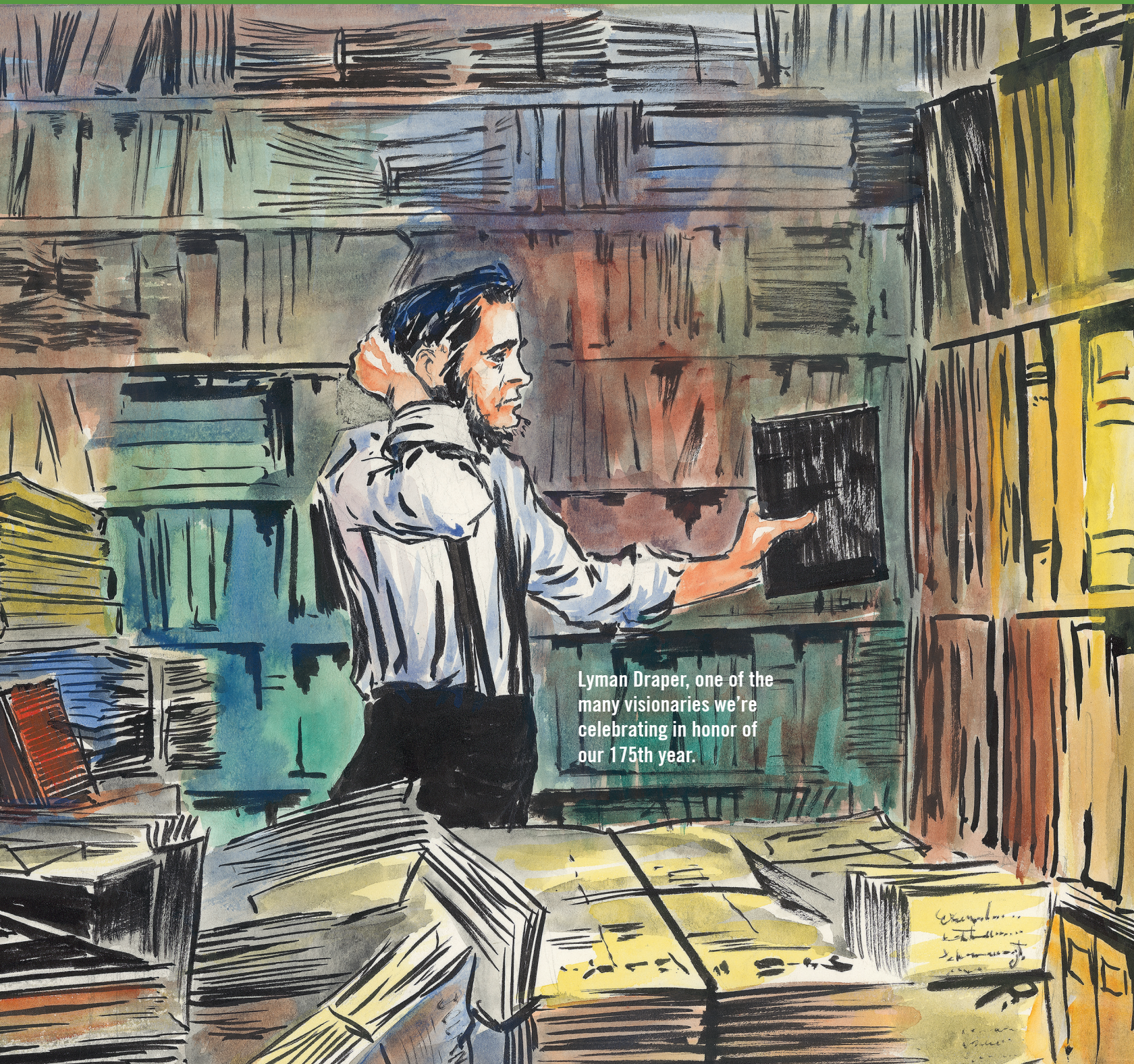


# Columns

THE NEWSLETTER *of the* WISCONSIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Lyman Draper, one of the many visionaries we're celebrating in honor of our 175th year.

JANUARY-APRIL 2021



## DIRECTOR'S LETTER



CHRISTIAN ØVERLAND  
*Ruth and Hartley Barker Director & CEO*

After navigating the numerous challenges 2020 had in store, turning the page to 2021 feels like a much needed breath of fresh air. This year marks the Wisconsin Historical Society's 175th year of fulfilling our mission to connect people to the past by collecting, preserving, and sharing stories. In honor of this milestone anniversary, the Society will be reflecting on defining moments from our past and examining how they have shaped our vision for the future—to serve Wisconsinites in new and unexpected ways and to expand our footprint as the premier state history agency setting an example on the national stage.

Lyman Draper, featured on the cover of this issue, recognized the importance of taking steps in the present to benefit future generations when he bequeathed his collection of nearly 500 volumes of manuscripts to the Society upon his death in 1891. Draper was the first secretary/director of our organization whose contribution was instrumental in stewarding and rescuing underrepresented history from oblivion, such as his Civil War Soldiers' journal project. The Society aims to honor Draper's legacy this year through our campaign to elevate the voices of often overlooked visionaries, storytellers and changemakers who helped shape our collective past. I look forward to sharing the stories of these remarkable individuals in the coming months and hope you will draw inspiration from them as I have.

