



Summer 2013

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The Wisconsin Historical Society Educator Update contains the most current education-related news from the Wisconsin Historical Society. With information on classroom resources, National History Day, the Wisconsin Historical Museum, the Library-Archives Division, historical sites all around Wisconsin, and more, our monthly roundup is packed with ideas for Wisconsin educators.

School Service Connections

[Kurt Griesemer](#), School Services Director

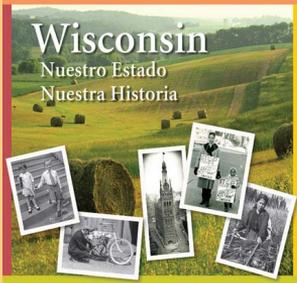
It's Summer! If you're looking for a great book to read on the beach, at the cabin, or in your own backyard, consider one of the many fine pieces from the [Wisconsin Historical Society Press](#), including Jerry Apps latest book '[Limping Through Life: A Farm Boy's Polio Memoir](#).'

Looking for Focus Groups

The Office of School Services is looking for classroom educators interested in sharing their opinions of the 4th grade textbook, 'Wisconsin: Our State, Our Story.' Whether your district adopted the textbook the first year it came out or just recently, your opinion matters! Please contact [Kurt Griesemer](#) for more information.

Wanted: Interactive Whiteboard Users and/or Future Movie Stars

The Office of School Services is looking for teachers and students that would like to be filmed using the interactive whiteboard resources developed for the 4th grade textbook. Please contact [Kurt Griesemer](#) for more details.



**WISCONSIN:
OUR STATE,
OUR STORY,
NOW
AVAILABLE IN
SPANISH!**

'Wisconsin: Nuestro Estado, Nuestra Historia'
The Wisconsin Historical Society Press has

Freedom Summer Collection Now Online

by [Michael Edmonds](#), Head, Digital Collections

partnered with the Milwaukee Public Schools to translate "Wisconsin: Our State, Our Story" into a Spanish edition, "Wisconsin: Nuestro Estado, Nuestra Historia."

All components of the textbook have been translated into Spanish including text, maps, timelines and image captions.

Christina Green, translator and language specialist for the Milwaukee Public Schools noted that, "the translation of 'Wisconsin: Nuestro Estado, Nuestra Historia' provides equal access to Hispanic students as an integral part of our curriculum, through a well-explained and beautifully written account of our state's history and its impact within the nation's history."

Available now from the [Wisconsin Historical Society Press](#).

The Wisconsin Historical Society has one of the richest collections of Civil Rights movement records in the nation, which includes more than 100 manuscript collections documenting the [Mississippi Freedom Summer Project of 1964](#).



More than 25,000 pages from the Freedom Summer manuscripts -- enough to fill several file cabinets -- are available online. In them you will find official records of organizations such as the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and Congress of Racial Equality (CORE); the personal papers of movement leaders and activists such as Amzie Moore, Mary King

and Howard Zinn, letters and diaries of northern college students who went South to volunteer for the summer; newsletters produced in Freedom Schools; racist propaganda, newspaper clippings, pamphlets and brochures, magazine articles, telephone call logs, candid snapshots, internal memos, press releases and much more. The digital collection will continue to grow as more manuscripts are added in coming months.

We encourage students, teachers, writers, historians, and other researchers to use these materials in any 2014 programs marking the 50th anniversary of the 1964 Freedom Summer Project. Feel free to copy them for classroom activities, term papers, displays or exhibits, dramatic presentations, and other non-profit educational purposes.

Highlights from the Sites

Wisconsin Historical Museum

[Beth Lemke](#), Museum Educator

The [Wisconsin Historical Museum](#) invites your children to discover and understand how the past influences the present through Wisconsin regional stories. Learn about Wisconsin geography and create an art project related to that story. The entire family can share in the fun and learning during this creative hands-on experience. Sessions last about an hour and are appropriate for ages 4-12. An adult must



accompany youth participants.

For more information on this event series and additional Wisconsin Historical Museum summer programs and please call 608-264-6555 or visit our [website](#).

