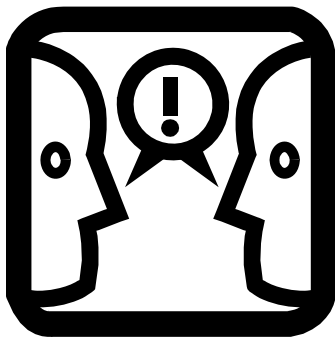


Wisconsin Topic Ideas for National History Day Research

General Topic Ideas for Students Interested in
Exploring the History of Our State



National History Day in Wisconsin

Updated: Summer 2010

A Warning for All Researchers!

What follows is a very **GENERAL** list of topic ideas for you to consider. This list is by no means complete or exhaustive of Wisconsin history. There are many, many more fantastic topics to consider!

- These topics are **NOT THEME SPECIFIC**. You will need to take a closer look at each potential topic and consider how it fits with the annual theme for NHD. This is a general list. All the topics listed in this book **WILL NOT** fit the annual theme.
- Selecting a topic from this list does not guarantee a **WINNING PROJECT**. Selecting a topic is just the first step. You will need to follow through with good research, a strong argument, and a clear presentation.
- Selecting a topic from this list isn't the final step. Many of these topics need to be further **NARROWED** in order for them to be a suitable National History Day project.

Why Choose a Wisconsin Topic?

The National History Day program doesn't have any requirements or give you any advantage in choosing a Wisconsin topic. Wisconsin history, however, is full of great ideas for your History Day project. It is easy to overlook the history right around us, but your National History Day project can help you to find these amazing local stories that helped shape your history! Armed with local resources and strong research, you can become an authority on your topic and your project could be more competitive than a topic that many other students across the state or nation could choose.

- **Resources:** If you choose a topic based on the state or city in which you live, there may be more resources available to you than if you had selected a more national topic. This is especially evident in the availability of primary sources (such as newspaper articles, photos, or letters) which will provide a strong foundation for your project and are easily accessible through state resources and research outlets.
- **Local Connections:** You may be surprised to find out that an influential individual from Wisconsin lived in your own community, and perhaps helped shape the way you live today. This personal connection may help you throughout the project as you learn more about your home and the ties to your own life.

National and World History Topics

Of course you can choose a national topic! We highlight local and state topics because we have so many resources available on them, but if a topic on the national or international stage strikes your interest, please pursue it.

- While there may be more books, articles, or web sites devoted to a national topic, make sure you will still have access to **primary sources**.
- Is there a **local connection** you could investigate? This will also help you focus your topic so it's narrow enough for you to properly research. So instead of looking at women's roles in manufacturing during WWII, how did women in your own community respond to the war effort?
- Taking a new look at a common topic by changing your **point of view** is another way to give your project an attention-grabbing twist. You may know a lot about a group that supported an event or cause, but what about the other side or those who opposed it? For example, the Bennett law required school attendance that was taught in English. There was a lot of opposition that many people may not immediately consider but is important to the history of the law.

Once You Think You Have a Topic...

- Make sure it fits the NHD theme for this year. Not all the topics listed in this booklet will fit the annual theme.
- Think about potential resources you might find.
- Have fun!

Updated: Summer 2010

THE HISTORY DAY TOPIC TEST

Spend quality time deciding on a topic for National History Day. Choosing a topic is the single most important decision you will make as you complete your History Day project, so don't just settle on the first thing that pops into your head. Try exploring several possibilities before settling on one.

Once you think you have a topic selected, run it through the topic test below. Meeting the following criteria is important to selecting a good topic and will result in a more enjoyable and rewarding National History Day project.

My topic is NARROW.

Your topic is specific enough that you can examine it fully in the amount of research and presentation time you have. Choosing a narrow, manageable focus for your project will allow you to gain a more complete understanding of the historical topic you're addressing and become a true expert.

I am INTERESTED in my topic.

A History Day project is a long-term project. Since you'll be working with your topics for a while, make sure it catches your interest and makes you want to learn more.

My topic is HISTORICAL.

Very recent events generally don't make good historical research projects since we don't yet understand all the results of the event. In general, try to pick a topic that takes place more than 20 years in the past. About how many years ago did your topic take place? _____

My topic is SIGNIFICANT.

Examine a historical topic that had an impact, whether on the local, national or global level. What came as a result of the topic you're exploring? What would have been different if it had never happened? How did a local occurrence reflect or influence events on a larger scale?

My topic relates to the THEME.

Make sure your topic relates to the theme in a fundamental way. How does your topic relate to the theme?

There are primary and secondary RESOURCES available on my topic.

Plan ahead and check to see what resources are out there about your topic. What resources are available?

NATIVE PEOPLE IN WISCONSIN

Treaties and Treaty Councils: Treaty negotiations became increasingly significant to Wisconsin's Native American communities as the federal government and settlers moved into Wisconsin. Removal policies began in the 19th century and relocated many Native American groups. Consider a specific treaty in Wisconsin's history. How did the terms that emerged through the negotiation process change the lives of Native Americans? Which contested ideas were brought up as these agreements were created? How did negotiations affect policies? How did those policies affect Native populations? What impact did the negotiations have on the federal government's policies toward Native people?

