

# Columns

THE NEWSLETTER *of the* WISCONSIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY



DISCOVER  
FASCINATING  
STORIES BEHIND  
THE SOCIETY'S  
RECENT  
ACQUISITIONS

SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 2021

# LETTER *from the* DIRECTOR

At the Wisconsin Historical Society's headquarters, the arrival of fall is marked by the rush of students returning to the UW-Madison campus for the beginning of fall semester. Back to school season is here again and this is a tradition all 72 counties in our great state experience. It is encouraging to head into the colder months knowing Wisconsin has more tools, including vaccinations and testing systems, to counteract the pandemic than we did last year or during the 1918 pandemic. The Society still has challenges ahead as the situation evolves, but I have no doubt we will emerge as a stronger, more resilient organization when this chapter in history is finally behind us.

Over the last few months, all 12 of the Society's historic sites and museums re-opened to the public with the help of Governor Evers' grant of \$1 million in American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 funds. The public and our members have reacted to this news with overwhelming gratitude and excitement, especially for the opportunity to take part in outdoor experiences at our historic sites and museums. As we approach the end of the outdoor season at our sites, I hope members and visitors will continue to explore Wisconsin history by joining us for the fall and holiday experiences taking place across the state through the end of the year.

The story featured on the cover of this issue of *Columns* shines a spotlight on a function of the Society that is at the core of our vision of enriching and transforming lives through unparalleled access to history. By developing our collections and sharing stories from the past represented in recent acquisitions, we are taking steps to increase the public's knowledge of history which has profound societal and cultural benefits. When you read the stories on pages 4-5, keep in mind that artifacts and archives are like a gateway to the past—they are key to understanding and appreciating how transformative moments in time shape our communities today and in the future.

On behalf of the Society, thank you for your continued support throughout this challenging but historic year. Whether you show support for the Society by visiting a historic site, exploring our collections, or just sharing this issue of *Columns* with a friend or family member, your continued engagement helps keep history alive for the next generation.

**Christian Øverland**

*Ruth and Hartley Barker Director & CEO*

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## Columns

**KENDALL POLTZER, *editor***

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### *on the* FRONT COVER

The Society added a set of educational puppets to its collections earlier this year. **Read more about them and other new collection items on pages 4-5.**

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# HOW *are we* DOING?

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Respond to a short survey about your member benefits by November 30, 2021, for a chance to win an exciting prize!



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## NATIONAL HISTORY DAY

Since it was established in 1974, the National History Day Contest has provided countless students with opportunities to engage with history and sharpen their research and presentation skills. The program challenges middle- and high-school students to think critically about history, broadening their understanding of the past and preparing them to make their mark on the future.

**National History Day is much more than just a day, and it's not possible without you.**

Volunteers come from diverse backgrounds and all walks of life. What they share is a passion for history and a desire to make a difference in the lives of Wisconsin students. Sign up to be a volunteer judge for contests taking place in 2022 to support students and re-ignite your own passion for history. Volunteers evaluate projects, provide constructive feedback, and encourage students to seek inspiration from stories of the past.

to learn more visit: [wisconsinhistory.org/NHDvolunteers](http://wisconsinhistory.org/NHDvolunteers)

# INSIDE ACQUISITIONS

Have you ever visited a history museum and wondered how so many fascinating and important treasures ended up there? Before any item becomes part of the Wisconsin Historical Society's collections, it first goes through an acquisition process. Curators, archivists, and librarians leverage their expertise to make selection and acquisition decisions relating to all kinds of historically significant material including documents, photographs, rare books, objects, and even digital files. No two acquisitions are exactly alike and the process is both an art and a science. Ultimately, acquisitions are how collections are built, and collections are key to preserving, understanding, and sharing history.

Acquisitions became more challenging after COVID-19 roared onto the scene in early 2020. Society staff members transitioned to remote work, requiring a new approach to day-to-day communication and collaboration. As the crisis progressed, more than 50 staff members were temporarily reassigned to other state agencies at the forefront of Wisconsin's response to COVID-19. The daunting reality of an unprecedented global pandemic, exacerbated by social and economic turmoil felt throughout the nation, prompted the Society to introduce creative strategies to collect "history as it happens."

This resulted in initiatives like the COVID-19 Journal Project and Poster Project, which invited the public to contribute their own ideas and stories to the historical record. The Society also collected materials symbolic of widespread calls to address systemic racism and injustice, such as wood panels from boarded up buildings used as canvases for artistic expression. These additions to the Society's collections, as well as the other recent acquisitions highlighted on these pages, help preserve stories that will live on long after today's crises ebb.

The next time you visit a historic site or museum and marvel at treasures from the past you find there, remember that the experience was made possible because of an acquisition. There is always something new to be learned from the past when you explore the Wisconsin Historical Society's collections.

