We will see each other again!
Thank you for being a member.
We are living in a transformative moment that historians will analyze and write about for decades to come. We offer our sincere thanks to all who are serving and working to keep us safe and supported during these trying times.

For many of us, the global fight against the COVID-19 pandemic is a peculiarly shared experience that has affected our way of life as a state, a nation and a civilization. Our collective memories of the COVID-19 experience will endure throughout our lifetime and will provide significant meaning to future generations, just as the compelling stories of quarantining during the 1918 influenza pandemic provide a relevant pathway for public health officials to propose social distancing as a framework to fight COVID-19 today. In this issue of Columns, we feature an article about the 1918 influenza pandemic. The story serves as an example of how our ancestors overcame adversity and offers insight into the challenge facing us now. Together, we will get through this period of uncertainty.

As a history enthusiast, you know well that during national crises, people turn to the lessons of history for guidance, comfort and perspective, making respected organizations such as the Wisconsin Historical Society more relevant than ever. I can assure you that our staff is working hard — but safely — to continue serving those who look to the Society as their trusted source for history, a role we have proudly fulfilled since 1846. We are prepared and equipped to meet this moment.

As you may already know, we have followed Governor Tony Evers’ emergency orders and shuttered our 12 historic sites and museums, closed our headquarters building and canceled many events. Future events you see listed on these pages may need to be canceled, so please note: Before you attend any event or visit our facilities, check our website for updates.

I am incredibly proud of the ingenuity and innovative spirit our staff has shown in quickly transitioning to working remotely and devising creative ways to serve you. We pivoted to share more content online for people of all ages to enjoy while at home. On the Wisconsin Historical Museum’s Facebook page, for example, “Howard the Hodag” met up with his cousin Harley and took guests on a tour of the closed museum, while on the Society Press Facebook page, author Jerry Apps hosted a live stream from his home and read his children’s book “Eat Rutabagas” in the Press’ inaugural Storytime Live. I encourage you to follow us on social media and join the fun!

We continue to collect and document the American experience with recent acquisitions such as former Time magazine correspondent Arlie Schardt’s archival collection of the American civil rights movement and the field typewriter that bore witness to his journalism in the South in the early to mid-1960s. We are also documenting the pandemic, including asking the public to keep daily written or video journals and donating them to our archives. To learn more, visit wisconsinhistory.org/bighistoryishappening.

Countless stories will emerge from this unique moment in history. Know for certain that the Wisconsin Historical Society will collect and preserve our collective stories of the pandemic so that future generations can learn from our experience. We look forward to creating the future of history with you.

Until then, be well.

Christian Øverland
Ruth and Hartley Barker Director & CEO
Thank you members!

May is member appreciation month.

Now more than ever, we’re excited to celebrate members like you! Your support during these uncertain times is keeping our history alive. Visit wisconsinhistory.org/membermonth to learn about your extra benefits and other special offers this month.
Wisconsin and the 1918 Flu Pandemic

It was “the virus that shut down the state.” A global pandemic spread across Wisconsin “by means of ordinary coughs and sneezes, borne through communities along the channels of human contact.” The disease’s arrival “disrupted the routine of daily life and exacted a heavy human toll.” Schools closed. People were discouraged from gathering in large crowds and told to stay home. Medical supplies and hospital beds ran low.

This certainly sounds like a description of the COVID-19 pandemic. But those words, published in an Autumn 2000 Wisconsin Magazine of History article by Steven Burg, describe a disease that gripped Wisconsin communities over a century ago — the 1918 H1N1 influenza pandemic, commonly referred to at the time as the Spanish flu.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, the 1918 pandemic was one of the most severe in human history. Approximately 500 million people worldwide became infected, and an estimated 50 million people died, 675,000 in the United States. In 1919, the U.S. Census Bureau recorded 8,459 deaths in Wisconsin over six months, more than Wisconsin’s casualties in World War I, the Korean War, and the Vietnam conflict, combined.