- **Treaty of 1854:** Thanks in part to the work of Chief Oshkosh, the Menominee in Wisconsin did not have to move west of the Mississippi and instead saved over 250,000 acres of Wisconsin forest, near the important fishing ground of the Wolf River.
- **Treaty of Chicago:** After the Indian Removal Act in 1830, the Potawatomi lost the rights to their land east of the Mississippi with this 1833 treaty. Some bands of the group chose to stay in the Midwest, including Wisconsin.
- **Treaty of Prairie du Chien:** In 1825, the U.S. Government invited major groups of Native Americans from tribes in the Upper Midwest to Prairie du Chien. This treaty established wide-reaching peace negotiations as well as created lines between the land of Euro-American settlers and the land of Native tribes. This treaty was unique in that members of the Sioux, Ojibwe, Sauk, Fox, Menominee, Iowa, Ho Chunk, Ottawa, and Potawatomi signed the agreement of peace.

Black Hawk and the Black Hawk War: (1767-1838) Angered by broken treaties, food shortages, and relocation by the United States government, a band of Sauk, led by Black Hawk, fought against the U.S. Army for possession of lands in Illinois and Wisconsin. The conflict eventually resulted in the surrender of Black Hawk, the deaths of hundreds of his followers, and continued the settlement of the area by Euro-Americans. What were the political results of these groups fighting for land? What were the reasons behind the breakout of the conflict? How was this event a turning point for Wisconsin's Native people?

Ada Deer, Social Reformer for Native Wisconsinites: (1935-) A nationally recognized social worker, community organizer, activist, and political leader; Menominee Ada Deer is a champion of Native rights who led the successful campaign to restore federal recognition of the Menominee Tribe. As head of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, she participated in the development of U.S. policies on international human rights and advocated the rights of indigenous peoples everywhere. How have her actions helped to change the lives of other Native people in Wisconsin? What legacy has she left as a national leader and educator?

The Fur Trade Era in Wisconsin: For almost two hundred years, ending in the 1850s, the fur trade was significant to the economy of the area that was to become Wisconsin. Native people had hunted beaver, mink, and otter for food and clothing. French traders sought the same pelts for fashionable clothing and hats. A system of exchange developed that lasted through French and British control over the area. How did each group benefit through this trade? How was the trade a turning point in the history of Native people in North America?

- See the **Letters of Pierre-Francois-Xavier de Charlevoix** for primary documents from the viewpoint of the French
- **French Canadian and Native intermarriage:** How did this change the culture of Wisconsin? What traditions changes or were created? What fur trading family alliances were built and how did they operate?
- **Growth of cities:** How did the movement of Native Americans from their traditional communities to the trading centers affect the growth of cities in our state? Consider places like Green Bay, Prairie du Chien, or Milwaukee.

Menominee Chief Oshkosh: (1795-1858) As a young man, Menominee Chief Oshkosh fought on the side of the British during the War of 1812. He played a prominent role in treaty negotiations in the 1830s and 1840s to help preserve Native land in the state, eventually keeping the Menominee from having to move west of the Mississippi River. What effect did his leadership play in these negotiations? As shown in the mural in the Supreme Court Hearing Room in the State Capitol, Judge James Doty famously tried Chief Oshkosh in 1830. This case brought up complex and precedent setting issues regarding the

relationship of United States law and Native law. What influence did this case have on United States government and Native American relations and related cases?

Ke-Che-Waish-Ke: Chief Buffalo: (1759 – 1855) Leader of the Ojibwe, Chief Buffalo is best known for fighting the U.S. Government on their removal policies of the mid 1800s. Even though he was over 90 years old, Chief Buffalo traveled to Washington to fight for Native lands in Wisconsin that had been ceded during the 1830s and 1840s. When the Ojibwe were ordered to move west (to Minnesota) by the President, Chief Buffalo went to meet with then President Fillmore at the White House. Their negotiations eventually removed the order to move west and promised continued federal support to the Ojibwe. Four Ojibwe reservations were created in 1854 thanks to Chief Buffalo's actions and support of his people. How did this one man's acts change the reservation policy for Native Americans in Wisconsin?

- "Reminiscences of Life Among the Chippewa" by Chief Buffalo's adopted son Benjamin Armstrong in the Wisconsin Magazine of History
- Indian Nations of Wisconsin by Patty Loew.

The Mississippian Community of Aztalan: A fascinating archaeological site near Lake Mills, Aztalan was once a village inhabited by a community of Mississippian people whose trade networks extended over large areas of North America. When it was first discovered by settlers in the 1820s, not much was known about the site or people. Increase Lapham made detailed drawings of the site, which would be cleared for farmland in the following years. In 1919, Samuel Barrett of the Milwaukee Public Museum began a detailed study of the site and over the years many additional studies have revealed interesting evidence of life at Aztalan. What does evidence found at Aztalan tell us about Native life and culture 1,000 years ago? How have later generations of archaeologists preserved and interpreted this site?

- *Antiquities of Wisconsin* by Increase Lapham
- *Aztalan: Mysteries of an Ancient Indian Town* by Robert Birmingham and Lynne G. Goldstein

Spear Fishing Protest: Wisconsin in the late 1980s and early 1990s was a location of significant, controversial, and sometimes violent protests against Native American practices granted through U.S. treaties. The controversy affected members of the Ojibwe tribe and the practice of spear fishing. Movements both against and in support of treaty rights developed and clashed at boat landings in northern Wisconsin. What were the causes of these confrontations? How did events in Wisconsin influence treaty rights movements in other states?

- *Walleye Warriors: The Chippewa Treaty Rights Story* by Walt Bresette and Rick Whaley
- *Chippewa Treaty Rights: The Reserved Rights of Wisconsin's Chippewa Indians in Historical Perspective* by Ronald Satz

The "Indian Scares" of 1862: In 1862 news of conflicts between Euro-Americans and Native people in Minnesota spread across the state as well as reports that these confrontations had continued into Wisconsin. Panic began in some Wisconsin communities, which prompted some farmers to go as far as to burn their crops and leave their land. News of conflicts in Wisconsin turned out to be false, but the incident revealed deep tensions in the relationship between these two groups. Take a closer look at the cause for these reports to better understand this event through the eyes of all the participants.