Members will have an opportunity to participate in what is sure to be another defining moment for the Society by participating in updating our Constitution this year. The Constitution establishes our legal identity and defines our purpose. As you will see when you receive voting information in the mail, the updated Constitution includes just the essentials and moves other provisions to our Bylaws, consistent with good corporate practice and what other similar organizations have done. Members who participate in this process will have the chance to play a role in guiding the Society into the future as a stronger and more efficient history organization.

While the world is still contending with the COVID-19 pandemic, the unique challenges that have arisen from this global health crisis have pushed us to find new ways to carry out our mission and vision. In the months ahead of us, it is my sincere hope that members like you—the lifeblood of the Wisconsin Historical Society—will continue to engage with us as we push on toward a brighter future.

Thank you for your consideration and unwavering support,

**Christian Øverland**

*Ruth and Hartley Barker Director & CEO*

## Columns

**KENDALL POLTZER, Editor**

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### ON THE FRONT COVER:

This watercolor painting is part of a series by Richard D. Houghton depicting the life of Lyman Draper who was the first Secretary of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin at its founding 175 years ago. Draper is one of many visionaries, changemakers, and storytellers who helped shape the Society into the organization it is today.

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## MEMBERSHIP

# FOR MEMBERS, THE BEST IS YET TO COME

It's no secret that the Society depends on the support of our members. We rely on your support to chart a path forward year after year, even when unexpected obstacles stand in the way of progress. With this in mind, a simple, "Thank you" fails to convey the immense gratitude my colleagues and I have for members like you, who have continued to engage with us throughout the global pandemic. With the support of our membership, the Society was able to offer engaging digital programming and other socially distanced touch points, such as our Fall Family Fun Drive at Old World Wisconsin.

The Society will undoubtedly continue to face challenges in 2021 especially as we re-think our approach to programs. With you on our side, I believe we will overcome these challenges and find new ways to share Wisconsin history. You have already answered the call for support simply by choosing to remain a member, and you can continue to support us in the coming months with simple acts like purchasing items from our online store, signing up for our virtual programs, voting on changes to our Constitution, and more. Thank you again for sticking with us for another exciting year in 2021!



Sincerely,

**Hannah Hankins**

*Annual Giving Manager*

## A NEW YEAR, A NEW DIRECTION FOR PROGRAMS



Wisconsin Historical Society programs are an extension of our mission to collect, preserve and share stories. This year, we have reached our 175th anniversary at a point in history marked by deep political divisions and a devastating pandemic which has shed new light on societal injustices that have compounded over generations. As public historians, we understand that it is our responsibility to give voice to the community by lifting up stories representative of our collective history. Our goal for 2021 and the years to follow is to offer programs that provide context for today's history in the making while celebrating the stories of Wisconsin's diverse visionaries, changemakers and storytellers.

Looking forward, we will strive to reach more youth, people of color and the LGBT+ community by delivering more experience-based programming aligned with how they experience the world. We will evolve our approach to community engagement and publications through deeper collaboration with various community groups and affiliates that reflect the diversity and richness of Wisconsin's history. Finally, we will expand access to public history through initiatives like digitizing our collection and by sharing our expertise and collection with community partners state and nationwide.

I hope that the stories of the visionaries, changemakers, and storytellers we showcase throughout the year will captivate and inspire you as WHS turns the page to our next chapter in history.

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— Angela Titus, Assistant Deputy Director and Chief Program Officer

# CELEBRATING WISCONSIN VISIONARIES, CHANGEMAKERS, AND STORYTELLERS

## A Look Back at 175 Years of Collecting, Preserving, and Sharing Stories

From our earliest days to where we stand today, the Society has been tasked with collecting, preserving, and sharing the stories of our collective past. Although our mission hasn't changed, our organization has grown and evolved with transformative shifts to society and culture.

Take a look at a few of the milestone moments we're reflecting on in commemoration of our 175th year and know each one would not be possible without support from you, our members. Here's to 175 more years of lifting up the voices of the visionaries, storytellers, and changemakers whose contributions live on through those who find inspiration in their work.

*Reuben Gold Thwaites seated at his desk in his office. WHI 38028*



Reuben Gold Thwaites was a librarian, historian and editor who succeeded Lyman C. Draper as executive officer of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin in 1887. His energy in historical undertakings and ability as an administrator helped shape the Society into one of the leading organizations of its kind.

Two years before Wisconsin becomes a state, the Wisconsin Historical Society is formed. Founded in 1846 and chartered in 1853, it is the oldest historical society in the United States to receive continuous public funding.

1846



*Allie Crumble working on a quilt, 1987. Photo: From Hardanger to Harleys*

The Wisconsin Historical Museum acquired the first quilt for its folk art museum collection in 1914. Today, there are more than 150 quilts in the collection, including Allie Crumble's Necktie Quilt created from actual neckties worn by members of the Milwaukee Metropolitan Baptist Church. Its 36 squares tell the story of her African American church community.