Even so, Wisconsin fared better than other states by confronting the crisis aggressively. Nationally, the average rate of death was 4.39 per thousand people, but Wisconsin held its average to 2.91 per thousand. A relatively low population density was one factor in our state’s success, but Wisconsin’s extensive health infrastructure, and the efforts of residents, business leaders, and local governments were major influences.

Even before the epidemic reached Wisconsin, public health officials launched a statewide education campaign telling those with symptoms to stay home. Wisconsin was the only state to comprehensively close public institutions, and all citizens were asked to avoid theaters, mass meetings, and other crowded spaces. Public wakes and kissing were discouraged. Sanctions were issued against public coughing and spitting. Local governments enforced quarantines and placed placards on the doors of those in isolation as a warning. Many communities saw large numbers of volunteers step up to care for the sick, help overburdened mothers, prepare meals, and offer their cars as ambulances.

In times of crisis, history can help us understand our world today. While the story of the 1918 pandemic serves as a warning, it also shows how swift action, perseverance, and a volunteer spirit can limit the impact of public health crises and help us to recover.

To read the full article on the 1918 pandemic, visit whisht.org/wmohpandemic.
During challenging times, Mr. Rogers said to “Look for the helpers.”

At the Wisconsin Historical Society, that means we’re looking at you. As a member, you’re a very important “helper” to us. You are helping to continue to share Wisconsin’s stories, even as we have made difficult decisions to close our physical locations during this crisis. Thank you for caring and for helping.

If you’re feeling a bit isolated from the things you love during this time of social distancing, we hope you’ll take advantage of these online resources. Here are three steps to get you started on your own, online adventure through the past:

**STEP ONE:**
Visit wisconsinhistory.org/bighistoryishappening to learn how history can help us understand our world today. Each week, we’re featuring a different “then and now” topic, which compares the past to our present. Through this web page, you can also access a curated selection of the Society’s online resources, including activities for kids, resources for teachers, weekly historic poster artwork, interesting information on big moments in Wisconsin’s history, and much more!

**STEP TWO:**
Are you subscribed to our weekly e-newsletter? It’s the best way to learn about new resources and receive important updates. To sign-up online, visit wisconsinhistory.org/newsletter.

**STEP THREE:**
Like us on Facebook for your daily dose of history. We are sharing stories, historic images, videos, and more.

Your membership always means so much to us, but it may be more important now than ever. We believe that history can help guide us through tough moments, and it’s wonderful to know that you are committed to seeing it collected, preserved, and shared, even during these challenging times. Thank you for your support, now and always.
Hellos and Goodbyes in Library, Archives and Museum Collections

March brought two big changes to the Society’s Division of Library, Archives and Museum Collections. Division director and State Archivist Matt Blessing retired after 17 years with the Society and a total of 36 years in the history field. During his tenure at the Society, Blessing hired a whole new generation of talented and creative archivists, librarians, and curators, opened the new State Archive Preservation Facility while also building infrastructure for born-digital records, and secured almost two million dollars in grants and endowments, strengthening the division for the future.

“One of the joys of my position was meeting Society members who are equally passionate about history,” Blessing shared. “More than grants or new buildings, I’ll miss being around people who are dedicated to history.”

While Blessing said his goodbyes, the Society was able to say “hello” to Estella Chung, who joined us as chief curator on March 2. Chung has more than 25 years of museum experience. She will lead the curatorial team within the Division of Library, Archives and Museum Collections and work with the Society’s museums and historic sites across the state. Chung previously served as the director of collections and curator of American material culture, historian and head of oral history at Hillwood Estate, Museum & Gardens in Washington, D.C. Chung earned a M.A. in American Civilization from Brown University, and a B.A. in American Culture from the University of Michigan.

When asked why she decided to join the Society, Chung shared, “I am humbled and delighted to join the Society because its collections and activities represent broader and inclusive thinking on state and North American history. Not many organizations have the creative, intellectual, and technical teams to provide the public with outstanding access to history in multiple formats and locations. ... In my new position as chief curator, I am excited to be part of this collective of professionals to share the Society’s vast holdings with the public.”

