



**2022 Northeastern Region
LOCAL HISTORY MEETING
Winneconne Historical Society
September 8, 2022**

Join in the local history discussion.

Presentations:

BASICS OF ARCHIVAL ARRANGEMENT AND DESCRIPTION

PRESENTER #1: Joshua Ranger is the University Archivist and Head of Public Services for UW Oshkosh's Libraries. He came to campus in 1998 after graduating from the Information School at the University of Wisconsin. Prior to Oshkosh, Ranger held positions in the archives of the Wisconsin Historical Society. He has served as a board member of the Neenah Historical Society and Wisconsin Humanities.

PRESENTATION DESCRIPTION: Introduction to the fundamentals of organizing, inventorying and cataloging collections of paper-based collections. Advice on the good, better and best approaches that will help you preserve and provide access to your archives-

WHAT THE HECK DOES A HISTORY MUSEUM CURATOR DO?

PRESENTER #2: If anyone knows the answer to that question it is Deb Daubert who spent forty-four years in that position at the Oshkosh Public Museum.

PRESENTATION DESCRIPTION:

Discover the exciting, challenging and sometimes even wacky world of curating in a history museum. Some secrets to be shared include: Meeting and getting research for an exhibition from a man who was among the first to see Titanic underwater; dealing with an elderly promiscuous donor and the uncomfortable, yet historically important artifact he had; getting audiences by lecturing in her underwear; and even doing some ghost hunting!

Tours: WHS Museum Complex, 611 W Main St., Winneconne, WI

Railroad Depot

Built in 1871, the old Winneconne Railroad Depot served as the local terminal for the Milwaukee, Chicago and St. Paul Railroad from 1871-1966. It was the first building to be moved to the museum grounds in 1968 and has since served as the anchor of the museum complex. The main room, formerly the passenger waiting area, features memorabilia of past local businesses from the historical society's archives and depicts the early history of Winneconne. The adjacent depot master's room is arranged as it would have appeared in the late 1800s and includes the stationmaster's desk, telegraph and post office. The adjoining third room is filled with various railroad artifacts and antiques and is a favorite for railroad

Little Country House

The Little Country House was salvaged from Lake Winneconne Park where it originally served as an infirmary and boarding cabin for the Children's County Home. The Children's County Home was a private non-denominational foster care that operated in Winneconne during the Great Depression era from 1929-43. County homes and orphanages became necessary as families were unable to support themselves. As the economy improved, the Children's County Home was no longer needed and closed in 1943. The Little Country House was converted into a small museum. The single-room house is displayed with turn-of-the-century novelties such as a pedal sewing machine, spinning wheel, wood cooking stove, oak icebox, butter churn, dry sink, pie safe and pump organ

One Room Schoolhouse.

Built in the 1880s, the schoolhouse was originally used as a summer parochial school by St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Winchester. The congregation used the small schoolhouse up until the 1960s before it was finally retired. Today, the One Room Schoolhouse's interior is authentically display with the original student desks, teacher's desk, slate chalkboards, reading boards, pump organ and wood stove. Seniors, long-retired teachers and students who may have attended a rural school have fond memories of the one room schoolhouse that was once part of the Wisconsin tradition. The antique typewriters are an instant attraction to school age children

Steamboat House

Over its 100-year lifetime, the Steamboat House structure has had three separate and distinct uses: originally as a river steamboat, secondly as a converted summer resort turned residence, and finally as a one-of a-kind museum. Winneconne Historical Museum Complex Museum visitors can explore the steamboat's cabins, which include the saloon (interior passenger area), galley, captain's quarters and private staterooms. The Steamboat House is the only known remnants on display of the area's romantic but long forgotten steamship era that once dominated the Wolf and Fox river systems from the mid-1850s to early 1900s. The Steamboat House was salvaged from the remains of the original interior cabins of the former paddle sternwheeler Leander Choate II. The Leander Choate II operated from 1907-1917 and was considered the finest passenger excursion steamboat on the local waterways in its time. After its run as an excursion and freight steamship. the steamboat was eventually decommissioned, the cabins removed from the hull, salvaged and placed upon a new foundation. The steamboat structure would experience its second life from 1922-1996, serving as a summer home, resort and private residence on the north shores of Lake Butte des Morts. In 2001, the house was floated via barge from the shores of Butte des Morts, up the Wolf River, lifted ashore and moved to the historical society museum grounds where it underwent preservation.

Kay Wilde Doll Cottage

The Kay Wilde Doll Museum is home to hundreds of antique and collectible dolls from all over the world including Germany, England, France, China, South America and North America. It is the largest doll collection on display in Wisconsin. Kay Wilde, a former Oshkosh schoolteacher, possessed the extensive collection of antique dolls. With no heirs, Wilds struck up an agreement with the Winneconne Historical Society to build the cobblestone doll cottage to provide a permanent home for her personal collection.

Replica of Bridgetender House

The Bridgetender House replica contains the original control panel used by the bridgetenders to raise and lower the gates on the Merritt F. White bridge from 1936 through 2018. Bridgetenders used this control panel to allow water traffic to go through the bridge and also controlled vehicular traffic on the bridge roadway during the boating season. The society also obtained the original traffic gate, a flashing signal light and a portion of the original Merritt White bridge to complete the display. Bridgetenders and family members have donated photos and other furnishings to display on the inside the Bridgetender House.