company has acquired other consumer goods production companies and expanded to have plants around the world. What impact does this company have on our lives today? How did their initial innovation create a foundation for growth in the paper industry?

S.C. Johnson: This family-owned company opened in 1886 after Samuel Curtis Johnson purchased a parquet flooring business in Racine. The company advertised on radio from the 1930s through the 1960s, growing popular opinion of their wax products. By 1992 the company had purchased other large companies that produced household and cleaning products. S.C. Johnson continues to be family run to this day, making much more than wax. How did this company impact the state economy with its growth?

Christopher Latham Sholes: While Sholes was active in publishing and politics, his most famous accomplishment was the development of the first practical typewriter and the QWERTY keyboard (which we still use today). On an interesting side note, Sholes was a vocal opponent of the death penalty and his efforts in 1852 helped to end the death penalty in the state. How did his invention change the publishing and printing industry? What impact did his anti-death penalty beliefs have on the state's laws?

Badger Ordnance Works: During WWII, Wisconsinites worked to aid the war effort in many ways, from scrap metal drives to rationing to serving in the military. In 1941, Wisconsin became the home to a new part of the war effort with the establishment of the Badger Ordnance Works. The plant produced munitions and operated throughout the war, with workers living near the plant and supporting local business. Once the war was over, the fate of the plant was unknown, although it briefly reopened during the Korean and Vietnam Wars. How did this innovative idea of dealing with war aid impact those living in the area of the plant? What changed for employees due to the efforts of the Works and how does it stand today?

► See the On Wisconsin article at www.uwalumni.com/home/onwisconsin in the Summer 2004 issue.

Other Ideas to Explore: These are just a few of the many ways that innovation in industry has shaped the history of our state, country, and even world. The history of your own community is full of innovative Wisconsinites and business.

- Allis-Chalmers Manufacturing Co.
- George Safford Parker & Parker Pen
- Ray-o-vac
- Kraft Foods
- Lumbering & Logging
- L.E. Phillips & Presto Manufacturing
- Cyrus Hall McCormick & International Harvester
- Masterlock
- Snap-on Tools
- Oshkosh B'Gosh
- Manitowoc Shipbuilding

Innovation in Transportation

Harley Davidson: This company produced the first motorcycle with founders and friends William Harley and Arthur Davidson in the early 1900s. How did this machine change transportation? What impact was made on the Wisconsin economy because of this invention? Consider examining the role this machine or company had during the world wars or the Great Depression.

► See *Turning Points in Wisconsin History* for more.

Electric Street Cars: These became common transportation in many Wisconsin cities in the 1890s. For example, Appleton was one of the first places where it was used after the city built a hydroelectric plant. How did this new transportation change the way people moved throughout their city? What impact was made on their lives with a new, easier option for mobility?

► See *Turning Points in Wisconsin History* for more.

Evinrude Motor Co.: After moving to Wisconsin at age five Evinrude attended school, which prepared him for his future work in the engineering field. He is best known for his own invention of the outboard motor in 1910. The Evinrude Motor Co. made his designs and also his own machinery. The company was consolidated in 1929 to form the Outboard Motors Corporation, where he worked until his death. How did this invention change transportation? Consider the impact it had on other manufacturing, such as in motorcycle manufacturing.

► *Ole Evinrude and the Old Fellows* by Gordon MacQuarrie

Carhart & the Steam-Powered Automobile: Carhart moved to Racine in 1871, where he served as a preacher and doctor. However, Carhart is best known for his invention of the steam-powered automobile (also known as the horseless carriage). This invention allowed the state legislature to offer an award for invention in 1875 and also prompted a trip from Green Bay to Madison in 1878 in a steam-propelled car. This invention quickly became impractical, but still impacted the advancement of transportation systems. How did his invention change the way people thought of travel?

► *Four Years on Wheels* by Carhart or Carhart's personal papers at WHS.

Good Roads Movement: During the early 1890s, years before the first gasoline-powered automobile appeared in Wisconsin, a movement to transform the state's country roads into decent thoroughfares began. The Good Roads Movement, as it was called, was supported by a coalition of urban merchants and businessmen, progressive farm leaders, university and other educators, professional engineers, and bicyclists. Influenced by highway movements in eastern states where state-aid for roads had become increasingly popular, the Wisconsin good roads promoters campaigned for improved road conditions and later for a constitutional amendment that would allow a state-financed highway program, administered by a state highway commission. How did innovation in creating new roads impact the lives of Wisconsinites? What changed for them simply due to having safer and more numerous roadways?