1887

1914

Increase Lapham was a self-educated engineer and scientist who made some of the earliest accurate maps of Wisconsin. He investigated local effigy mounds, native trees and grasses, climatic patterns and geology, and helped found many educational and cultural institutions that still enrich the state today. His story was told in a featured article in the very first issue of the Wisconsin Magazine of History, published in 1917.

1917

Ruth DeYoung Kohler is perhaps best remembered for her visionary restoration of the Wade House to which she devoted 3 intense years. She personally directed the restoration and sought to deed the property to the Wisconsin Historical Society upon completion. Wade House opened to the public on June 6, 1953, as the Society's second historic site.

1953



# 1974

Gaylord Nelson was a Wisconsin senator whose efforts led to the first Earth Day on April 22, 1970. Nelson donated a portion of his senatorial papers to the Wisconsin Historical Society in 1974, later followed by additional materials in 1980. The large collection remained unprocessed until 2006 when the Society received a generous grant from the Evjue Foundation and today, his collection can be accessed online.

# 1981

Six million European Jews were systematically murdered by the Nazis and their allies during the Holocaust. More than 1,000 survivors eventually settled in Wisconsin. The Society interviewed 22 Holocaust survivors and two American witnesses starting in 1974. In 1981, archivists completed the collection and these oral histories are now accessible online.

# 2007

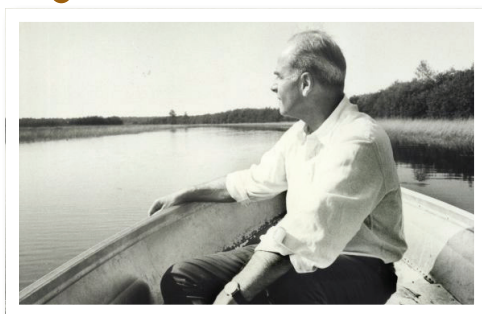
A nationally recognized social worker, community organizer, activist and political leader, Ada Deer is a champion of Indian rights. The Society celebrated the lifetime achievement of Ada Deer during the History Makers Gala in Milwaukee on Wednesday, May 9, 2007. Deer received the Robert and Belle Case La Follette Award for Distinction in Public Service.

# 2012

The Somos Latinas History Project was created in 2012 to document the contributions of Latinas in Wisconsin and showcase their positive impact on local communities. These narratives are preserved for future generations in the Wisconsin Historical Society's Archives.

# 2020

The 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution prohibited state and federal governments from denying the right to vote on the basis of gender. Wisconsin became the first state to ratify this amendment on June 10, 1919. In 2019 and 2020, the Society honored Wisconsin women who worked tirelessly to obtain the vote with events and exhibits highlighting stories, images, and artifacts from our suffrage collections.



*Gaylord Nelson sits in a canoe and looks out over the water around the Apostle Islands. WHI 56854*



*Secretary of the Interior Rogers Morton signing the documents that restored tribal status to the Menominee Indians. Watching the ceremony are Senator Gaylord Nelson and Ada Deer (third from left), head of the interim Menominee Restoration Committee. WHI 45437*



*Poster issued by the Milwaukee County League of Women Voters. WHI 37894*



# Recent Additions

## STATE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES



### Solomon and Josette Juneau House

**Town of Theresa, Dodge County; Date of Construction: 1847**

This house is among the best examples of a modest Greek Revival style house dating from the 1840s in Dodge County. Solomon and Josette Vieau Juneau are representative of early exploration and settlement in Wisconsin. Josette Juneau's mastery of three languages including Menominee, Potawatomi, and French, and familial connections to a well-established fur trading family and both the Menominee and Potawatomi tribes provided a critical link for Euro-American explorers and fur traders—like her husband Solomon—to explore the area which led to settlement and statehood. Solomon Juneau was a fur trader, elected official, businessman, one of the founders of Milwaukee, and the founder of Theresa, Wisconsin.

### Methodist Episcopal Church

**Marquette, Green Lake County; Date of Construction: 1860**

The Methodist Episcopal Church is a quaint clapboard building, built in 1860 just before the Civil War. Built by Rev. Joseph Pierce and local volunteers, they finished construction in time for Rev. Pierce's twelve-year-old son to ring the church bell announcing the fall of Fort Sumter in 1861. The church is charming, with eight Gothic windows and a gabled roof topped with a belfry; the interior walls are of plaster and wood, and the floor is of cork, retaining its original 1860s appearance. The last Methodist Congregation dissolved in 1959 and eventually the church was donated to the Village for a Historical Society. This little church, built from the energy and hope of a generation of immigrants, looks remarkably unchanged and ready to welcome back visitors.



### Wisconsin Point

**Superior, Douglas County; Dates of Significance: 1840-1930**

The Ojibwe community site on Wisconsin Point, dating from 1840-1930, is significant for its history of Ojibwe occupation of the Point, and is a stark reminder of Indigenous communities' struggles for sovereignty and self-determination. Non-reservation communities like Wisconsin Point played a critical part in maintaining American Indian communities' fiercely-guarded, millennium old traditions, while embracing new ways to be Indigenous and American. These sites form part of an elaborate network of community sites, homesteads, labor camps, gathering camps, seasonal rendezvous sites, urban centers, and reservations that were, and continue to be "Indian Country."