## MARLENE CUMMINGS' PUPPETS

Marlene Cummings made a difference in her community from the moment she arrived in Madison with her husband and children in 1968. Born in Indianapolis in 1935, Cummings began a decade-long tenure with Madison Public Schools just a year after she relocated to Wisconsin. She started as a volunteer human relations consultant and focused her efforts on educating students about prejudices and stereotypes. Cummings produced classroom training material and curriculum that would eventually be used in schools all over the country, including puppets portraying a variety of skin tones, physical characteristics, and even disabilities, which helped children understand and become more comfortable with these differences.

From 1974 to 1979, Cummings wrote a column in the Wisconsin State Journal, "Ask Mrs. Cummings," in which children were encouraged to write in with their questions about race. In the



**photo:** Marlene Cummings with her puppets in the late 1970s. Photo courtesy of the Cummings family.

by **KENDALL POLTZER**



1960s and 1970s, she also wrote, hosted, and produced television programs for children that appeared on Wisconsin Public Television and WISC-TV. Both shows explored physical and cultural differences and prejudices, and she often utilized her puppets to illustrate important points. Cummings explained in a Wisconsin State Journal article, "I can say things through the puppets that I couldn't say to the children as an adult."

Gov. Lee S. Dreyfuss appointed Cummings as the Governor's Advisor for Women and Family Initiatives in 1978. She was appointed Secretary of Licensing and Regulation by Gov. Tommy Thompson five years later, and remained in the role until her retirement in 2001. Cummings died on May 29, 2020. Her puppets remained with the Cummings family for decades before they were donated to the Wisconsin Historical Society in 2021. Today, they serve as material representations of the creativity of a beloved figure in Wisconsin public education. Their acquisition preserves the legacy Marlene Cummings built in Wisconsin throughout a lifetime advocating for tolerance and acceptance.

## DOCUMENTS OF BYRON J. LANGENFELD

Byron J. Langenfeld was born on May 31, 1909, in Racine, Wisconsin, the city in which he would remain throughout the majority of his life. He worked his way up to become a respected executive at the Racine Tool and Machine Company, but that was not his only claim to a successful career. Langenfeld also made a name for himself as one of the most successful gag writers of his time.

As a gag writer, Langenfeld came up with the ideas and captions for comics found in popular newspapers, magazines, and other publications. For a time, he was one of six primary writers for the popular "Dennis the Menace" cartoons, and enjoyed a close professional relationship with the original creator of the series, Hank Ketchum. After Langenfeld's death in 1996, the documents he had collected throughout his career—numerous file cards containing his gags, clippings of cartoons, correspondence to and from cartoonists, and more—were kept for safekeeping by his family until the Society began the acquisition process last year.

Langenfeld's papers build onto the Society's already robust collections spanning publishing, mass communications, and cartooning. The collection, which is representative of Langenfeld's success on a national scale, offers an insider's look at how the cartoon business worked in the latter half of the 20th century.

## WISCONSIN'S COVID-19 RESPONSE DIGITAL ACQUISITION

At the outset of the pandemic, the Society began collecting web content related to Wisconsin's handling of the crisis. This included online content from a range of affected sectors including public health, education, business, employment, and the media. The objective was to create an online hub to make this content available on demand and more readily accessible to researchers all over the world.

The Wisconsin Response to COVID-19 archive includes the work of non-profit and government organizations, professional and trade associations, various Wisconsin companies, and even faith-based organizations. Staff archivists were careful to include a broad range of content to reflect Wisconsin's diverse industries and culture. The archive captures the look and feel of content at a given point in time, preserving these aspects even if the webpage is subsequently changed or deleted. In the future, researchers can use this collection to better understand the experiences of Wisconsinites during this historic pandemic. Explore the archive: [archive-it.org/collections/13756](https://archive-it.org/collections/13756)

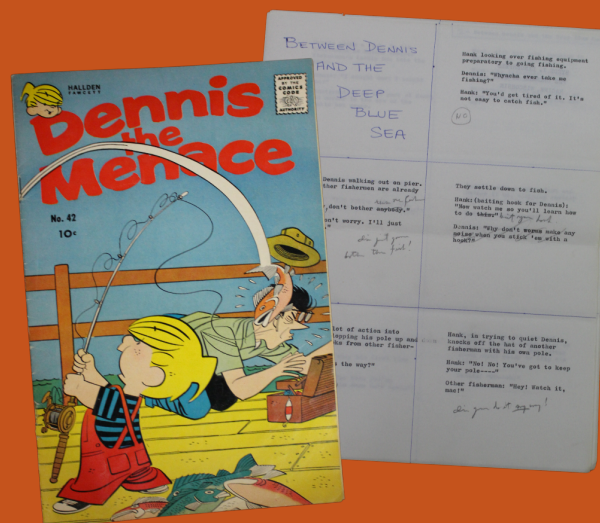


photo: Langenfeld's papers include this 1960 "Dennis the Menace" comic book featuring his work as well as his gag sheets for each panel of the comic.