► For more see the *Wisconsin History Explorer* online

Innovation Related to the Environment

John Muir: Born in Scotland, Muir began his life in Wisconsin by working on his family farm. While attending college at the University of Wisconsin, Muir spent much of his time creating unique inventions to ease daily life, such as his clock-desk that kept track of his study time. His love of wilderness prompted him to explore the country, which led to the preservation of nature at Yosemite and Sequoia National Parks and the founding of the Sierra Club. How did Muir's work impact the use and view of natural space in this country?

► See *Turning Points in Wisconsin History* for more

Gaylord Nelson: Nelson is a Wisconsin native who after serving in WWII and becoming a lawyer, took on political office. From the state senate, to governor, to the U.S. Senate, Nelson served the state of Wisconsin for the majority of his adult life. He is also known for founding Earth Day and creating a following for the conservation movement. How did Nelson's new ideas on the environment impact the way the legislature dealt with such issues? What changed because of his work on conservation in Wisconsin and beyond?

▶ See **Turning Points in Wisconsin History** for more.

Aldo Leopold: Leopold's work in Wisconsin put him at the forefront of the conservation movement in the state and nation. He advocated and wrote about game management, soil conservation, the importance of natural areas, and conservation. One of his most celebrated works, *A Sand County Almanac*, is based on his time in Wisconsin and is still influential today. How did Leopold's work change the way we see wildlife in our state? What impact did he make on the conservation movement that we know today?

▶ See **Topics in Wisconsin History** for more information.

H.H. Bennett: Bennett is best known for his photography, especially as it captured the natural beauty of the Wisconsin Dells. His images helped increase tourism to the area by shedding light on this natural wonder. How did his innovative use of the newly emerging field of photography alter Wisconsinites' view of the Dells? What impact did he have on photography and tourism?

▶ See **Topics in Wisconsin History** for more information.

Wheat to Dairy: Once the most important cash crop for Wisconsin settlers in the beginning of the 19th century, wheat production decreased due to declining prices and insect infestation. To meet the challenges of wheat farming, farmers began experimenting with wheat alternatives such as feed crops and dairy products. How did this innovation in agriculture impact farmers?

▶ See **Turning Points in Wisconsin History** for more.

Innovation through Social Movements

Employee Strikes: Many companies in the state have faced worker strikes that changed the dynamics within the company. What rights did employees want? Examples include the Allis-Chalmers strike of 1946-1947 or the Patrick Cudahy Strike of 1987-1989. What impact did these strikes have on the way large corporations were run? What innovative techniques did employees use or advocate?

▶ See **Turning Points in Wisconsin History** for more ideas.

Frances Willard: Willard grew up in Janesville. In 1874 she began her work with the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, where she eventually became president. How did her work impact the public? Her work on innovative ideas helped bring the WCTU into the public eye. How did this change women's lives?

Theodora Winton Youmans: After graduating from Carroll College, Youmans wrote for the "Waukesha Freeman" on suffrage and women's rights. She led the campaign for women's suffrage in Wisconsin and won the support of several reluctant groups. She went on to work with other suffrage leaders on the national level to help pass the 19th amendment. How did her innovative methods help change the lives of women in the state?

Milwaukee Housing Action: As late as the 1960s, African Americans were denied access to the same housing as whites in Milwaukee. This forced the growing African American population to remain in inner city locations, keeping people in poverty as they were unable to move towards growth and opportunity. Leaders helped to establish policies to stop this problem. What innovative ideas were used to help change the policies of inequality?

Lloyd Barbee: After graduating from the University of Wisconsin Law School, Barbee began to advocate for the NAACP and other organizations in Milwaukee. By 1962 he was fighting for school desegregation, a cause he continued to support until 1976 when a federal ruling desegregated Milwaukee schools. Why did Barbee take action against Milwaukee schools and why did they fight back? What impact does his work in desegregation have on Milwaukee schools today?

▶ See **Turning Points in Wisconsin History** for more.