### Barden Store

**Kenosha, Kenosha County;**

**Architect: Charles O. Augustine; Date of Construction: 1907**

The Barden Store is a purpose-built department store incorporating generous expanses of storefronts and large second floor windows providing natural light to the sales and display areas. The Barden Store was Kenosha's premier locally-owned department store, occupying the building from 1907 until 1985, when the store moved across the street. For 78 years, it was a popular shopping destination, and was synonymous with service, quality, and selection. The building exemplifies an important piece of Kenosha's commercial history, being one of the few in downtown Kenosha representing the heyday of retail department stores.

### Bishop Stanislaus Vincent Bona Cabin

**Town of Minong, Washburn County; Date of Construction: 1925**

This cabin was a remote woodland escape for ten priests to fish and relax. The cabin is a fine example of Rustic style architecture, a style blending log and stone with a form influenced by Adirondack summer homes and National Park lodges, blending the building into the natural environment. The beauty of the unspoiled forest and crystal blue lakes teaming with fish brought tourists and fishermen to Washburn County. The charm and ambiance of the Northwoods was enhanced with Rustic style architecture. Log cabins and lodges captivated the romanticism of the American wilderness and made a vacation or fishing trip feel like an excursion into uncharted territory.



### OTHER LISTINGS

- St. Augustine Church Additional Documentation, Town of New Diggings, Lafayette County
- Freedom Mine, Town of Freedom, Sauk County
- 20th Street School, Milwaukee, Milwaukee County
- 37th Street School, Milwaukee, Milwaukee County
- *Robert Pringle* Shipwreck, Town of Wilson, Sheboygan County
- Eagle Knitting Mills, Milwaukee, Milwaukee County
- Koeffler-Baumgarten Double House, Milwaukee, Milwaukee County
- Siebken's Resort, Elkhart Lake, Sheboygan County



# THWAITES' LEGACY LIVES ON

## *as Organizations are Welcomed into the Society's Affiliate Network*



Reuben Gold Thwaites at his desk in the South Wing of the Wisconsin State Capitol. WHI 23282

It's impossible to reflect on the Society's 175-year history of collecting, preserving, and sharing stories without considering the impact of Reuben Gold Thwaites' vision to create the nation's first local history affiliate program. Created in 1898, the program established a link between Wisconsin's vibrant local history community and the Wisconsin Historical Society.

As the second director of the Society, Thwaites proposed several initiatives to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Wisconsin statehood, including the creation of a state law allowing WHS to have auxiliaries. While the policies of the affiliation program have evolved over the past 123 years, it has remained a core component of the Society's mission and today serves more than 435 organizations.

Thwaites summarized the purpose of the Society's mission with his motto, "We aim to be useful." The affiliate program embraces this spirit of service by offering support through consultations, workshops, a statewide conference, and online educational opportunities. The program continues to grow and serve diverse organizations and communities across the state, including the most recent affiliates we welcome to our network:

- ▣ African Heritage, Inc. was formed in 1998 by Fox Valley community members interested in sharing African and African American history and culture. A main focus is the creation of cultural events and programs that add to the vitality of the Fox Valley region and contribute to the shared vision of a welcoming and inclusive community.
- ▣ The Elcho Historical Society formed in 2018 when the community organized to acquire the Elcho Grange Hall and restore the building to serve as the site of the town's future museum and to preserve and share the history of Elcho and surrounding communities.
- ▣ The Friends of the Saxonia House, Inc. organized to purchase and restore a 72-foot by 35-foot half-timber frame (fachwerk) house, which is believed to be the largest structure of its kind in Wisconsin. The organization also promotes the arts and crafts of traditional German American culture.
- ▣ The Green Bay Firefighters Historic Preservation Foundation collects, preserves, and shares the history of the Green Bay Metro Fire Department. The group formed in 2019 to begin organizing the growing number of artifacts held by the department, current and former firefighters, and family members in the Green Bay area.



Dr. Sabrina Robins, Dr. Bola Delano-Oriaran, Tanika Apaloo, and Christian Øverland at a February 2020 Black History Month affiliate event in Appleton. Photo by Amadou Kromah

- ▣ The Redgranite Area Historical Society is dedicated to preserving the history of the village of Redgranite and the surrounding area by collecting, preserving, and sharing local artifacts and archival collections.

For more information about the affiliation program, visit [wisconsinhistory.org/localhistory](https://wisconsinhistory.org/localhistory).

By Janet Seymour







# Retired WAA Leader All-in on Society



During her more than four decades working on the University of Wisconsin-Madison campus, Paula Bonner passed the Wisconsin Historical Society headquarters building countless times. Located at the base of State Street on Library Mall, across from Memorial Union, the historic, columned building is hard to miss. But, like so many others, Bonner didn't fully realize how wide-reaching and impactful the work of the Society is for people of all ages and backgrounds. "I thought that it was mostly about genealogy," she says.

That perception changed dramatically as she neared her 2017 retirement following 41 years with the UW, the first 13 spent in the women's athletics administration and the final 28 in leadership roles with the Wisconsin Alumni Association (WAA), including the final 17 years serving as president and CEO. First, she learned more about the Society while overseeing one of her career crowning achievements: the 2017 completion of Alumni Park (next to Memorial Union), as the two organizations had common collaborators.