- "The Panic of 1862 in Wisconsin," by M.M. Quaife, Wisconsin Magazine of History 4, 1920-1921

American Indian Rock Art: Scattered across the Upper Great Lakes there are carefully crafted images painted and carved into rock exposures. These images appear to depict birds, humans, animals, spirit beings, and a variety of other images. What stories do they tell? What did they mean to the people who made them, and what meaning do they have in the lives of people today? Take a look at a particular site, such as Roche a Cri State Park. When was this created or discovered? How have archaeologists worked to preserve and understand this site?

- *Wisconsin Rock Art* edited by Robert A. Birmingham and William Green
- *Wisconsin Archaeology* edited by Robert A. Birmingham, Carol I. Mason, and James B. Stoltman

EXPLORERS AND FOUNDERS

Jean Nicolet's Search for the South Sea: (1598-1642) Nicolet is believed to be the first European to arrive in what we now call Wisconsin. He was no stranger to travel and exploration when he arrived. He began his career studying as a translator and working for Samuel de Champlain. In 1634, Nicolet was sent to explore a new area and to look for a passage to the Pacific. What he found was the area we know as Green Bay and the Ho Chunk people. What long-term effects did Nicolet's explorations have on the relationship between the French and Native people of Wisconsin?

- "Jean's Nicolet's Search for the South Sea," Wisconsin Magazine of History, Spring 2001 by Norman Risjord

Jacques Marquette & Louis Jolliet: Wisconsin's Earliest European Explorers: While his work as a Jesuit missionary first brought him to Wisconsin, Marquette may be best remembered for his exploration of the state. In 1673, along with Louis Jolliet, Marquette traveled the Fox-Wisconsin River system and became one of the first Europeans to travel across Wisconsin to the Mississippi River, recording their observations in maps and journals as they went. What other legacies did he leave, both in relation to exploration and through his work with Native communities? What impressions did they have of the area? What impact their travels and writings have on other parts of the world?

Juneau, Kilbourn, Walker, and the Founding of Milwaukee: Milwaukee's location on a major body of water made it an ideal location for a city. Beginning in the 1830s, the three major settlements of Juneautown (founded by Solomon Juneau), Kilbourntown (founded by Byron Kilbourn), and Walker's Point (founded by George Walker) vied for supremacy. The Milwaukee River divided the land controlled between Juneau and Kilbourn and these leaders even went as far as to build their streets so as to not line up with their competitor across the river, forcing bridges to cross the river at odd angles. After years of conflict and competition, the three towns combined to form Milwaukee in 1846. Take a closer look at the actions and legacies of one of these founding fathers. What brought them to Milwaukee? What was life like in the city at the time? How the matter was eventually resolved and how did Milwaukee eventually come together as one city?

Rev. Eleazer Williams: Lost Dauphin of France? (1788-1858) Believe it or not, an early Wisconsin conspiracy theory had the "Lost Dauphin," the missing son of King Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette of France, living in Wisconsin. Eleazer Williams was originally a missionary working among the Oneida in New York. After his arrival in the state, he made this claim. This supposed title gave him the chance to trick many, including his own family, promising them favors. All of these promises would remain just talk, as doubt always remained as to his true heritage. How did the myth surrounding his identity come about? What other contributions, positive or negative, did he make to culture and life in Wisconsin?

"Father of Wisconsin:" Charles Michel de Langlade: (1729-1801) De Langlade was born in Mackinac, Michigan and had both European and Native ancestry. He held military positions under French, English, and United States governments and earned prestige with many different groups of people. He was a leader in the French and Indian War in 1755 with roles in several major battles. By 1763, de Langlade allied himself with the British, where he helped secure the safety of many Europeans after an enemy attack. He resided in Green Bay and continued his leadership by working with Native forces in the American Revolution. How did his work with both Europeans and Native people help him gain the name "Father of Wisconsin"?

James Duane Doty Promotes Madison as Capital: (1799-1865) James Doty was part of an exploratory expedition to Wisconsin in 1820 and was active in the politics and government of the state for the next 30 years. Most notably, Doty began purchasing land and developing in a city in what is now Madison. Doty shrewdly promoted and campaigned to make this city the new state capital and profited from his success. Doty went on to serve as the territorial governor from 1840-1844. What impact did his actions have on the creation of our state? How did Doty's plans for Madison help establish the city we know today?

Early Wisconsin Lead Mining: Beginning in 1815 settlers came to Southwestern Wisconsin in hopes of mining for lead. Lead was valuable for making things like lead shot for ammunition, pipes, as well as toys, and paint. Many Native people had mined in the area for hundreds of years before this, but as demand

increased and word of the mineral spread, Euro-American miners looked to take the land and mine for themselves. With the arrival of people like Ebenezer Brigham, trading posts were established, as well as more advanced mining techniques, like smelters, to create more lead product. How did the mining of lead affect the Native groups already here? Why was lead so important to our state at the time? How did the “lead rush” contribute to the Black Hawk war?

MILITARY HISTORY AND WARTIME

Colonel Hans Christian Heg and the 15th Wisconsin Infantry: (1829-1863) Hans Christian Heg was born in Norway, but like many other immigrants, he came to call Wisconsin home. Heg is best remembered as the colonel of the 15th Wisconsin Regiment in the Civil War. As Wisconsin mobilized men to fight in the Civil War, the governor called for ethnic groups to form their own regiments. As a leader in his community, Heg was able to recruit other Norwegians and Scandinavians to fight for the Union cause. The “Fighting 15th,” saw actions in many states and lost many members in service of the Union. Heg himself died in the Battle of Chickamauga. How was Heg’s Civil war experience similar to or different from other Wisconsinites? What reasons did he have for fighting for the Union cause?