Innovation in Education

Margarethe Meyer Schurz: As the wife of a political activist, Schurz was involved in the changes of early Wisconsin. In 1856 she established the first kindergarten in the United States in Watertown. She learned the system of teaching young students while in Germany and she initially taught five students in her home. Although she instructed in German, she became a supporter of English-language schools. Thus, the first English-language kindergarten (founded in Boston) followed her model. How did Schurz's innovation in education impact the U.S. educational system we use today?

► *Margarethe Meyer Schurz* by Hannah Swart

Bennett Law: This law was passed in Wisconsin in 1889, and was controversial from its beginning. The law required schools to teach students in the English language, thus affecting many schools teaching immigrants (in Wisconsin this affected many German schools). The law aimed to increase school attendance, and was never fully enforceable. How did his law impact schools in Wisconsin? Did it make changes to education and influence future education laws that could be seen as innovative?

► See **Turning Points in Wisconsin History** for more.

Lyman Draper: Draper was a lifelong student of early American history who devoted his life to rescuing and preserving pioneer stories and documents on frontier history. His extensive collection of materials became the foundation for the collections of the Wisconsin Historical Society, of which he was the first secretary and librarian. How did his personal interest change the idea of collecting? What impact do his collections have today?

► See **Turning Points in Wisconsin History** for more.

The “Wisconsin Idea”: This idea, which guides the University of Wisconsin system, is based on the idea that the universities in the state should serve the people of the state and improve the quality of life for all those living within it. This idea was established by university President Charles Van Hise in 1904, as he hoped to reach every family in the state with the benefits of the university. This idea does not only govern goals in education, however, as it branched out to political influence in Progressive reforms such as primary elections and workman's compensation, among other policies. How does this idea govern the state today? How can one simple idea impact the educational and political goals of an entire state for over 100 years?

► See *Turning Points in Wisconsin History* for more.

Innovation in Women's Roles

Cordelia Harvey: After the death of her husband, Governor Louis P. Harvey, Cordelia Harvey was committed to continuing the work he had started to improve the hospital conditions for Wisconsin soldiers serving in the Civil War. Relentless in her quest to bring wounded soldiers to Northern hospitals, she personally petitioned President Lincoln to establish three hospitals in Wisconsin. After the war ended, she worked on campaigns for homes for soldiers' orphans. How did her innovative work in how veterans and orphans were cared for change the state's population? How did her work impact citizens of Wisconsin and set an example for the country?

► *Letters and Papers of Mrs. Cordelia Harvey, 1862-1864* UW Digital Collections.

Lizzie Black Kander: Kander used culinary reform to help Jewish immigrants assimilate in Milwaukee. She wrote *The Settlement Cookbook* and taught cooking classes to introduce new immigrants to American foods so they would fit in with their new country. How did this impact the lives of the immigrants she taught? What changed due to her innovative and positive outlook on new people arriving in the United States?

► *Papers of Lizzie Black Kander*, Wisconsin Historical Society

Innovation in Politics

Robert M. LaFollette: Robert La Follette developed his fierce opposition to corporate power and political corruption as a young man. Affiliated with the Republican Party for almost his entire career, La Follette embarked on a political path that would take him to Congress, the governorship of Wisconsin, and the U.S. Senate. His support for progressive reforms, rousing oratory, and frequent clashes with party leaders earned him the nickname “Fighting Bob.” He supported measures that doubled the taxes on railroads, broke up monopolies, preserved the state's forests, protected worker's rights, defended small farmers, and regulated lobbying to end patronage politics. How did his innovative ideas in any of the above categories change the political climate? What impact did this one man's ideas have on progressive politics in the early 20th century? What specifically changed to create a new political environment in America because of his work?

► See **Turning Points in Wisconsin History** for more.

John R. Commons and Workman's Compensation: Upon his arrival to the University of Wisconsin in 1902, Commons was working in sociology and economics and advocated such issues as temperance. He strongly supported the idea of collective action to enact change, and in 1911 he drafted the first Workman's Compensation program in the country. Commons studied American labor and wrote numerous books on a variety of topics, some of which were controversial. How did this innovative use of the law impact workers in the state? What changes occurred due to the work of Commons on a given issue?

▶ See *Topics in Wisconsin History* for more.

Edwin Witte and Social Security: Witte served as an economist at the University of Wisconsin before taking on a position with the government. He is credited with developing the first Social Security program for the U.S. What changed for Americans because of this new policy? What impact did this policy have at the time? Today?