The Society’s Division of Library, Archives and Museum Collections is able to look towards the future because of the groundwork laid by Blessing, the expertise and enthusiasm of new leaders like Chung, and the support of members like you, who care so deeply about our history.

Amendment to Society Constitution Approved

In the May 2019 issue of Columns, we asked members to vote on an amendment to our constitution. Article V – Elected Officers, Section 1 - Election originally read, “Commencing in 2001 no officer who has served one complete term in an office shall be eligible for reelection to that same office.” The proposed amendment was, “Commencing in 2001 neither the President nor President-Elect who has served one complete term in an office shall be eligible for reelection to that same office.” The amendment passed, with 180 members for the amendment and 17 against. Thank you to all the members who voted!
The Wisconsin Historical Society is “cooking up history” with recipes from historic newspapers. Old recipes are often short, ambiguous, and rely heavily on what would have been considered common cooking knowledge at the time. In order to bring these recipes to life today, our staff researches everything from historic cooking utensils to spices commonly used and available at the time.

In the 1910s, a new trend arrived in Wisconsin — paper bag cookery. Originally from England, the innovative cooking method was frequently praised and sometimes mocked by local newspapers. On Nov. 21, 1912, the Manitowoc Pilot printed a recipe for stuffed onions cooked in a paper bag. This is how you can make it today:

**Stuffed Onions**

6 medium yellow onions
2 tablespoons butter

**Stuffing**

½ pound ground pork
½ pound ground beef
¼ cup chopped pecans
1 ½ tablespoons chopped parsley
1 teaspoon paprika
½ teaspoon salt
½ teaspoon pepper

**Supplies**

Parchment paper
Metal paper clips

Peel the onions and parboil them for 15 minutes. Let them cool in cold water and remove the centers (about half of the onion).

Chop half of the removed onion centers and add to a bowl with ground pork and beef, pecans, parsley, paprika, salt, and pepper. Mix well and stuff the onions. Place stuffed onions on half of a large sheet of baking parchment, top onions with butter, and fold over the other half of the parchment to create a bag. Double-fold the edges and fasten with paper clips. Add ¼ cup of water and fold and fasten the third edge to seal the pouch.

Bake at 420°F for 45 minutes. Make sure that the paper is not touching the heat elements of your oven and check on your paper frequently to avoid burning.

Carefully remove the bag from the oven, cut open, and enjoy the aroma. Serve onion drizzled with the sauce left at the bottom of the bag, season to taste with salt and pepper.

To learn more about our journey to develop this modern version of a historic recipe, visit whist.org/stuffedonions.
Journalist Arlie Schardt reported on many big moments during the civil rights movement. In late 2019, he decided to donate one of the most important artifacts from that era of his life to the Wisconsin Historical Society — his typewriter. During the 1960s, Schardt covered the civil rights movement in the U.S. South for Time. Back then, submitting a story was much more complicated than sending an email. As Schardt put it in a recent phone call with Society staff, the process was “so archaic, you won’t believe it.”

Throughout the day, Schardt scribbled notes in spiral-bound notebooks. When he returned to his hotel room for the night, he composed stories on his typewriter, and then drove to the Western Union late at night. A teletype operator transmitted his story to Time’s New York office.

“Time Life was so huge that they had their own, dedicated wire, going straight from Western Union to the Time Life building in New York [City],” Schardt recalled.

Many nights, he’d race back to his hotel room and sit by the phone, waiting for his New York-based editor to call with follow-up questions. “Time had an incredible efficient fact-checking system,” he recalled. “There were very few errors in the copy that ever got into any issue of the magazine.” This process meant many long nights for Schardt and his fellow journalists. It also exposed them to danger.

“I can remember a couple of times where these racist thugs, Klan types and everything, would block me from getting into the [Western Union] office,” Schardt said. “And I can remember one time when I had to run out the door ... and they chased me. I knew I had to leave town and go somewhere else to file the story. So I jumped into my car and started driving towards the East Coast ... I was scared to death. I thought I was dead.”

After Schardt led them on a chase through the Andersonville National Cemetery in Georgia and out of town, his pursuers gave up. Schardt was able to file his story in a neighboring town.