Lucius Fairchild: Soldier and Governor: (1831-1896) From county circuit clerk to general of the Iron Brigade at Gettysburg, Fairchild served the people of Wisconsin and the United States. After losing an arm at Gettysburg, he returned to Wisconsin to fill numerous political positions, eventually becoming governor. Fairchild was involved with advancing many causes and worked with veterans’ groups. How did Fairchild’s work as soldier and leader change the political landscape?

Cordelia Harvey Fights for Soldiers’ Hospitals in the North: (1824-1895) After the death of her husband, Governor of Wisconsin Louis P. Harvey, Cordelia Harvey was committed to continuing the work he had started to improve the hospital conditions for Wisconsin soldiers serving in the Civil War. Relentless in her quest to bring wounded soldiers back home to Northern hospitals, she personally petitioned President Lincoln to establish three hospitals in Wisconsin. After the war ended, she worked on campaigns for homes for soldiers’ orphans. How did the Civil War impact life in the state? How did the actions of this one individual leave a lasting legacy for others?

Marcus the “Brick” Pomeroy Writes Against Lincoln: (1833-1896) Pomeroy was a newspaperman, working at several different publications before founding his own, “The La Crosse Democrat,” in 1860. Known as a copperhead (someone from the North who sympathized with the secessionists of the South), he wrote tirelessly against Lincoln during the Civil War, gaining national notoriety, which helped the circulation of his paper grow. How did Pomeroy view the Civil War and the actions of the Union? What impact did his writings have in the state and nation?

Richard Bong Becomes a World War II Ace Pilot: (1920-1945) Richard Bong, of Poplar, was one of the many Wisconsin men and women that served their country during World War II. Bong joined the military as a flying cadet and soon gained notoriety by shooting down a record number of enemy planes, becoming one of Wisconsin’s most decorated war heroes. How did his personal actions inspire the nation? Is the story of Richard Bong similar to any veterans in your community?

William (Billy) Mitchell and the U.S. Air Force: (1879-1936) Beginning his military service during the Spanish-American War, Mitchell quickly became interested in flying. His knowledge helped him lead air missions in France during World War I, however, he found himself in a position of disagreement with his superiors over one particular issue. Mitchell vehemently believed in the future potential of air power for the military and even went as far to demonstrate air power’s superiority by bombing battleships in a test. Disagreements continued, he was court-martialed for his behavior, and then resigned. Even after this event, Mitchell continued to advocate the importance of air power and is known today as the “Father of the U.S. Air Force.” Why did Mitchell believe so strongly in air power? How was it different from other military strategies and technology at the time? What obstacles did he face and how was the U.S. Air Force eventually established?

German Prisoners of War Come to Wisconsin: As World War II progressed, space and supplies to house prisoners of war (POWs) in Great Britain became limited. At the same time, agricultural shortages in the U.S. were putting a strain on the workforce and economy. With the removal of German POWs to the U.S. - over 25,000 to Wisconsin alone - the government attempted to solve both of these problems. What were the experiences and opinions of both the POWs and the citizens of Wisconsin? What effect did their presence in many Wisconsin communities have on residents?

- *Stalag Wisconsin: Inside WWII Prisoner of War Camps* by Betty Cowley

Badger Ordnance Works Aids the War Effort: During World War II, Wisconsinites worked to aid the war effort in many ways, from scrap metal drives to rationing to serving in the military. In 1941, Wisconsin became home to a new part of the war effort with the establishment of the Badger Ordnance Works. This plant produced munitions and operated throughout the war, with workers living near the plant and supporting local businesses. Once the war was over, the fate of the plant was undecided, although it briefly reopened during the Korean and Vietnam Wars. What effect did the closing of the plant have on the surrounding community? What controversy has the plant faced in recent years as Wisconsinites try to decide the final fate of the plant?

- See the On Wisconsin article at www.uwalumni.com/home/onwisconsin in the Summer 2004 issue.

Civil War Draft Riots Rock Wisconsin Communities: The military draft that President Lincoln instituted in 1862 was unpopular in many German communities in the United States, since many Germans had left their homeland to escape compulsory military service. On November 10, 1862 roughly 300 rioters attacked the draft office in Port Washington and vandalized the homes of Union supporters until troops arrived to quell the disturbance. The same week in Milwaukee, a mob of protestors shut down the draft proceedings. In West Bend, the draft commissioner was beaten and chased from the scene. Think about the different sides of this debate. What were the perspectives of both Lincoln and the rioters on the draft? How did the previous experiences of the rioters influence their point of view? What were the reactions to these protests in other parts of the state?

The Iron Brigade Fights for the Union: The Iron Brigade was Wisconsin's most famous war unit. They fought in the Army of the Potomac, suffering unusually high casualties at Gainesville, Antietam (the Civil War's bloodiest battle), and Gettysburg. Take a closer look at the story of this group, a regiment, or a particular soldier. What were their reasons for joining and fighting? What actions did they take in a particular campaign or battle? What were some of the compromises made by Wisconsinites and Civil War soldiers?