*Retired Wisconsin Alumni Association president and CEO Paula Bonner says she feels "like an evangelical person" when it comes to the Wisconsin Historical Society. "I'm just so thankful that I got to know more about the Society. There's so much quality."*  
Photo by Spencer Micka

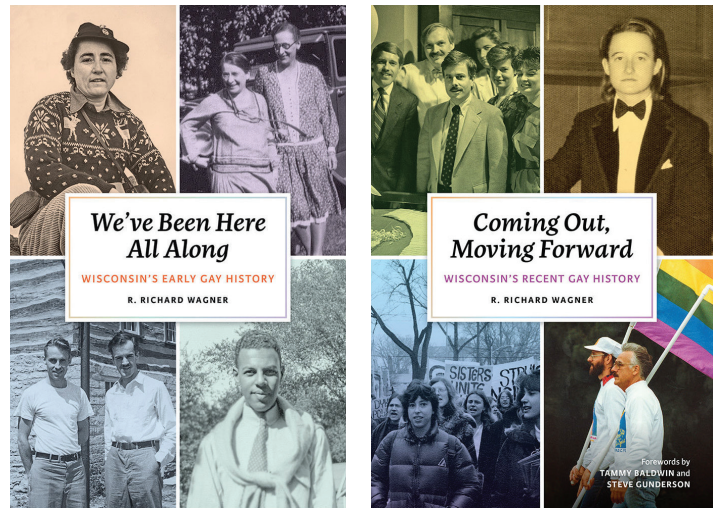


Bonner's real awakening, however, came when she and Ann Schaffer helped lead fundraising for author Richard Wagner's groundbreaking, two-volume book project on gay history in Wisconsin which was published by the Society Press: *We've Been Here All Along* and *Coming Out, Moving Forward*. Bonner and Schaffer have been partners for almost 30 years and married for five, so supporting the publications authored by their good friend Wagner was deeply personal and important to them. It was the conduit for a deeper understanding and appreciation of the Society.

"Because of the donation we made, we became part of the Society's Heritage Circle, so we started getting invites to events and subscriptions to *Wisconsin Magazine of History* and the *Columns* newsletter, among other benefits," Bonner says. "We got to know members of the staff and it just gave me a whole level of awareness of the breadth and depth of the Society's work."

The one-time eighth-grade physical education, health and social studies teacher was moved by the National History Day program for students and wowed by the Society's maritime archaeologists and their documentation of Great Lakes shipwrecks. Bonner was also impressed by visits to Society historic sites and was "blown away" after touring the new State Archive Preservation Facility and seeing the Society's incredible collections in storage, which made her a devoted advocate for the Campaign for a New Wisconsin History Museum, where those "treasures" can be shared with the public.

"Now I feel kind of like an evangelical person when it comes to the Society," Bonner says with a laugh. "I'm just so thankful I got to know more about the Society. There's just so much quality up and down and around. I'm attracted to organizations that have a wider reach like the Society has. I find it gratifying to see things being conducted that have that scale and the potential to touch lives and make a difference."



Richard Wagner's volumes on gay history in Wisconsin, available through the Society Press, were key to Bonner gaining a deeper understanding of the Society.

Growing up just outside Charleston, S.C., Bonner was surrounded by historic markers, monuments, and sites, so it was natural that history became a subject she enjoys. She "devoured" books and says she was particularly enamored by the Colonial Era and American Revolution, but "in my bones felt wrong about what I was learning about the Civil War."

Deep racial divisions even visited her doorstep in the form of the Ku Klux Klan. Bonner's late father, Henry, was the Berkeley County Superintendent of Education for years, including during the passage of the Civil Rights Act in 1965, and was an advocate for integrating all schools. Three years later, when she entered high school, it finally happened. Her father's role in instituting desegregation led the KKK to descend upon her street. "That was pretty scary stuff," she admits. "The whole thing became pretty real. They were outside in their hoods and they were kind of trolling up and down the street, and they'd get out and just stare at our house. To menace and to say, 'We know where you live.'"

That personal lived experience informs why Bonner calls herself "a proud member of the Society." "Understanding history is more important now than ever," she says, especially the "honest history, the full picture, and the hard-to-hear history. The quality of information is something that more and more people are realizing they need to look at carefully."

The Society provides that authentic historical information, Bonner says, which is why she encourages others to become members and increase their level of giving. "I really am completely sold on the quality of all of the staff," she says. "The leadership of the Society and Foundation and the hard work that everybody puts in is so impressive. You know you're giving to a very well-led, very strategic and very stewardship-minded organization that understands and executes its mission every day."

By Dean Witter



One of Bonner's crowning career achievements was the completion of Alumni Park in 2017.  
Photo Credit: Wisconsin Alumni Association

# Our Bookshelf

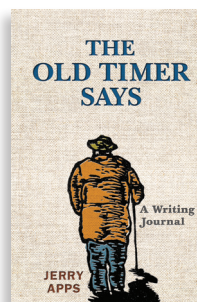
For more than 165 years, the Society Press has aimed to reach ever-growing audiences and share increasingly diverse Wisconsin stories while maintaining the highest standards of scholarship and quality. This tradition began in 1855 when the Society published its first book, then-director Lyman Draper's "Report and Collections of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin." The publication showcased the Society's growing collections and made them widely available, a Society tradition of sharing stories that has continued to the present day. Hundreds of publications followed, including a 400-page guide to manuscripts that Draper donated to the Society's library and archives. The "Guide to the Draper Manuscripts" remains in print as the primary navigational tool to this nationally-renowned collection.