# SOCIETY RECEIVES FUNDING *for* WISCONSIN'S STATE HISTORICAL MARKERS PROGRAM

The Society recently announced a \$75,190 grant from the William G. Pomeroy Foundation that will help re-envision the Wisconsin State Historical Markers Program. Over the next three years, Society staff will work collaboratively with community organizations to craft a more dynamic and accessible marker program that better reflects Wisconsin's rich and diverse history.

**“We are grateful for support from the William G. Pomeroy Foundation and are excited to engage with new partners to share more stories of local, state, and national significance across all regions of Wisconsin. This grant allows us to lower the economic barrier that sometimes prevents communities from being able to celebrate and highlight their rich local history.”**

**Angela Titus**

*Assistant Deputy Director and Chief Program Officer*

The Wisconsin State Historical Marker Program supports the Society's mission to connect people to the past by collecting, preserving, and sharing stories in communities across all 72 of Wisconsin's counties. The program was first authorized by a state statute in 1943 and has made it possible for countless travelers to discover history through these iconic brown markers bearing raised lettering and the Wisconsin badger emblem.



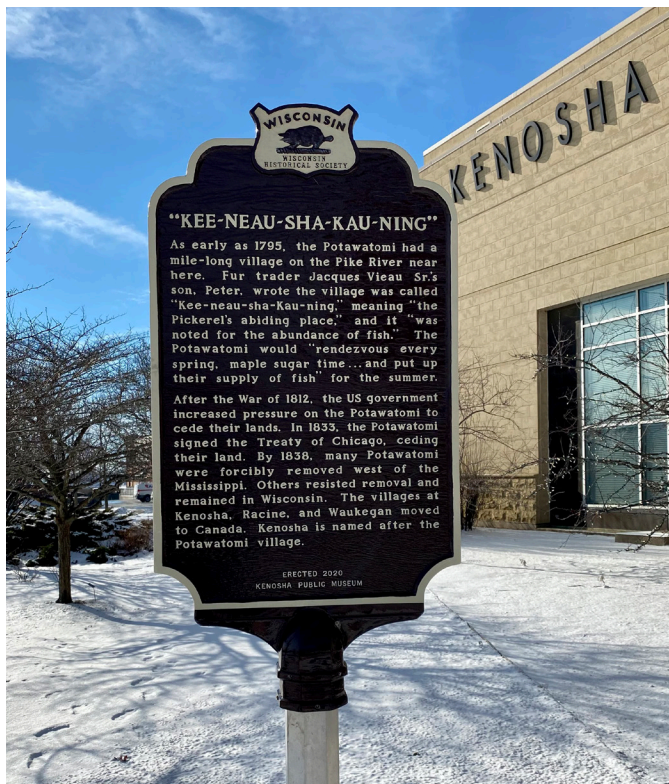
*photo:* State Historical Marker 111, erected in 1961, explains the history of Camp Randall which was deeded to the University of Wisconsin after being purchased by the state in 1893.

The first marker, which commemorated the 1871 Peshtigo fire, was erected in 1951. There are nearly 600 official state historical markers across Wisconsin today.

The re-envisioning of the program will expand its reach to all regions of the state over three years, with a focus on Black, Native American and other underrepresented histories. Today, just seven historical markers in the state describe events or people associated with Black history and only ten are dedicated to women's history.

by JANET SEYMOUR





*photo:* Erected last year, State Historical Marker 588 explains the origin of Kenosha's name.

Support from the William G. Pomeroy Foundation will fund the creation and installation of an average of 10-12 markers each year for a period of three years to address underrepresentation identified through analysis of the program. These funds make it possible to prioritize co-curation with members of the community, identify and create new markers, and remove and replace markers that contain inaccurate or outdated language. While grant-funded action may look different from year to year, activities will include listening sessions with community partners, site visits, historical marker application support, cost-sharing opportunities, and post-project debriefs and surveys.

#### About the William G. Pomeroy Foundation

The William G. Pomeroy Foundation is committed to supporting the celebration and preservation of community history. Since 2006, the foundation has funded 1,500 roadside markers and plaques across the United States.