- See *Giants in Their Black Hats: Essays on the Iron Brigade* by Alan Nolan and Sharon Eggleston Vipond

Victor Berger and Sewer Socialism: During World War I, the Post Office refused to deliver the "Milwaukee Leader," a Socialist newspaper that opposed the American entry into the war, edited by Berger. Berger was also the first and only Socialist to be elected to Congress. How did Victor Berger voice his dissent to World War I? What Socialist ideas did he promote and what were the reactions to them?

- Victor Berger's papers are part of the Wisconsin Historical Society Archives

Anti-German Sentiment in Wisconsin During World War I: As war was declared in 1917, anti-German sentiment reached a boiling point in Wisconsin. Schools stopped educating in German, German-language books were burned, and Wisconsinites with German names became targets of harassment. How did the conflicts of World War I play out in Wisconsin's cultural communities?

Women during World War II: When you think of women during World War II, you probably think of Rosie the Riveter. More than just a poster, thousands of Wisconsin women were real life "Rosies" as they worked to support the war effort at home. Wisconsin women not only replaced the men who had joined the armed forces during World War II, but also served in the military as healthcare personnel, parachute riggers, cryptographers, weather observers, and ferry pilots. Take a closer look the contributions of women in the state or in your community. In which industries did they serve? How did their life on the home front change? How did their experiences during the war change their lives afterwards?

- *Voices of the Wisconsin Past: Women Remember the War, 1941-1945* by Michael E. Stevens, editor.

Manitowoc Submarines During World War II: In the early years of World War II, the Manitowoc Shipbuilding Company became the only inland U.S. shipyard to construct submarines, despite their lack of previous experience in the difficult building process. The company eventually constructed 28 vessels for the Navy. What innovations in technology did Manitowoc have to develop in order to build submarines on Lake Michigan? How did the government contract for these ships change the company, the workforce, and the community?

Milwaukee Fourteen Protest the Vietnam War: Reactions to the Vietnam War were not limited to college campuses. In Milwaukee, fourteen men, now known as the Milwaukee Fourteen, took a stand against the war on September 24, 1968 by stealing and burning 10,000 draft cards. What goals and ideas brought them together that day? What reactions to the war, or reactions against the protestors, took place in your community?

- Look to UW-Milwaukee's Archives as it holds several items related to this topic, including footage from WTMJ-TV.

COMMUNICATION

Attracting Newcomers to Wisconsin: In the 1800s, people across the world first heard of Wisconsin through the letters of their families or books about the state, such as *The Emigrant's Handbook* and *The Handbook for the Homeseeker*. These books let people know about the land, resources, and potential success they could find in Wisconsin. How was Wisconsin marketed to potential immigrants? What other kinds of promotional material convinced people to come to your town? How did immigrants react and adapt to the "real" Wisconsin?

- *Emigrant's Handbook* by Samuel Freeman
- *Handbook for the Homeseeker* by William Arnon Henry

WHA Radio Hits the Airwaves: In 1915 the University of Wisconsin began transmitting radio signals on 9XM (now WHA), making it the oldest radio station in the nation. This broadcast was only Morse code at first, but as technology improved, the station began to air weather, news, and music for its listeners. Today we think of radio as just for entertainment, but the WHA was much more. How did this new mode of communication over long distance change the way people received information?

Wisconsin School of the Air Reaches Wisconsin Classrooms: The Wisconsin School of the Air was a program of educational materials produced by WHA radio for teachers to use in their classrooms. The programs debuted October 5, 1931. Similar to shows you might watch on the television in your classroom today, students listened to these programs, which covered a wide variety of topics. Why was the School of the Air particularly useful to students in rural areas? What sort of programming did they air? Does anyone you know remember listening to the Wisconsin School of the Air?

Dickey Chapelle Documents History: (1919-1965) Chapelle was a photographer and writer from Shorewood. She was one of the first female foreign war correspondents to cover World War II, the Korean War, and Vietnam War. Chapelle also did freelance writing for prominent American magazines and was interested in humanitarian efforts. She was killed by a mine while covering the Vietnam War. How did Chapelle use her photographs and words to document and report wars? How was her experience and perspective as a female correspondent different than her male counterparts? What struggles did she face in breaking into the field of photojournalism?

- Dickey Chapelle's papers are part of the Wisconsin Historical Society Archives

Project ELF and Cold War Defense: Built by the U.S. Navy in Clam Lake, Project ELF (Extra Low Frequency) was designed to facilitate communication with the Navy's nuclear submarines in other parts of the world. It used extremely low frequency waves to transmit information into the deep ocean through the granite bedrock of this region. Since its construction in 1969 it has been a controversial facility. The government saw this as a potentially useful defense tool during the Cold War. Others felt that potential

health risks outweighed this benefit. How did this innovation impact the military's communication capabilities? How did it change the lives of those living in the area?

- *The ELF Odyssey: National Security versus Environmental Protection* by Lowell L. Klessig and Victor L. Strite

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY

Frank Lloyd Wright's Architectural Innovations: (1869-1959) Wright's architectural work and influence extends far beyond the state of Wisconsin and his hometown of Richland Center. More than designing homes and buildings, Wright created a whole new architectural style in which the buildings harmonized with their environment. How did the innovative architecture of Wright change the way buildings were designed? What impact did this new style have on the future of architecture worldwide?

John Nolen Designs for the Future: (1869-1937) Although not from Wisconsin, famed landscape architect John Nolen left a lasting mark on the state, developing plans for the University of Wisconsin, the city of Madison, and the state park system. What innovative ideas did Nolen incorporate into his work and designs? What impact did it have on cities and our lives? How did the idea of city planning change the look of cities?