“There were several scary moments like that in just the simple act of trying to get my paper copy to a teletype operator,” Schardt said.

Over the course of his time in the South, Schardt interviewed and got to know figures like Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., civil rights organizer Stokely Carmichael, and Assistant Attorney General John Doar. He reported

This Olympia Model SF typewriter is a small, portable machine housed within a leather-bound traveling case. The serial number indicates that it was manufactured in West Germany in 1957.
from Memphis when Dr. King was assassinated, interviewed Cassius Clay before he became Muhammad Ali and covered the Selma March in 1965. One of his most memorable moments as a reporter occurred during the Selma March, when civil rights activists marched from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama for voting rights. Schardt had spare time one afternoon and decided to drive out ahead of the march to look for local stories. He stopped by a nearby plantation, down a dirt road just off the highway, hoping to interview sharecroppers about their lives. Schardt sat down on the front steps of a home for an interview with “three or four sharecroppers who had finished [work] for the day,” he said. “All of a sudden, there was a huge cloud of dust roaring onto the plantation.”

It was a squad car from the Neshoba County Sheriff’s office. Two deputies pulled Schardt off the porch and put him in the back of their squad car. Schardt was scared. Sheriff Lawrence Rainey and Deputy Cecil Price from the Neshoba County Sheriff’s Office had recently been accused of conspiring with the KKK in the 1964 murder of three civil rights workers, James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schwerner. During the search for Chaney, Goodman, and Schwerner, the FBI had found the bodies of eight men in a nearby swamp.

Schartt later recalled, “I thought I was dead.”

He was very lucky. The squad car pulled up to the highway just as the Selma-Montgomery marchers neared the intersection. Out in front walked John Doar, the Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights and Wisconsin native tasked with keeping the marchers safe. Schardt rolled down the window and shouted, “They’ve arrested me!”

Doar pulled him from the car, and Schardt continued his long and storied career.

“He literally saved my life,” Schardt said. “I would have disappeared.”

Schartt left *Time* in the 1970s. He became involved with the ACLU and helped lead the campaign to impeach President Richard Nixon, prior to the Watergate scandal. Schardt also served as executive director of the Environmental Defense Fund, helped establish the Environmental Media Service in 1995, and even served on Al Gore’s 1988 and 2000 presidential campaigns.

Schartt decided to donate his typewriter and other papers to the Wisconsin Historical Society because of his UW–Madison roots. “I was a loyal alumnus,” he explained “and as I looked at the possible universities that had strong civil rights collections, I discovered that Wisconsin has one of the most valuable and comprehensive collections in the country. That cinched it immediately. I was thrilled.”

Schartt’s typewriter and the career it illuminates is a wonderful example of why the Wisconsin Historical Society collects, preserves, and shares the objects and documents that help us understand our history.

“The importance of his field typewriter is simple,” said Joe Kapler, the Society’s lead curator. “No typewriter, no firsthand accounts of the civil rights struggles shared with the wider world in *Time*. It was the tool for conveying [Schartt’s] story into written format for easy publication. But [the typewriter] also represents the writer’s process. It’s through this machine that a journalist composes his or her countless notes, observations, and analyses into a tight narrative. It’s where it all comes together. For Arlie Schardt in the 1960s, it was under the pressures of a ticking clock and a hostile environment.”
Connor Lumber and Land Company Store  
**Town of Laona Forest County; Architect: Gus A. Krasin, Date of Construction: 1914**

The Connor Lumber and Land Company Store served important functions for the citizens of Laona: general store, hardware store, pharmacy, soda fountain, furniture store, mortuary, and later, the library. The building also had governmental functions for this small community including a post office and U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs office. Located in the far northeast part of the state, this is a good example of a commercial building providing a range of services to a small community. Buildings such as this were often the heart of downtowns and integral to thriving communities.