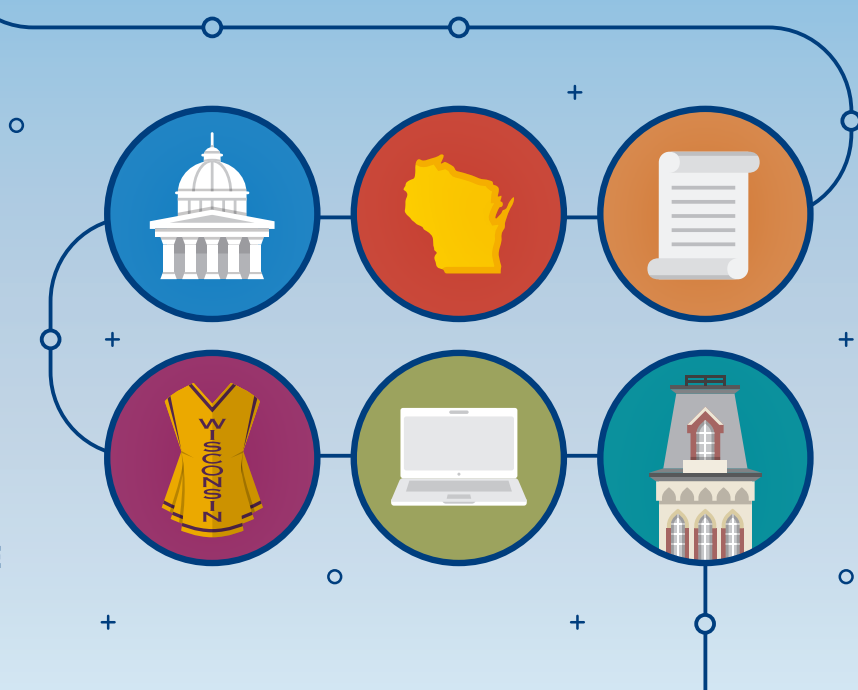
REGISTER ONLINE TODAY

# CONNECTING COMMUNITIES

TO **PRESERVE** & **SHARE**

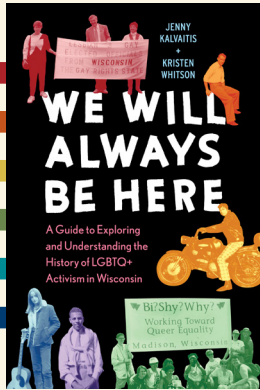
# HISTORY

**15<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL LOCAL HISTORY & HISTORIC PRESERVATION CONFERENCE**  
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# what's on OUR BOOKSHELF

## DISCOVER STORIES of LGBTQ+ ACTIVISM in WISCONSIN



Earlier this year, the Wisconsin Historical Society Press released a new title for teens and young adults. *We Will Always Be Here: A Guide to Exploring and Understanding the History of LGBTQ+ Activism in Wisconsin* by Jenny Kalvaitis and Kristen Whitson draws from a rich collection of primary sources—including diaries, letters, zines, advertisements, oral histories, and more—to provide a jumping-off point for readers interested in discovering the history of LGBTQ+ activism in Wisconsin. The book, which is also available as an ebook, joins other titles from the Society Press focused on LGBTQ+ history including R. Richard Wagner's landmark volumes, *We've Been Here All Along: Wisconsin's Early Gay History* and *Coming Out, Moving Forward: Wisconsin's Recent Gay History*.

sneak peek!

## NEW TITLES ARRIVING in the FALL

Head to the Society Press homepage to access a virtual catalog with details about new books hitting shelves this season. The lineup features content for all ages spanning a range of Wisconsin history topics. Explore the catalog: [wisconsinhistory.org/whspress](http://wisconsinhistory.org/whspress)

### HOPE IS THE THING

Reflect on 100 glimpses of hope from the pandemic in this collection of essays gathered by award-winning author B.J. Hollars. *Hope Is the Thing* features cover art designed for the Society's COVID-19 poster project.

### DEAD LINES

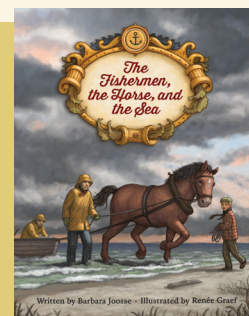
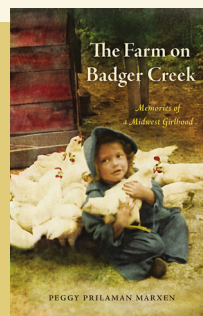
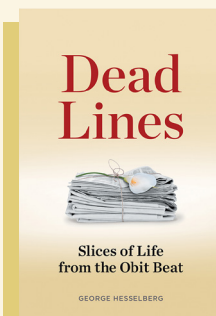
Celebrate "slices of life" collected from long-time *Wisconsin State Journal* writer George Hesselberg's obit beat in *Dead Lines*.

### THE FARM ON BADGER CREEK

Visit a 1950s dairy farm in Wisconsin's Northwoods in *The Farm on Badger Creek: Memories of a Midwest Girlhood*, a memoir by Peggy Prilaman Marxen.

### THE FISHERMAN, THE HORSE, AND THE SEA

Dive into a new children's story by Barbara Joosse, *The Fishermen, the Horse, and the Sea*. Beautifully illustrated by Renée Graef, the book tells the story of a real Port Washington horse that braved stormy seas to save a Lake Michigan fisherman.



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





## FINAL VOLUMES COMPLETE *the* CONSTITUTION RATIFICATION SERIES

In 1976, the Society Press and UW–Madison’s Center for the Study of the American Constitution published the first volume in a landmark reference collection that preserves the state-by-state debates about the ratification of the U.S. Constitution. The last volumes in the original series were published this year, including a two-volume cumulative index that will serve as a portal through which the Constitution can be more readily researched.

The series has been cited frequently by the U.S. Supreme Court and has been used by generations of researchers to understand the Constitution in historical context.