INDUSTRY AND AGRICULTURE

William Dempster Hoard: Father of the Wisconsin Dairy Industry: (1836-1918) Hoard not only helped to establish the School of Agriculture at the University of Wisconsin, but is well known for creating the first national dairy magazine, *Hoard's Dairyman*, among many other reforms and dairy-related innovations. The magazine is still published to this day, showing the importance of informing and connecting those in the dairy industry. How did his work further knowledge between isolated farmers? What impact did his innovation have on dairying?

Jerome Increase Case and the Threshing Machine: (1819-1891) The shift from manual labor to large-scale mechanized farming had significant impacts throughout the United States. One of the innovations behind this began in Wisconsin with Jerome Increase Case and his threshing machines. The impact of this innovation spread far beyond the borders of our state as it allowed farmers to harvest more effectively. It also made Case a wealthy man and a leader in his field. What impact did this innovation have on agriculture? Consider the context of the United States at this time. Why did this machinery become so popular so quickly?

- "J.I. Case: Some Experiences of an Early Wisconsin Industrialist", Wisconsin Magazine of History by Reynold Wik
- Case's personal papers are part of the Wisconsin Historical Society Archives

John Michael Kohler and the Kohler Company: Founded in 1873 by John Michael Kohler, the Kohler Company began by purchasing the Sheboygan Union Iron and Steel Foundry. Their major breakthrough came when Kohler enameled a cast iron horse trough in 1883 to create the first bathtub. Today the company creates numerous plumbing fixtures, which can be found across the globe. How did these inventions change the way people lived? How did these new ideas and products impact other industries?

Kimberly-Clark, Kleenex, and the Paper Industry: Founded in 1872 in Neenah, this company began by operating paper mills. In 1914 the company created cellu-cotton that was used as a cotton substitute during World War I. They also developed the first disposable handkerchief, Kleenex, in 1924. Since its inception the company has acquired other consumer goods production companies and expanded to have plants around the world. What impact does this company have on our lives today? How did their initial innovation create a foundation for growth and production in the paper industry? What impact have these products had on your household?

S.C. Johnson Goes Beyond Wax: This family-owned company opened in 1886 after Samuel Curtis Johnson purchased a parquet flooring business in Racine. The company advertised on radio from the 1930s through the 1960s, growing popular opinion of their wax products. By 1992 the company had purchased other large companies that produced household and cleaning products. S.C. Johnson

continues to be family run to this day, making much more than wax. How did this company impact the state economy with its growth?

Christopher Latham Sholes Invents the Typewriter: (1819-1890) While Sholes was active in publishing and politics, his most famous accomplishment was the development of the first practical typewriter and the QWERTY keyboard (which we still use today). How did his invention change the publishing and printing industry? On an interesting side note, Sholes was a vocal opponent of the death penalty and his efforts in 1852 helped to end the death penalty in the state. How did he use his opinions to help change state law?

David Clark Everest and the Growth of the Paper Industry: (1883-1955) Everest arrived in Wausau in 1909 to work in the paper mill industry. He rose to leadership in the field, helping to establish the Institute of Paper Chemistry and developing masonite fiber board. His experience led him to advise federal and state governments on forest products. How did Everest's work create changes to the modern forest products industry?

- *David Clark Everest and Marathon Paper Mills Company: A Study of a Wisconsin Entrepreneur 1909-1931* by Steven Burton Karges
- Everest's personal papers are part of the Wisconsin Historical Society Archives

Edward Phelps Allis: Entrepreneur and Manufacturer: (1824-1889) Edward P. Allis helped to revolutionize steam engines, agricultural equipment, and heavy machinery. He built a worldwide reputation for his enormous Milwaukee factory. Merging with the Fraser and Chalmers Company in 1901, the Allis-Chalmers Manufacturing Company continued to build machinery for most of the twentieth century. What is the legacy of Allis manufacturing in Wisconsin?

William Horlick and Malted Milk: (1846-1936) In the mid 1800s, Horlick and his brother began working in food manufacturing in Racine and produced the dried milk product known as malted milk. Today we think of malted milk as a tasty treat when mixed with ice cream, but its applications were much wider and included infant formula and rations for explorers. His business grew into numerous branches, but Horlick remained in Racine where he began philanthropic work. Why was the invention of a milk product that was easy to transport such a significant development? What other effects did this product have?

Phillip Best, Frederick Pabst, and Milwaukee Breweries: (1814-1869) Best immigrated to Wisconsin from Germany at the age of thirty and founded one of Milwaukee's first breweries. By shipping beer to Chicago, the brewery grew rapidly and helped to forge Milwaukee's association with brewing. Son-in-law Frederick Pabst took over the brewery after his retirement. How did the actions of Best and other early Milwaukee brewers solidify the state's reputation for brewing? How did the temperance movement affect this legacy?

Lumbering in Wisconsin: As early as the mid-1800s logging was a major industry in Wisconsin. It lured workers and business to the state, supplied people with wood for homes and industry, and helped give rise to cities, such as Stevens Point and Wausau. As the number of suitable trees in the forests diminished at the start of the twentieth century, much of the lumber production became paper production. Many logging companies, hoping to sell land, promoted the area as an agricultural paradise to immigrants. How did the development of railroads change the lumber industry? Did immigrants find success on the "cutover"? How has the lumber industry changed in Wisconsin today? There are many possible History Day topics related to lumbering in Wisconsin.

- Take a look at the **technology** related to logging. How did any one of these innovations make the process easier, safer or more efficient?
- You will find the history of many Wisconsin **cities** located on major rivers – such as Eau Claire, Oshkosh, Stevens Point, Wausau, La Crosse, or the Paper Valley - tied to the lumber industry. Take a closer look at the impact of this industry on a particular community.
- Be sure to look at any topic **through the eyes** of all participants. Consider both the positive and potentially negative consequences of any topic.