Moody's Camp Lodge  
**Town of Spider Lake, Sawyer County; Builders: Ted Moody and Hank Smith, Date of Construction: 1923**

Moody’s Camp Lodge embodies early 20th century Rustic Style architecture. Its use of natural, local materials helps it blend wonderfully with the north woods environment by complementing the landscape. Its construction makes this a great example of the style, with large, peeled pine logs, chimney of stone and brick, exposed log interior where coats of shellac and the patina of age have given the logs a warm glow. It is a rare survivor from the north woods lodge era, when charming lodges and cabins were constructed for the emerging northern Wisconsin tourist industry.

John P. and Mary Runkel House  
**Town of Wheatland, Kenosha County; Date of Construction: 1878**

The Runkel House is an impressive example of a rural Italianate style farmhouse. Stylistic identifiers include: box-like massing with a center projecting bay on the primary façade, recessed corners with integral porches, coursed ashlar stone foundation with a cast stone water table, and an exterior of cream brick and a low-pitched hipped roof. The house features more elaborate detailing than the typical rural example of the Italianate style, including large cornice brackets under the wide eaves, segmentally arched window moldings, bracketed porch supports, and an elaborately designed wood door. Its refined design and prominent location indicate that this was the home of a prosperous farmer.

Emil and Flora Stoppenbach House  
**Jefferson, Jefferson County; Architect: Van Ryn, Andree & Lesser, Date of Construction: 1893**

The 1893 Emil and Flora Stoppenbach House is an exuberant example of the Queen Anne style. The house expertly blends elements of the Free Classic (recognizable due to the Classical columns) and Spindlework (having delicately turned wood elements) subtypes. The Queen Anne style is characterized by irregularity of roof forms, wall planes and finishes to create visual interest. This home is a showcase of the style and includes: a prominent gabled-end, corner turret, partial porches, cutaway bays, recessed wall planes, patterned shingles, and decorative flourishes in the gables, at the windows, and at the porches — creating one of the best examples of the style in Jefferson.

OTHER LISTINGS: Appleton Post-Crescent Building, Appleton, Outagamie County; Muskego State Graded School, Muskego, Waukesha County; Thomas Friant Shipwreck (Gil Net Tug) Town of Port Wing, Bayfield County; West Center-North 32nd Industrial Historic District, Milwaukee, Milwaukee County
NEW HISTORY EXPLORES FUR TRADING FAMILY

This month, *The Cadottes* introduces today's readers to generations of the frontier family that helped develop and lead the fur trade around Lake Superior, and thus around the world, from 1760-1840. Author Robert Silbernagel details the lives, work, and impact of the French Canadian and Ojibwe clan whose peace-keeping, economic, and pioneering prowess dominated Madeline Island during the heyday of North America's fur trade. A book launch celebration is being planned at Madeline Island Museum.

NEW BIOGRAPHY EXPLORES A LASTING LEGACY

From 1971 to 1977, Wisconsin Governor Patrick Lucey pursued an unusually wide-ranging and ambitious progressive agenda, tempered by the concerns of a fiscal conservative and a pragmatic realist. A progressive with small-town rural roots, he was known for bridging partisan divides, building coalitions, and keeping politics civil. This spring author Dennis Dresang explores Lucey's legacy in a new biography, *Patrick J. Lucey: A Lasting Legacy*, which details the history of his work as governor and his work in rebuilding Wisconsin's Democratic Party in the 1960s.

FROM THE LOOKOUT RECALLS DOOR COUNTY SUMMER CAMP

Brimming with nostalgia, *From the Lookout: Memories of Peninsula State Park's Summer Camp for Girls* brings to life the sights and sounds of an idyllic summer retreat for girls in in the early 20th century that will spark summer camp memories — from archery and canoeing to camp songs to campfire stories. Author and retired Peninsula State Park naturalist Kathleen Harris reports the daily rituals of camp life as well as how campers responded to major world events such as World War I, the Great Depression, and World War II. *From the Lookout* brings to life the trails and shorelines beloved by a generation of girls who every summer called Door County home. Book talks are planned throughout the summer, including a launch event on July 7 at the Ephraim Historical Society.