Its legacy carries on in a complementary series of volumes that dive into the debates surrounding the ratification of the Bill of Rights. The first Bill of Rights volume was published last year and the second volume debuts this fall.

The Documentary History of the Ratification of the Constitution volumes are available online at no cost through the University of Wisconsin Libraries’ Digital Collections. Bound volumes are available at most research libraries and can be purchased from the Wisconsin Historical Society’s online bookstore.





## SOCIETY BOOKS BRING HOME *the* GOLD

Society Press authors stole the spotlight in a number of award competitions this year. These titles were page turners long before they became award winners! Find them in our online store, at your favorite book retailer, or at your local library.

### MIDWEST INDEPENDENT PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION’S MIDWEST BOOK AWARDS

-  *Patrick J. Lucey: A Lasting Legacy* by Dennis Dresang
-  *Coming Out, Moving Forward: Wisconsin's Recent Gay History* by R. Richard Wagner
-  *Tending the Valley: A Prairie Restoration Odyssey* by Alice D'Alessio

### INDEPENDENT BOOK PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION’S IPPY AWARDS

-  *Patrick J. Lucey: A Lasting Legacy* by Dennis Dresang
-  *Coming Out, Moving Forward: Wisconsin's Recent Gay History* by R. Richard Wagner
-  *The Cadottes: A Fur Trade Family on Lake Superior* by Robert Silbernagel
-  *When the White Pine Was King* by Jerry Apps

### THE WISCONSIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY’S BOARD OF CURATORS AWARDS

-  *Book of Merit – Make Way for Liberty: Wisconsin African Americans in the Civil War* by Jeff Kannel



## TAVERN TUESDAYS

Next year, a new brewing experience at Old World Wisconsin will open to the public. This highly anticipated debut will create new opportunities for visitors to engage with Wisconsin's rich brewing heritage through live demonstrations, interactive workshops, tastings, and more. Get the latest updates on the project and stay connected to Wisconsin's brewing history by following the Wisconsin Historical Society on Instagram, Facebook, and YouTube. Every Tuesday leading up to opening day of the new brewing experience, we'll be sharing engaging content—including interviews with historians, bar and tavern memorabilia from our collections, historic images of taverns, and the stories behind some of Wisconsin's favorite brews and cocktails—to keep the conversation and excitement going strong.

Learn more at [wihist.org/OWWNewArrivals](http://wihist.org/OWWNewArrivals) and look for the hashtag [#OWWNewArrivals](https://www.instagram.com/explore/tags/OWWNewArrivals)



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Wisconsin Historical Society



Legends and Lore at Old World Wisconsin



# FALL & HOLIDAY EVENTS *and* SPECIAL EXPERIENCES

All 12 of the Wisconsin Historical Society's sites and museums re-opened to the public this season, and there is still time to plan a visit! Check online for the most up-to-date information about admission, ticketing, and events taking place at our sites across Wisconsin. Remember to mark your calendar for these exciting fall and holiday special experiences.

## **TinType Experience at H.H. Bennett Studio**

*Select Dates in September | Wisconsin Dells*

Step back in time and experience the historic photography studio like never before when you book a one-of-a-kind photographic experience at H.H. Bennett Studio & Museum.

## **Fall Weekends at Old World Wisconsin**

*Weekends in September & October | Eagle*

After the summer season comes to an end, we're keeping some of your favorite spots at Old World Wisconsin open through the fall.

## **Tavern Night at Wade House**

*October 8 | Greenbush*

Belly up to the bar in the historic taproom at Wade House for an enjoyable evening of drinks, live music, and lively conversation.

## **Legends and Lore at Old World Wisconsin**

*October 15-16 & 22-23 | Eagle*

Troves of supernatural tales brought to the state over generations come to life at this always spooky, sometimes scary, Halloween event.

## **Safe & Spooky Halloween at Stonefield**

*October 23 | Cassville*

Trick-or-Treat through the shops and factories of the "haunted" Stonefield Village during this special family-friendly Halloween event for all ages.

## **Ever Gleaming at Wisconsin Historical Museum**

*November 13 - December 30 | Madison*

Snap a few photos in the vintage living room, wander through a forest of colorful, shiny trees, and celebrate the holidays with the Wisconsin Historical Museum's annual display of Wisconsin-made aluminum Christmas trees.

## **Island Boutique at Madeline Island Museum**

*November 27 | La Pointe*

Browse unique items crafted by local artisans and find the perfect holiday gifts for everyone on your list at this free event.

## **Home for the Holidays at Old World Wisconsin**

*December 4-5, 11-12, & 18-19 | Eagle*

Celebrate the season with Old World's holiday experience where you can treat yourself to a warm cup of wassail, enjoy a horse-drawn ride around the village, grab a photo with Santa, and see the largest Yule Goat in North America.

## **A Wade House Christmas**

*December 11-12 | Greenbush*

Take in the sights and sounds of a late 19th century Christmas and enjoy live musical performances at this festive holiday celebration.