Wisconsin Farmers Transition From Wheat to Dairy: As settlement in the United States spread westward in the mid-1800s, Wisconsin farmers planted enough wheat to earn a spot as the third greatest producer in the nation. In the late 1860s, however, it all changed as other western states began producing wheat and an infestation of chinch bugs began devouring Wisconsin wheat. Farmers quickly needed another farming option and turned to dairying. Why did many Wisconsin farmers turn to dairy? Why was dairying so successful in Wisconsin?

The Demon Spread: Oleomargarine: Since the time of its introduction, a heated debate occurred in the state over the relative merits of butter versus oleomargarine. Dairy interests fought for many years to tax and demonize the cheaper spread, resulting in the smuggling of margarine across state lines and other slippery situations. Why were dairy interests insistent that butter was better? How did a simple taste test help to bring margarine back to the table?

- “The Oleo Wars,” by Gerry Strey in the Autumn 2001 Wisconsin Magazine of History

Brooks Stevens, Industrial Design, and Planned Obsolescence: Stevens was an industrial designer from Milwaukee, creating products that are recognizable in many facets of life, from lawnmowers to the Oscar Mayer Weinermobile. While he was well-known for his designs, he also gained notoriety for coining the phrase “planned obsolescence.” Stevens felt that good product design should encourage consumers to always want something newer and better. Take a closer look at the impact of one of his designs. What impact did it have at the time? How has the idea of planned obsolescence influenced the way we think about products today?

Innovation and the Trek Bicycle Corporation: Beginning in 1976 in a barn in Waterloo, Trek bikes can now be found across the globe. Trek began with traditional steel-framed bikes but has expanded and evolved their product line to include many high-end bikes as well as those for everyday bicyclists. What innovations in product design helped to make Trek successful? What impact did these ideas have on the world of cycling and design? Think about the historical context for this topic. How does Trek fit into the cycling history of Wisconsin and the United States?

Presto Innovations Change Kitchens: The Presto Company began in Eau Claire in 1905 with a line of pressure cookers for industry, used to preserve food. Later products showed new uses for electric appliances in the kitchen. Take a closer look at one of these innovations. Why was it developed? How did the product differ from other technology at the time? Think about the bigger picture: How does the history of this company fit into the historical context of food preservation and safety? What contributions did this company make to the war effort during World War II?

Let’s Eat! Agricultural Products in Wisconsin: Many agricultural products made in Wisconsin are consumed on tables all across the country and the world. Wisconsin is famous for its award-winning cheeses. Kikkoman Soy Sauce has been made in Wisconsin for over 35 years. High-quality ginseng grown in Wisconsin is shipped across the globe. Wisconsin climates are perfect for the production of cranberries – it’s the number one fruit crop in the state. Take a closer look at one of these industries or another agricultural product in your area. How did its production begin? What innovations or people were responsible for agriculture’s growth in the state?

Cray Supercomputers Change the History of Computing: Seymour Cray began his company in Chippewa Falls in 1972. Through his work, he built some of the most powerful computers in the world, with uses in science, industry, and research. Take a look at one of his innovative ideas. How does it compare to other available technologies at the time? How did his designs influence the world of computing?

LABOR HISTORY

Wisconsin workers, legislators, and reformers made significant contributions to the history of labor in the United States, including the Workman's Compensation Law and the Wisconsin Employment Relations Act. Attempting to transform social policies, Wisconsin reformers not only studied and documented labor practices at the turn of the twentieth century, but also joined with labor leaders and business communities to enact state labor legislation. The development of agriculture, lumbering, and mining, combined with increases in manufacturing, transformed Wisconsin labor as workers organized unions and collectively bargained for better wages and improved working conditions. Many significant labor events occurred on local and state levels. Think about researching labor history in your community to find out what problems workers fought against and how they reacted to labor changes.

- Workers and Unions in Wisconsin: A Labor History Anthology by Darryl Holter

Oshkosh Woodworkers Strike: In 1898, the profitable woodworking industry in Oshkosh faced an upheaval like it had never seen. With the union leadership of Thomas Kidd, 1,500 woodworkers - including many women - participated in a violent 14-week strike for better wages and working conditions. Did the strikers achieve their goals? How did the Oshkosh protestors' actions correspond with what was occurring in the nation at the time?

- "The Very Pictures of Anarchy," by Virginia Crane, Wisconsin Magazine of History, Spring 2001

The Milk Strikes Cause Upheaval in Wisconsin's Dairy Industry: During the Great Depression of the 1930s, the prices of farm products dropped, while farmers' production and shipping costs rose. In 1933, small Wisconsin dairy farmers turned to what they called a, "Boston Milk Party." In a series of strikes, they withheld milk and blocked it from the market. What effects did the protest have on the rest of Wisconsin, especially urban areas? Be sure to check out local newspaper coverage of this event, including dramatic, milk-dumping photographs!

- "The Wisconsin Milk Strikes" Wisconsin Magazine of History

The Eight-Hour Workday and the Bay View Tragedy: On May 5, 1886, after days of marches and protests as part of a national movement in favor of the eight-hour workday, several thousand marchers moved towards the Bay View Rolling Mills in Milwaukee. Governor Jeremiah Rusk ordered the militia to fire and stop the crowd, killing seven. What other events were going on in the U.S. that might have caused Governor Rusk to react the way he did? How did the eight-hour workday movement eventually achieve its goals?