Jun 26, 2013 11 am; 1 pm: [Summertime Fun: Southwest Wisconsin](#)
Jul 10, 2013 11 am; 1 pm: [Summertime Fun: Northwoods Wisconsin](#)
Jul 17, 2013 11 am; 1 pm: [Summertime Fun: Lake Superior Coast](#)
Jul 24, 2013 11 am; 1 pm: [Summertime Fun: Central Plains Wisconsin](#)
Jul 31, 2013 11 am; 1 pm: [Summertime Fun: Southeast Wisconsin](#)

If you are interested in making [reservations](#) for a fall of 2013 or spring of 2014 Wisconsin Historical Museum field trip please contact [Museum Education staff](#) or call 608-264-6557. Many schools make their spring reservations 9 to 12 months in advance, so please consider booking prior to your visit or in person when you arrive for next year's trip to reserve your preferred date and times.

You can review your visit options by checking out the Wisconsin Historical Museum's [Printable Field Trip Catalog](#). Museum Education staff look forward to working with you to identify your group needs and tailor a program to enhance your museum visit.

Old World Wisconsin

[Jennifer Van Haften](#), **Curator of Interpretation**

Hands-on Experience for East Troy History Students

Where today can high school students learn about historical interpretation at a living history site? Not many can say they have, but students at East Troy High School who take Marisa Piper-Zahn's Wisconsin History course can say they have been sharing history with Wisconsin's elementary school children at Old World Wisconsin. These students don't just learn Wisconsin history, they live it.

Part of the requirements of the course is to learn visitor interaction techniques that have been used at historic and living history sites for nearly 40 years. In addition, they choose one of the historic areas at Old World Wisconsin to learn about its history and the educational goals for elementary students who visit the building throughout a busy field trip day. Marisa also has them



research the correct historic clothing so that they put together the best historic outfit to wear on the site. As part of their prep for being historical interpreters (the name for the guides that are stationed around Old World) the students take a visit around Old World Wisconsin to become familiar with the environment. Old

World's Curator of Interpretation, Jennifer Van Haaften, then visits the students in the classroom to share what a day will be like out on-site and historic images of clothing to help guide them through the process. Each student is expected to spend two days presenting programs to elementary students on-site. They explain the history of the building and teach the kids historic activities which they then allow the kids to try. The end of their project is to put together a web presentation showing what they learned from the experience.

The students gain real world knowledge of what it is like to share history with guests to a large living history site like Old World Wisconsin. They gain an appreciation for the work of their ancestors and for a brief moment can imagine more deeply how it was to be an early resident of Wisconsin. Student Autumn Briggs-Teuteberg shared with us, "Going out to Old World Wisconsin for a field trip was fun when I was in fourth grade. Going out to Old World Wisconsin as an interpreter was amazing; seeing the way the kids interact with history and artifacts really changed how I look at museums and what they provide for people."



The historical interpreter staff at Old World are impressed with the students' skill in talking to large groups and taking charge. These skills will help them in any presentations they may make in any career they choose. The experience is one of a kind, as no other school does this with Old World Wisconsin. Marisa and [Jennifer](#) are interested in sharing this with other high schools and creating more partners to give students such a unique high school experience.

National History Day in Wisconsin

[Sarah Klentz](#), National History Day Coordinator

During the first weekend in

May, 500 students and their families came to Madison to share their projects and compete at the State level! Over 150 volunteers helped judge student work. It was great to see so many teachers, students, and parents.



Throughout the day judges and students discussed their projects and it was clear that this year many students felt the excitement in the air! After a full day of history, the national finalists were announced. 60 students will be coming to Washington D.C. to represent Wisconsin at the National Contest this year held June 9-13 at the University of Maryland.

We are incredibly proud of the work of all the students who competed this year!

If you missed the competition, we have posted the National Finalists on our [website](#).

Contact State Coordinator, [Sarah Klentz](#), with questions.

Thank you for reading our newsletter. Have a wonderful summer!

Sincerely,

[Kurt Griesemer](#)
School Services Director
Wisconsin Historical Society