▶ See *Topics in Wisconsin History* for more.

Birth of the Republican Party: In 1854, thirty opponents of the Kansas-Nebraska Act (which repealed the Missouri Compromise that banned slavery in western territories, making it possible for territories to decide individually if slavery would be allowed on its land) met in Ripon to create a new political party. They named themselves the Republicans based on their affinity to the goals of the Declaration of Independence. Their party spread throughout that year on the idea that no compromise could be reached with the continuation of slavery. How did this new party change the political landscape of America? What impact did it have on slavery?

▶ See *Turning Points in Wisconsin History* for more.

Senator Joseph McCarthy and McCarthyism: Rising to political power in the midst of the Cold War in the 1950s, Joseph McCarthy is one of Wisconsin's most notorious historical figures. During his political career, he preyed upon the American fear of communism and launched anti-communist campaigns that eventually led to his political demise. How did his innovative look at the political spectrum impact the politics we know today? What changed because of his actions?

▶ See *Turning Points in Wisconsin History* for more.

John McCaffary and the Death Penalty: John McCaffary was tried, convicted, and sentenced to death for the murder of his wife on July 23, 1850 in Kenosha. He was the last person to be executed in Wisconsin. The movement against capital punishment had been active in Wisconsin since before statehood but the McCaffary trial and execution brought new attention to the issue and it was abolished in 1853. Why were Wisconsinites against the death penalty? What was innovative about this movement? What impact did the movement have on others laws of the state?

Victor and Meta Berger: Victor moved to Milwaukee in the 1880s, where he was active in the Socialist party. He favored a gradual approach to the doctrine and led various Socialist publications in the years to follow. His wife, Meta, shared his interests and saw him gain the seat of Milwaukee mayor, and then win Congressional elections (but he was denied the seat due to conspiracy charges during WWI). How did the new ideas on government impact the Milwaukee area? What changes occurred due to the Bergers' leadership?

▶ See *Turning Points in Wisconsin History* for more.

Innovation in Entertainment/Literature/Arts/ Sports

Ringling Bros Circus: Albert Ringling helped create what we think of as the circus with his brothers in Baraboo. The show grew and by 1907 the Ringling brothers purchased the Barnum and Bailey Circus. How did they change other circuses with their successful model?

▶ See *Topics in Wisconsin History* for more.

Zona Gale: Novelist, playwright, and short-story writer Zona Gale successfully used her background and experiences in small town Wisconsin to gain national acclaim. Gale was one of the few fiction writers of her time to write contemporary stories emphasizing local color, costumes, and the depictions of ordinary people. Gale became the first woman to win the Pulitzer Prize for drama in 1921. How did her innovative use of new writing styles change the literary world?

▶ See *Topics in Wisconsin History* for more.

Les Paul: Paul is known for innovations in the world of music. More than just playing guitar, Paul was responsible for the sound of many forms of modern music, including blues, alternative, and metal. He developed the solid-body electric guitar and also effects to be used in sound recording. How have Paul's innovations in music impacted the music we hear today?

Green Bay Packers: Well-known for having “cheeseheads” as fans, the Packers also are innovative as it is the only publicly-owned NFL team. How did this innovative new way to create and support a professional team impact the NFL? What changed for the Packers or other teams based on this new model?

► See *Topics in Wisconsin History* for more.

Bud Selig: Milwaukee native Selig has served as the commissioner of Major League Baseball since 1992. In this time he has overseen the 1994 baseball strike, the introduction of the wild card, and restructuring the American and National Leagues under the office of the commissioner. He not only organized the World Baseball Classic in 2006, but introduced revenue sharing, helped bring back record-breaking attendance at games, and increased revenue 400 percent. Since his time as owner of the Milwaukee Brewers he has also had to deal with the issues surrounding steroid use in the sport. How have the innovations of Selig changed baseball to be the game we know today? What impact has been made because of his leadership?

Margaret Newell H'Doubler: Moving to Madison in 1903, H'Doubler attended the University of Wisconsin to study biology and philosophy. After being influenced by new forms of music education, H'Doubler began to teach dance. Her form of dance was feminine but also allowed students to describe their movement in terms of science. She returned to the University of Wisconsin and helped to establish the first dance major in the country and documented her unique style in the five books she authored. How did her new ideas on women's education change higher education? What impact did her work have on other schools in the country?