Draper's successor, Rueben Gold Thwaites, expanded the Press's mission through the second half of the 1800s, printing circulars to assist local historians in preserving and sharing history as well as catalogs to aid researchers mining the Society's growing archives. Under Thwaites, the Press published numerous Civil War narratives, including a celebrated women's history, Alice Hurn's "Wisconsin Women in the War Between the States."

Thwaites' successor Milo Quaife expanded the Press further in the early 1900s with the launch of the quarterly *Wisconsin Magazine of History* in 1917, bringing history into the living rooms of the Society's 700 members. Two thousand articles later, the magazine has grown to a circulation of nearly 10,000. (Learn more in a video about the magazine's first 100 years on the Society Press YouTube page [whspressbooks.org](https://www.whspressbooks.org).)

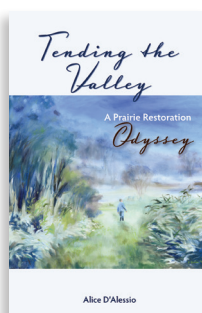
By the 1970s and 1980s, the Society Press was publishing the magazine, a half dozen books per year—including the landmark six-volume *History of Wisconsin* series and the nationally acclaimed Documentary History of the Ratification of the Constitution series—and educational materials for children. The Society Press grew substantially in the late 1990s and early 2000s, expanding its trade and educational market titles to include the upper elementary textbook "Wisconsin: Our State, Our Story," the Badger Biographies series for young readers, and e-books and audiobooks. Even while innovating in the face of changing technology and market needs, the Society Press has continued its long tradition of publishing well-researched, authentic history that enriches the lives of all Wisconsinites. Press books and magazine articles frequently highlight the Society's collections, programs, and staff expertise. They illuminate and make accessible the work of researchers, academic historians and avid history enthusiasts, and many of Wisconsin's most accomplished authors. Discover the Press's deep and diverse catalog at [www.wisconsinhistory.org/whspress](https://www.wisconsinhistory.org/whspress).

By Kristin Gilpatrick



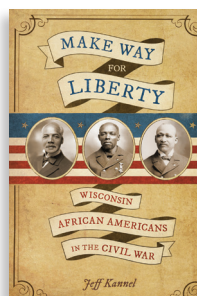
## JOURNAL WITH JERRY APPS

Celebrated Wisconsin storyteller and author, Jerry Apps encourages readers to write their own stories in his newest Society Press publication, *The Old Timer Says*. Featuring an introduction describing the benefits and joys of journaling, the publication is filled with inspiring one liners from Apps's well-known blog, each designed as writing prompts that encourage folks to record their personal histories. *The Old Timer Says* is designed with the real purpose of encouraging others to learn the joy of journaling and recording one's thoughts and stories for family, for fun, and/or for an historical aim.



## MEMOIR JOURNEYS THROUGH A DRIFTLESS PRAIRIE RESTORATION

Rediscover a Driftless Area valley as it used to be in *Tending the Valley: A Prairie Restoration Odyssey*. Combining keenly-observed nature writing and humor, author Alice D'Alessio chronicles her and her husband's adventures (and misadventures) in restoring their land to its natural prairie and pine woods state. With hard-earned experience and the evocative language of a poet, D'Alessio shares personal triumphs and setbacks as a prairie steward, along with a profound love for the land and respect for the area's natural history.



## MAKE WAY FOR LIBERTY

In November 2020, the Society Press published the first book to fully document the contributions of Wisconsin's African Americans during the Civil War, *Make Way for Liberty*. Author Jeff Kannel shines a long-overdue light on Midwestern African Americans in the U.S. Civil War—as soldiers and regimental employees—and the roles they played in Wisconsin and in their communities after the war. *Make Way for Liberty* brings clarity to the question of how African Americans represented Wisconsin during the conflict and showcases the dichotomy of their war service, both the acceptance and respect—as well as the rejection and discrimination—they received.

## CONSTITUTION SERIES BEGINS BILL OF RIGHTS VOLUMES

On December 15, 1791, the states in the newly-formed United States of America ratified the Bill of Rights (the first 10 amendments to the U.S. Constitution). Last fall, the Society Press published the first of six volumes detailing the debates surrounding that ratification. The volumes are part of the larger *The Documentary History of the Ratification of the Constitution* series. The Society Press began publishing the series in the 1970s to preserve the state-by-state debates about the Constitution's ratification. This year, the Society Press completes the entire state debate-related volumes for the ratification of the U.S. Constitution itself. Both series were produced by coeditor John P. Kaminski, director of UW-Madison's Center for the Study of the American Constitution.