PRESS TO RELEASE 2ND VOLUME OF GAY HISTORY

In late summer, the Society Press will publish the second volume of author Richard R. Wagner’s groundbreaking work on gay history in Wisconsin, *Coming Out, Moving Forward*. The volume outlines the achievements and challenges of LGBT Wisconsinites between 1969 and 2000, a time during which the state enacted the country’s first gay rights law, elected America’s first openly gay/lesbian persons to Congress, and more! The book includes forewords by former Representative Steve Gunderson (Republican) and Senator Tammy Baldwin (Democrat). Events are being planned at the Madison Central Library, UW–Milwaukee’s Gold Meier Library, and more.

PRESS HOSTS STORYTIMES & ACTIVITIES

From coloring pages to history-inspired science experiments and more, discover activities families can do at home based on the Society Press' books for young readers (and adults). Find them under the resources section of wisconsinhistory.org/bighistoryishappening. The Society Press is posting many of these activities during and after its weekly Facebook Storytime Live events, which will be held on Wednesdays at 10 a.m. during this time of social distancing.

NEW VOLUME SHARES WISCONSIN’S HMONG STORY

In February, the Society Press released the first history written on Wisconsin’s growing Hmong population, *Hmong in Wisconsin*, by Hmong refugee and community leader Mai Zong Vue. Told with a mixture of scholarly research, interviews, and personal experience, this latest addition to the “People of Wisconsin” series shares the Hmong journey from escapes from Laos at the end of the Secret War into Thai refugee camps and then on to settlement in Wisconsin where they have become an important part of their communities.

HOW TO BUY THESE TITLES AND MORE

Interested in purchasing a book during this time of social distancing? Visit your favorite bookstore’s website or find an online independent bookseller at indiebound.org/indie-bookstore-finder. You can also purchase our titles as e-books through most e-book vendors, including KOBO (kobo.com/indie), the online e-book portal for many independent booksellers.

For more information on books and events, visit wisconsinhistory.org/whspress.
The Eagle River Historical Society, founded in 1966 and incorporated in 1968, is located in the small northern Wisconsin community of Eagle River. They gained their first, formal exhibition space in 1997, when they began renting from a local center. After they lost the lease in 2007, most of the collection went into storage. A small percentage remained on display in a former railroad depot, and the Eagle River Historical Society began fundraising at once to acquire a permanent home. In December 2012, they achieved their dream. They purchased a building of their own, a historical structure that was once a part of an old summer camp.

The Depot Museum opened on May 24, 2014, and the collection returned to public view. The museum remains a specialized site for downtown business and railroad history. The Eagle River Historical Society has developed programming for the local school district, including funding and directing living history tours for fourth grade students to supplement their Wisconsin history studies. In cooperation with teachers, the Eagle River Historical Society is creating curriculum enrichment for other grade levels.

To support these and other programs, the Eagle River Historical Society is planning to host a special historic home tour of Indian Point Manor on July 27 from 3-7 p.m. Guests will tour the former summer home of Chicago Mayor Ed Kelly as well as the boathouse and other smaller buildings. Please check eagleriverhistory.org for the most up-to-date information.

In 1928, workers began the construction of this lakefront home in Eagle River, which would become one of the most storied properties in the Northwoods. The 7,500 square foot home, with 2,000 feet of lake frontage, was finished in 1932. During the construction, Kelly was the Superintendent of the Chicago Sanitary District and President of the South Park Commission. Locals recall seeing Sanitary Department trucks hauling building supplies up to the Northwoods.

After Kelly’s death, the home was sold in 1951 to Robert and Mary Murphy, and it remained in the hands of the Murphy family until the current owners, Danny and Wendy Dulak, purchased it in 2018. Guests of the Eagle River Historical Society will tour the home and other buildings and then enjoy an evening with live music, appetizers and beverages, and displays of the home’s history. This is the first time the home has been open to the public. For tickets and information about the Historic Home Tour event, museum hours for the 2020 season, and other resources, visit eagleriverhistory.org.
As UW–Madison graduate students in the early 1970s, Richard and Joan Leffler spent countless hours, separately, inside the Wisconsin Historical Society headquarters. Little did they know that the historic building’s library, archives, and reading room would become such an important part of the life they would build together over the ensuing five decades.