► *To Want to Dance: A Biography of Margaret H'Doubler* by Judith Anne Gray

The New Deal in Wisconsin: Various WPA programs helped change Wisconsin and aided the country as it grew out of the Great Depression. Money was spent on improving the country in a variety of ways through this program, while at the same time employing millions of people. Consider looking at one New Deal program that changed the state with its innovative platform.

Innovation in Science

Increase Lapham: Often referred to as the first Wisconsin scholar and ecologist, the interests of Lapham covered many branches of science. He wrote approximately 80 books, including important titles on conservation, Indian mounds, and maps of Wisconsin landscapes. He worked to establish educational opportunities throughout the state and also helped found the federal weather service. How did his work impact the state? What changes were made in various fields of science due to his innovative work?

► *Increase A. Lapham, scientist and scholar* by James I. Clark and *Journals of Increase A. Lapham for 1827-1830*, ed. by Samuel W. Thomas & Eugene H. Conner

Stephen Babcock and the Butterfat Tester: Babcock worked at the University of Wisconsin following his agriculturally-focused education. He developed a test that determined the butterfat content in milk. This revolutionized the production and sales of dairy products. How did this simple invention change impact an entire industry? What changed because of the scientific and consumer problems that Babcock solved with his work?

Dr. William Beaumont: Beginning his career in the upper Midwest region through work with the American Fur Company in 1822, Beaumont found himself treating a patient with a serious wound to the stomach. The patient, St. Martin, survived the dire wound, but forever had a hole in his stomach. While residing in Prairie du Chien, Beaumont discovered the role of gastric acid, exercise and temperature on digestion. How did these new findings of Beaumont impact the medical community? What changed due to the knowledge he gained through his experiments?

► *William Beaumont, Frontier Doctor* by Virginia Burns or *Beaumont's papers*, UW-Madison

The Spanish Flu: The Spanish Flu Epidemic of 1918 was a serious health situation, as it infected more than 100,000 and killed 8,400 Wisconsin residents. Across the world 50 million people died in what was one of the most destructive disease pandemic in history. Wisconsin's government officials were quick to react to this flu and enacted statewide health measures, resulting in Wisconsin having one of the lowest flu-related death rates in the country. What impact did the innovation of Wisconsin scientists have on the health of the public? What changed to make sure no pandemic would be so widespread in the future?

► See *Turning Points in Wisconsin History* for more

Suggested Research Resources

Turning Points in Wisconsin History

More than 1,000 documents separated based on major time periods in Wisconsin history. It is also a great way to find primary sources for a specific time period.

www.wisconsinhistory.org/turningpoints

Topics in Wisconsin History

Provides a lengthy list of events, movements/eras, people, places and more to examine great Wisconsin topic ideas.

www.wisconsinhistory.org/topics/

ArCat

Search engine for Wisconsin Historical Society Archives.

arc.library.wisc.edu/

BadgerLink

DPI website featuring search capabilities for online databases and library catalogs. This is free for Wisconsin students, unlike other database services.

Especially useful portions of Badgerlink include:

NewspaperArchive: world's largest newspaper database, searches millions from the 1700's to present.

EBSCO: Searches numerous topic-focused databases of various journals and printed publications.

www.badgerlink.net/

Dictionary of Wisconsin History

Includes almost 10,000 entries giving brief descriptions of people, places, and events. Many entries also include suggestions for further research.

www.wisconsinhistory.org/dictionary

Online Collections from the Wisconsin Historical Society

www.wisconsinhistory.org/libraryarchives/collections/digital.asp

Wisconsin County Histories

www.wisconsinhistory.org/wch/

Wisconsin Historical Images: 40,000 pictures from Wisconsin history.

www.wisconsinhistory.org/whi

Wisconsin Historical Collections: 10,000 pages of early primary sources

www.wisconsinhistory.org/whc

Wisconsin Historical Society Library/Archives

www.wisconsinhistory.org/libraryarchives/

Wisconsin Local History and Biography Articles

www.wisconsinhistory.org/wlhba/

Wisconsin Magazine of History: More than 2,000 magazine articles from 1917-2008

www.wisconsinhistory.org/wmh/archives/

Wisconsin Pioneer Experience: Digital collection of personal papers from 19th century Wisconsin residents.

digicoll.library.wisc.edu/WI/subcollections/wipionexpAbout.html