## **Victorian Home for the Holidays at Villa Louis**

*December 3-4 & 10-11 | Prairie du Chien*

Experience the magic of a Victorian holiday celebration on this tour exploring traditions and customs of the Dousman family, who called the mansion home for generations starting in 1871.



to learn more visit  
[wisconsinhistory.org/sites](http://wisconsinhistory.org/sites)

# SOCIETY KEEPS MASSACHUSETTS RETIREE CONNECTED *to his* NATIVE STATE

Chance Discovery of *Wisconsin Magazine of History*  
Aboard a Caribbean Cruise Ship Rekindled John Peters' Badger Pride

John Peters may have left Wisconsin 64 years ago, but Wisconsin never left him.

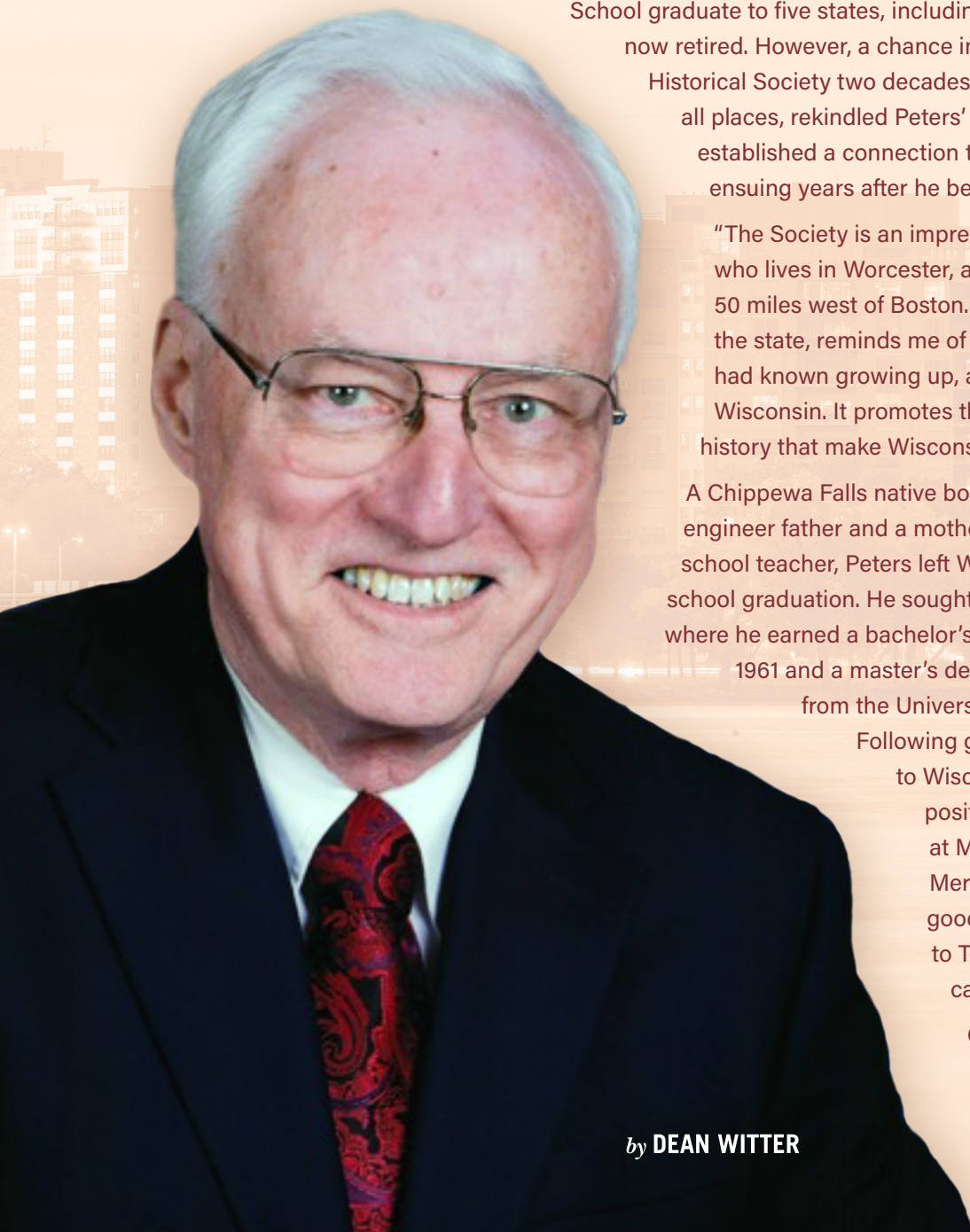
A career in hospital administration took the 1957 La Crosse Central High School graduate to five states, including Massachusetts, where he is now retired. However, a chance introduction to the Wisconsin Historical Society two decades ago aboard a cruise ship, of all places, rekindled Peters' love for his home state and established a connection that grew steadily over the ensuing years after he became a Society member.

"The Society is an impressive organization," says Peters, who lives in Worcester, a city of 185,000 residents about 50 miles west of Boston. "It keeps me in touch with the state, reminds me of the places and experiences I had known growing up, and strengthens my loyalty to Wisconsin. It promotes the unique aspects of the state's history that make Wisconsin such a fascinating place."