“I used to come here pretty much every day,” recalls Richard, a Brooklyn, N.Y., native who studied early U.S. history as a graduate student. “Everything that had to do with American history was here. I would be in the stacks late at night until they closed. It was a phenomenal historical research resource. It still is.”

“I would use the Society because of the wonderful reading room,” says Joan, a Detroit native who pursued a Spanish graduate degree. “It was a nice, quiet place to study and work on things.”

They met while working part-time campus jobs for the UW History Department on the Constitutional Ratification Project, which is considered the definitive history of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Richard conducted research, while Joan utilized her foreign language skills.

“We had these 18th-century letters,” Richard says, “and she could read them and translate them and transcribe them accurately. It was a rare talent.”

Long hours working together led to mutual respect, then love: Their first date was on July 7, 1975, they got engaged the next year and married on Oct. 15, 1977.

On this day, the Lefflers are relaxing in a room off the Society lobby, just steps from the well-worn marble stairs they climbed as students to visit the library.

They’re both now retired after long careers at UW-Madison. Richard kept working on the Ratification Project and in 1981 co-founded UW’s Center for the Study of the American Constitution, where he served until retiring in 2009. Joan retired in 2014 after 42 years on campus, the final 20 as the German Department’s administrative coordinator.

Over the years, they became strong advocates for the Wisconsin Historical Society, even more so in retirement.

“I owe my life to the Society,” Richard says. “My life has been dependent upon the resources of this building. ... It is known among scholars as one of the great libraries of the world.”

The Lefflers are members of the Society’s Heritage Circle (those who donate $1,200 or more annually) and in 2018 established an endowment to support the acquisition of library materials.

“This is a great institution and we’d like to keep it that way,” Richard says. “If you have a sense of appreciation for history and the value of history to inform individuals today and in the future, where better to put your money? It seems to me a no-brainer. This is the place.”
Learn What’s New at the 12 Historic Sites and Museums in 2020

COVID-19 UPDATE
As you know, the COVID-19 pandemic continues to affect communities worldwide. We are living in uncertain times, and while we would like to make promises about our plans for this spring and summer, there’s still so much we don’t know. As we send this issue of Columns to the printer, the Society is planning to open our museums and historic sites on July 1. This date could change, as well as plans for future events listed in this newsletter. Before you attend any event or visit any of our 12 historic sites or the Wisconsin Historical Society headquarters building, please check this webpage, wihist.org/covidclosures, for updates. We look forward to seeing our guests again soon, but until then, thank you for your support and understanding.

NEW PROGRAMMING AND HOURS

Guided Tours at Old World Wisconsin
Join a costumed host as they travel back in time with you by their side on one of the new guided tours at Old World Wisconsin. These guided tours allow you to explore select historic spaces with an expert and hear stories not shared on self-exploration days (Friday-Sunday). These small group experiences are perfect for those new to Old World Wisconsin, or those who want to dive deeper into the rich collection of stories of those who came to call Wisconsin home.

GUIDED TOUR OPTIONS
- The Kavale Family, a story of a Norwegian immigrant family making a life in Wisconsin during the Civil War
- Beasts & Barns, a story of rural identity and community across generations
- American Stories, a walking tour of the Crossroads Village, exploring the stories of risk, ingenuity, and the American Dream

DATES
Monday-Thursday, July 1–Sept. 3*
*All guests must be a part of a guided tour to access the grounds on these days and will always stay with their host.

HOURS
Each tour will be offered three times daily between 10 a.m-5 p.m. For a complete schedule of tour times and up-to-date information on COVID-19 closures, visit oldworldwisconsin.org.