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# History is Happening *at* CIRCUS WORLD

An exciting 2020 season was about to kick off at Circus World museum and historic site in Baraboo, Wisconsin when the arrival of COVID-19 changed everything. Nevertheless, work continued at the site's wagon shop as restoration experts Harold Burdick and Bill Bahr finalized a breathtaking refurbishment of the Gollmar Bros. No. 31 tableau. Originally built as a Ringling Bros. cage wagon, it was sold to the Gollmar Bros. Circus and converted into a tableau, a multi-purpose wagon often used to transport baggage and equipment in addition to serving as a focal point during parades. The vehicle went on to travel with the Gollmar-Patterson, Gentry-Patterson, Gentry Bros., Walter L. Main, and Cole Bros. Circuses.

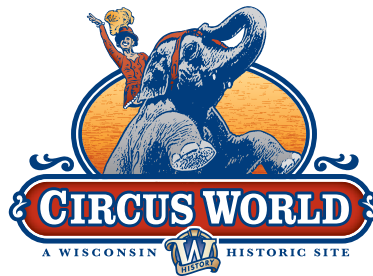
The restored tableau was a prominent feature of special reservation-based tours offered in 2020 to provide guests a socially-distanced Circus World experience. It will be on display for visitors this spring along with others from our growing wagon collection.

Visitors to Circus World this year will also be treated to the first public look at a

revitalized Ringlingville following a number of restoration projects completed in 2020. The massive 1901 Ring Barn was repainted, the porch of the Ringling Office was rebuilt, and siding on the 1915 Camel Barn and 1897 Elephant House was refreshed. Renovation of the 1904 Baggage Horse Barn also commenced in 2020. These projects are key to maintaining the visual aesthetic of Ringlingville which was designated a National Landmark Site in 1969.

Another exciting addition was welcomed into our collection last year when Jack Cook, a professional clown and third generation circus performer, donated his grandfather's 1913 Model T "Funny Ford." The car seemingly drove itself, spit water and would backfire with hilarious results in his grandfather's act. Donated along with the original wardrobe, props, photographs, patent documents, and the musical score from the act, the car influenced professional circus clowns for nearly a century.

*By Dave SaLoutos*



Bill Bahr uses a lift loaned by Deppe Enterprises to work on the cupolas of the Ringling 1901 Ring Barn.



Jack Cook restored his grandfather's original "Funny Ford" comedy car before donating it to Circus World.



## COOKING UP HISTORY

# HMONG EGG ROLLS WITH HOT PEPPER SAUCE

## EGG ROLLS

3½ ounces (about 100 grams) bean thread noodles  
1 pound lean ground pork  
1½ cups finely chopped onions  
1 egg  
1 teaspoon salt  
¼ teaspoon pepper  
1 pound egg roll wrappers  
1 egg white  
3 to 4 cups frying oil

## HOT PEPPER SAUCE

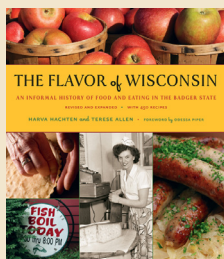
3 or 4 red or green Thai (or other) hot peppers, chopped  
2 tablespoons chopped cilantro  
1 tablespoon bottled Thai fish sauce  
Juice of 1 lime or more to taste

## RECIPE

Soak noodles in hot water until tender, about 15 minutes. Drain and chop. Mix noodles, pork, onions, whole egg, salt, and pepper in bowl. To fill rolls: Place egg roll wrapper on work surface with one corner pointing toward you. Place 2 heaping tablespoons of filling near bottom corner, shaping the mixture to look like a hot dog. Roll wrapper end over meat to middle of wrapper. Brush unrolled edges of wrapper with egg white and roll up completely. Repeat with remaining filling and wrappers. Heat oil to 375 degrees. Deep-fry egg rolls in small batches until light brown, about 5 minutes. (Allow oil to return to 375 degrees before starting another batch.) Drain on paper towels. Serve with hot pepper sauce. Makes 20 to 25 egg rolls.

To make the sauce, mash chopped hot peppers and cilantro with mortar and pestle until they form a paste. Stir in fish sauce and lime juice. Makes about a third of a cup.

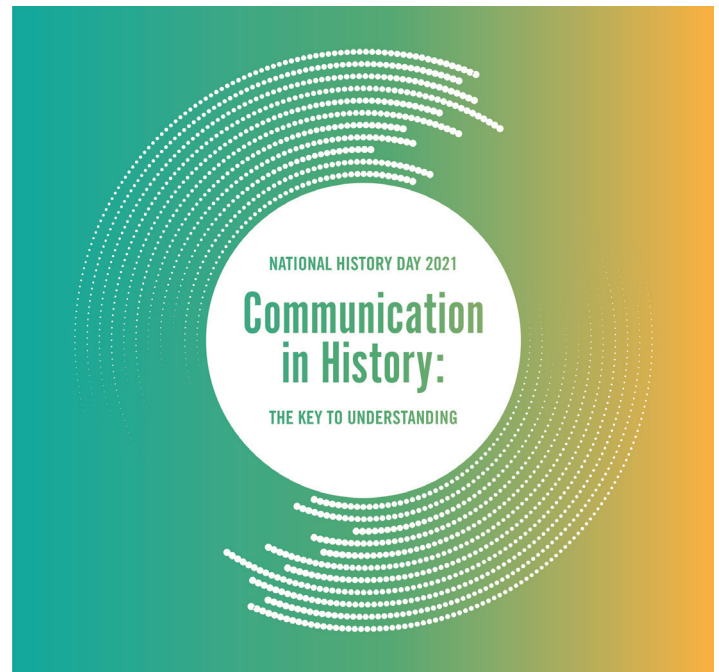
*Adapted from Peter and Connie Roop's  
The Hmong: We Sought Refuge Here,  
published by the Appleton Area School District, 1990.*



Much more than a cookbook, *The Flavor of Wisconsin* by Harva Hachten and Terese Allen contains nine historical essays, 400 recipes, illustrations, and 32 pages of historical photographs from the Society's collections.