A Chippewa Falls native born in 1939 to an electrical engineer father and a mother who was an elementary school teacher, Peters left Wisconsin following his high school graduation. He sought higher education in Minnesota, where he earned a bachelor's degree from Carleton College in 1961 and a master's degree in hospital administration from the University of Minnesota in 1968.

Following graduate school, Peters returned to Wisconsin for a brief period — for a position as an assistant administrator at Madison General Hospital (now Meriter) — but an opportunity too good to turn down quickly took him to Texas and he spent the rest of his career in the South and Northeast.

Over the decades, Peters occasionally visited relatives at the family cabin near Spooner,



by DEAN WITTER



in far northwestern Wisconsin's Washburn County. However, with his only sibling — younger sister Susan — living in Minnesota, his ties to his home state were minimal.

That changed in 2002 when Peters happened upon an issue of the **Wisconsin Magazine of History**, the quarterly periodical published by the Society Press, in the tiny library of a cruise ship sailing in the Caribbean thousands of miles from Wisconsin.

"I sat down and read the entire issue completely," Peters says. "I had never known the magazine existed and was not even sure I knew the Wisconsin Historical Society existed."

Exploring the world by sea was a passion for Peters and his life partner, John Henry Bogie. Together, they embarked on 23 ocean cruises during their 29-year relationship before Bogie passed away in 2014. On that fortuitous 2002 voyage, aboard Holland America's "Rotterdam" ship from Florida, they were bound for the Pacific coast of Costa Rica via the Panama Canal.

"I remember excitedly showing the issue to Bogie, who lived most of his life in Louisiana and knew little of Wisconsin, and telling him how proud I was of my native state," Peters recalls.

Bogie saw how his partner's eyes lit up and, when Peters' birthday arrived later that year, Bogie gave him a gift membership to the Society, the benefits of which include subscriptions to the **Wisconsin Magazine of History** and **Columns** newsletter.

"He knew how much it meant to me," Peters says. "Ever since then, I have faithfully kept my membership in the Society current and eagerly look forward to every issue of both publications."

Peters says his "favorable impression of the Society has only increased over the years" as he learned more about the organization's mission and the scope of its many programs and divisions. He was especially heartened to see stories in recent years such as the Fall 2020 **Wisconsin Magazine of History** cover story about Bob

Neal and Edgar Hellum, the life and business partners who preserved and operated the Pendarvis House restaurant in Mineral Point, which subsequently became one of the Society's 12 historic sites.

"One of the reasons I appreciate the Society so much," Peters says, "is its very enlightened approach to the role gay people played in Wisconsin history. It gives a face to the unique personality of Wisconsin."

When a postcard from the Society arrived in his mailbox in 2020 bearing information about the Robert B.L. Murphy Legacy Circle — a distinction recognizing those who have generously included the Society in

their estate plans — Peters was inspired to make his affection for Wisconsin part of his legacy by including the Society in his will. Now, he enthusiastically encourages others to join him.

"It's important to have an estate plan that honors your values," he says. "I don't want the amazing stories of Wisconsin to be forgotten. They are essential to who I am."

Peters, who plans to have his ashes buried in Wisconsin, says he's both proud and comforted to know that his estate gift will help ensure that the stories he loved, along with countless others, will be available to future generations. Thanks to his forward thinking, others will be able to look back, learn from history, and make a better future.

"It feels great to support an organization that is preserving and sharing things that I knew and cherished growing up and that make me proud of my Wisconsin roots," he says. "Even after living most of my life in other states, the strong feeling of loyalty and pride I have as a 'Son of Wisconsin' remains firm."

*photos: (top) John Peters, right, and his longtime partner John Henry Bogie are greeted as they arrive in Skagway, Alaska, on the Sea Princess cruise ship in 1999. Exploring the world by sea was a passion for the life partners. Together, they embarked on 23 ocean cruises during their 29-year relationship before Bogie passed away in 2014. (bottom) Peters, left, and Bogie pose for a picture in San Jose, Costa Rica, in January 2002. It was the last stop for Holland America Lines' MS Rotterdam on a 10-day cruise from Fort Lauderdale, Fla., via the Panama Canal. It was on this trip that Peters discovered the **Wisconsin Magazine of History** in the ship's small library, leading him to become a Wisconsin Historical Society member.*



# STATE REGISTER *of* HISTORIC PLACES IN WISCONSIN



## MANSION STREET WWII Defense Housing Historic District

De Pere, Brown County  
Date of Construction: 1941-1942

World War II changed most Americans' way of life. Rationing of basic commodities and the redirection of manufacturing was necessary to meet the needs of the war-time economy. In April of 1941, 14 small single-family homes were constructed to create a small residential neighborhood to house defense industry workers and to aid the war effort. The developer made use of new federal financing and rules regarding the allocation of building materials to construct the neighborhood, and today these homes remain a vital part of the community.