ADMISSION FOR MONDAY–THURSDAY GUIDED TOURS
- Adult (13+): $10
- Youth (5-12): $8
- Child (under 5): Free
- Wisconsin Historical Society members: Free
- Additional guided tours can be purchased at a discounted price of $4 off.
To learn more, visit oldworldwisconsin.org.
SPECIAL EXHIBITS

“WE STAND ON THEIR SHOULDERS:”
A HISTORY OF WISCONSIN WOMEN AND VOTING
Wisconsin Historical Museum (Radell Gallery), Madison
Open July 1–Jan. 2, 2021
The right to vote is life-changing, but it does not come without struggle. Celebrate the passage of the 19th Amendment granting women the right to vote. Discover how strong leaders and passionate groups used the new power to gain long-overdue rights and recognition for women in Wisconsin and around the nation.
To learn more, visit wisconsinhistoricalmuseum.org

HMONG IN WISCONSIN
Wisconsin Historical Museum, Madison
July 1–Dec. 31
Commemorate the 45th anniversary of the Hmong Diaspora through this exhibit that features the history of Hmong in Wisconsin.
To learn more, visit wisconsinhistoricalmuseum.org

GEORGE H. HOUGHTON: CIVIL WAR CAMERAMAN
H.H. Bennett Studio, Wisconsin Dells
July 1–Nov. 1
George Harper Houghton, H.H. Bennett’s uncle, was among the few photographers who followed the army to record history as it happened during the Civil War. This exhibit showcases many of Houghton’s Civil War images while delving deep into what photography and a soldier’s life was like during the time period.
To learn more, visit hhbennettstudio.org

WIIGWAAZII: THE EVOLVING TRADITIONS OF BIRCH EXHIBIT
Madeline Island Museum, La Pointe
July 1–Dec. 31
Discover the evolution and multitude of uses for birch bark in the new exhibit, “Wiigwaazii,” at the Madeline Island Museum. View historic items from the museum’s collections as well as the complex, detailed works of art presented by Pat Kruse and his apprentice, Terri Horn.
To learn more, visit madelineislandmuseum.org

GREAT LAKES SMALL STREAMS:
HOW WATER SHAPES WISCONSIN
Villa Louis, Prairie du Chien
July 1–July 20
The Great Lakes region is home to one of the largest freshwater resources on the planet. That water shaped the landscape, history and communities of our state. The Wisconsin Historical Society’s traveling display, “Great Lakes Small Streams: How Water Shapes Wisconsin,” explores our state’s long relationship with water and the impact we have had on our vast waterways.
To learn more, visit villalouis.org

NEW EVENTS
Create memories with family and friends at these NEW events offered at the historic sites and museums in 2020.

WALKING TOUR: WISCONSIN WOMEN HISTORY MAKERS
Wisconsin Historical Museum, Madison
July 14, Aug. 11, Sept. 8

LAURA DAYS
Old World Wisconsin
July 17-19 & 24-26

PHOTO PRESERVATION WORKSHOP
H.H. Bennett Studio, Wisconsin Dells
July 16 & Sept. 24

BEER & BRATS WITH CONRAD SEIPP
Black Point Estate & Gardens, Lake Geneva
July 25 & Sept. 12

PRINTING WORKSHOP
H.H. Bennett Studio, Wisconsin Dells
Aug. 8

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF PENDARVIS RESTAURANT
FINAL MEAL
Pendarvis Historic Site, Mineral Point
Nov. 1
$ Members receive 10% off admission price
Members receive free admission

As of press time, we are planning to re-open our historic sites and museums on July 1. Check wihist.org/covidclosures for up-to-date information.
This year, we are celebrating the big moments in Wisconsin’s history.

Whether that means recognizing the diverse people who have shaped our state’s history or honoring 100 years of women’s suffrage, we hope you’ll join the celebration! We’re focusing on a different theme each month — online during social distancing, and hopefully in-person at events later this year. Stay tuned for future updates.

May
Member Month
This celebration is all about you and the gifts you give to collect, preserve, and share the history of our state.

June
LGBTQ+ Pride Month
We will recognize the impact lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people have had on our state’s history.

July
Historic Sites & Museums
We will celebrate the 145th anniversary of H.H. Bennett Studio’s construction in the Wisconsin Dells.

August
100 Years of Women’s Suffrage
On Aug. 26, we will celebrate 100 years since the 19th Amendment went into effect.

Sign up to receive email updates at wisconsinhistory.org/newsletter and visit our website on the first of each month for new resources.