## EVENTS

[wisconsinhistory.org/calendar](http://wisconsinhistory.org/calendar)



## NATIONAL HISTORY DAY SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER TODAY!

National History Day is seeking volunteers to virtually review students' history projects and give feedback. Volunteer judges do not need previous experience to sign up.

The 2021 contest season offers many opportunities to fit your schedule and participation is 100 percent virtual.

Visit [wisconsinhistory.org/nhdvolunteer](http://wisconsinhistory.org/nhdvolunteer) for details and information on how to sign up.

## BOARD OF CURATORS AWARDS NOMINATIONS DUE BY MARCH 12, 2021

The Society's governing body, the Board of Curators, recognizes individuals and organizations for meritorious work in areas relating to the Society's mission.

Join us in recognizing outstanding historical work that helps connect people to the past by nominating an inspiring preservation project, book, exhibit, program, or organization for an award.

Find guidelines and nomination information online at [www.wisconsinhistory.org/BOCAwards](http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/BOCAwards)

## VIRTUAL HISTORY DAY AT THE CAPITOL FEBRUARY 23, 2021

This year, History Day at the Capitol will be held virtually and will align with AAM Advocacy Day.

This event will introduce new legislators to the Society and the important work we do in Wisconsin.

Visit [wisconsinhistory.org/advocates](http://wisconsinhistory.org/advocates) to learn more about the event.



WISCONSIN  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

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Madison, WI 53706

## SIGN UP FOR THE SOCIETY'S E-NEWSLETTER

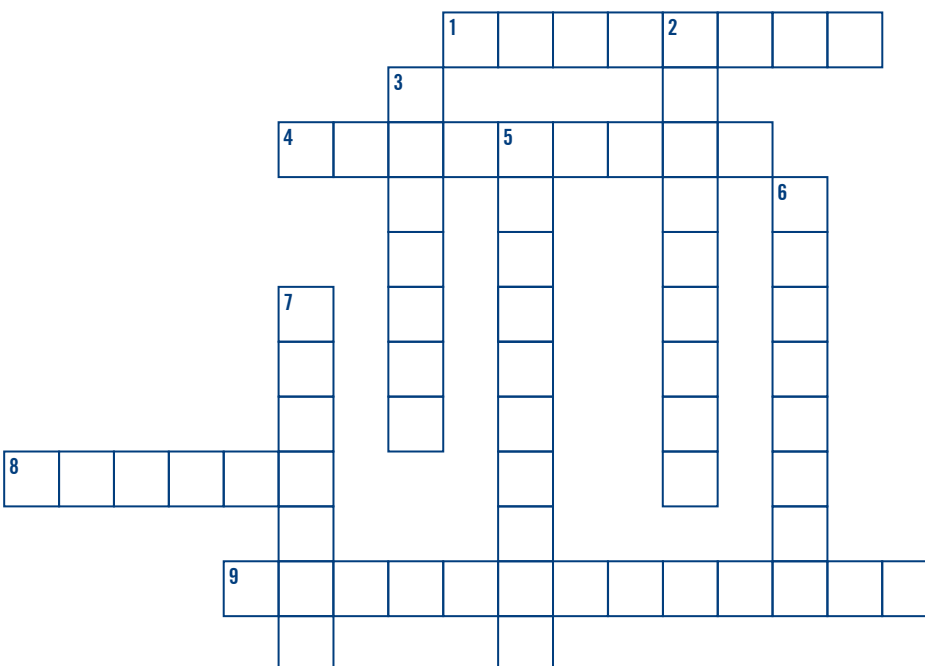
Get all the latest Society news,  
information and upcoming events  
delivered to your email inbox.  
The e-newsletter will also point you  
to popular features on our website,  
including *This Day in  
Wisconsin History*. Sign up at  
[wisconsinhistory.org/newsletter](http://wisconsinhistory.org/newsletter).



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## CROSSWORD



Across: 1. Fachwerk, 4. Wade House, 8. useful, 9. Gaylord Nelson  
Down: 2. Wisconsin, 3. Ada Deer, 5. Hot Peppers, 6. neckties, 7. tableau

### ACROSS

- 1 A half-timber frame house; architectural style that originated in Europe
- 4 The Society's 2nd historic site
- 8 Reuben Gold Thwaites' personal motto, "We aim to be \_\_\_\_\_."
- 9 Responsible for the first Earth Day

### DOWN

- 2 The first state to ratify the 19th amendment
- 3 She received the Robert and Belle Case La Follette Award in 2007
- 5 An essential ingredient in Hmong cooking
- 6 Allie Crumble used these to create a quilt
- 7 Name for a multi-purpose circus wagon that can be used for parading and transporting equipment