## KIEL MILL

Kiel, Manitowoc County  
Date of Construction: 1883

Water-powered flour and feed mills served an essential role for Wisconsin's early settlers, and later continued to play an important role for rural farmers who relied on the mills for their flour and livestock feed. The Kiel Mill is a testament to this agricultural legacy. From 1883 to 1983, the mill served the needs of area farmers, initially as a flour milling facility and later as a feed mill. Over its century in operation, the mill evolved from water power to steam and then to electricity. Its continued advancements in milling technology, from run of stone to porcelain rollers, allowed the Kiel Mill to prosper. Today, the Kiel Mill serves as a link to the industrial history of the community.



## HOTEL WAUSAU

Wausau, Marathon County  
Date of Construction: 1925

When constructed in 1925, the Hotel Wausau was the largest hotel in the city. Its sophisticated Classical Revival design by prominent Chicago-based architects Holabird & Roche projected progress, economic vitality, civic pride and community standing as a regional metropolis. Constructed of brick and stone with abundant terracotta ornament, the building asserts a commanding presence. Its interior featured a large public lobby, a well-appointed dining room and ballroom, private rooms on the upper floors, and a range of amenities. Luxurious interior finishes conveyed the hotel's position as a place of importance in the community. The building has retained its original design and remains a prominent presence in downtown Wausau.

## ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH COMPLEX

Oshkosh, Winnebago County  
Date of Construction: 1886-1925

St. Mary's Catholic Church Complex is a significant collection of ecclesiastical buildings that evolved over nearly fifty years, centered around a cathedral-like church to serve a growing German Catholic congregation. The brick church is an excellent example of the Gothic Revival style, and is the only known local example of the work of Adolphus Druiding, the leading architect of German Catholic churches in the Midwest in the late 19th century. The school (1904), Mediterranean Revival style rectory (1925), and Collegiate Gothic Revival style parish hall (1925) were added in the early 20th century and were designed by other architects to be compatible with the church's exterior materials and scale, creating a visually cohesive and impressive complex.



**OTHER LISTINGS INCLUDE:** Hillsboro Condensed Milk Company, Hillsboro, Vernon County; Sparta High School, Sparta, Monroe County; Holy Family Roman Catholic Church Complex, Cudahy, Milwaukee County; Sheboygan Falls School, Sheboygan, Sheboygan County; Caledonia Street Commercial Historic District, La Crosse, La Crosse County; Black River Falls Commercial Historic District, Black River Falls, Jackson County



# *Congratulations* **RECIPIENTS of this YEAR'S BOARD OF CURATORS AWARDS**

Every year, the Wisconsin Historical Society's Board of Curators recognizes individuals and organizations who have demonstrated exceptional work consistent with the Society's mission and vision. The 2021 recipients of the Board of Curators Awards went above and beyond to preserve and share Wisconsin history even as the pandemic brought new challenges to this important work. Congratulations to this year's winners whose contributions to history ensure future generations can access the stories of our state's past.

## **Genealogy Book Award**

Nancy M. Vance for the book,  
"Some Descendants of Widow Foord:  
1621-2021."

## **Public Program Award**

Bayfield Heritage Association  
for their John Matthew Black  
virtual lecture series.

## **Museum Exhibit Award**

Neville Public Museum for the exhibit,  
"Generations Gallery."

## **Book of Merit Award**

Wisconsin Historical Society Press  
for the book by Jeff Kannel,  
"Make Way for Liberty: Wisconsin  
African Americans in the Civil War."

## **Historic Preservation Award**

Milwaukee Preservation Alliance  
for the preservation of the  
Milwaukee Soldiers Home.  
*(exterior & interior images shown  
bottom left and center)*

## **Museum Exhibit Award**

1906 Cambridge Historic School  
Museum for the exhibit,  
"The Suffrage Movement in  
Cambridge."

## **Governor's Award for Archival Innovation**

Special Collections & Archives  
Department at UW-Eau Claire for  
"The Chippewa Valley COVID-19  
Archiving Project."

*A collaboration with the Chippewa Valley Museum  
and UW-Eau Claire Public History Program.*

## **Historic Restoration Award**

Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra  
for the restoration of the Warner Art  
Deco skyscraper.

*(interior image shown bottom right)*

## **Reuben Gold Thwaites Trophy**

Milwaukee County Historical Society  
for continued excellence and overall  
service to the community.





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## Stay CONNECTED

### 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](https://wisconsinhistory.org/newsletter)



*We are thrilled to say... "WELCOME BACK!"*

The Wisconsin Historical Society re-opened all **12** of our sites and museums this year. Throughout the remainder of the season, we invite you to visit the sites to adventure through sensory-rich, engaging, and immersive environments and exhibits where history comes alive.

Don't forget—members receive free admission and two free guest passes, plus a 10% discount on site events, store purchases, and more! Visit [wisconsinhistory.org](https://wisconsinhistory.org) for up-to-date information about programs and events happening this fall.