1974 Hortonville Teachers' Strike: One of the 30 Wisconsin teacher strikes that occurred in the 1972-73 and 1973-74 school years, the Hortonville Teacher Strike was one of the most watched teacher strikes in Wisconsin as educators fought for contract renewals, increased salaries, and insurance improvements. How did the strike and its aftermath both illuminate and cause conflict? What compromises were made following the Hortonville experience?

The Kohler Strikes: 1934-1941 and 1954-1965: In 1934, employees of the Kohler Company attempted to organize a union against the wishes of their employer. Differing perspectives on the labor union issue emerged and a strike was called. Disagreements and some violence ensued over the following years, with the strike finally ending in 1941. A second strike began in 1954 and continued through 1965. Why did either of the strikes develop? Think about the issues through the eyes of all participants. What did they believe and why? What impact did either of the strikes have on the community?

John R. Commons Advocates Labor-Related Reforms: (1862-1945) John Commons was an influential reformer at the University of Wisconsin. His support and work on innovative legislation in labor, economics and social welfare helped to make Wisconsin a national leader for reform in the early 1900s. Commons worked on the Wisconsin Civil Service Law (1905), the Public Utilities Law (1907), helped to regulate workplace safety, and advocated unemployment compensation. Take a look at any one of these innovative ideas or policies. How did it affect workers in the state and beyond? What changes occurred due to the work of Commons?

TRANSPORTATION

Harley-Davidson Motorcycles: Harley-Davidson produced the first motorcycle with founders and friends William Harley and Arthur Davidson in the early 1900s. After their first model was built in 1903, the company saw increased demand for their machine with the unique V-twin shaped engine. How did this machine change transportation? What was the impact on the Wisconsin economy then and today? How did the company transform into the modern motorcycle-manufacturing leader we know today?

Electric Street Cars Change Wisconsin Cities: Electric street cars became common transportation in many Wisconsin cities in the 1890s as cities abandoned the use of horse-drawn carts. Appleton was one of the first places where it was used after the city built a hydroelectric plant to power the city. Many other Wisconsin cities followed this model and built tracks. Business and neighborhoods grew along the routes of this new, very popular way to travel. How did this new mode of transportation change the way people moved throughout their city? What impact did this have on industry, agriculture, and housing?

Ole Evinrude and the Outboard Motor: (1877-1934) Evinrude is best known for his 1910 invention of the outboard motor that made water transportation much faster. As boating became a popular hobby, the motors evolved and changed to meet consumer demand, soon being taken over by manufacturing giant Briggs and Stratton. The Evinrude Motor is still produced today. How did this invention change the way people traveled on the water? What impact did this product have on other watercraft ideas?

- See *Ole Evinrude and the Old Fellows* by Gordon MacQuarrie

Wisconsin Bicyclists Advocate for Better Roads: Even before gasoline-powered automobiles filled the roadways, a movement took hold in Wisconsin in the early 1890s to improve our state's country roads. The Good Roads Movement brought together the support of a variety of interests, including businesses, farmers, and engineers. It was the bicyclists, however, who initially lead the charge for better roadways, eventually bringing about state aide in support of better roadways. Why were the roads in the state in such poor condition? What were the opinions on different sides of this debate? What changes in society helped to fuel changes in public opinion on this issue?

See the State! Tourism in Wisconsin: With the growth of industry and urban areas, many Wisconsinites wanted to travel and see America's natural beauty. National parks were a part of this movement toward domestic travel, but in our own state the Wisconsin Dells became synonymous with tourism. To meet the demands of heavy travel to the area with the growing popularity of H.H. Bennett's photos of the Dells, hotels, restaurants, and amusements were built. The northern portion of the state also became popular for tourists, as many travelers wanted to experience the woods and the natural beauty of places like the Apostle Islands or Door County. How did these travelers affect the economy in Wisconsin? What sorts of institutions or projects were developed to meet the needs of travelers? How does tourism affect the state today?

Hans von Kaltenborn and War Information on the Radio: (1878-1965) Hans von Kaltenborn was a Wisconsinite who became one of the most influential news reporters and commentators during World War II through his radio broadcasts from England. His broadcasts marked the first time in American history that the country received news of a major war over the airwaves. How did the ability of American citizens to listen to radio broadcasts about the war change their perception of it? Were Kaltenborn's and other reporters' portrayals of the war fair? How was the war reported in your area, and what was the local reaction to it?

- Hans von Kaltenborn papers are part of the Wisconsin Historical Society Archives

The Milwaukee Road: Known by several different names since it began in the mid-1850s, the Milwaukee Road was actually based in Chicago. Its rails crossed the nation, reaching throughout the Midwest by the 1880s and to the west coast by the 1910s. Faced at several times bankruptcy and reorganization, it transported goods and people with innovative electrified lines and high-speed Hiawatha passenger trains. Think about the historical context for this topic. How does the story of the Milwaukee Road fit into the bigger picture of railroads in U.S. history?

- Check out related collections from the company at the Milwaukee Public Library and online from the Milwaukee Road Historical Association (<http://www.mrha.com/>).

ENVIRONMENT

John Muir Inspires Conservation: (1838-1914) Born in Scotland, Muir began his life in Wisconsin by working on his family farm. While attending college at the University of Wisconsin, Muir spent his time creating unique inventions to ease daily life, such as his clock-desk that kept track of his study time. His love of wilderness prompted him to explore the country. It was in California that Muir began working to preserve nature, founding the Sierra Club, publishing articles, and promoting conservation. How was Muir's point of view similar to or different from others at the time? How did Muir's work impact the use and view of natural space in this country?

Gaylord Nelson Finds Earth Day: (1916-2005) Nelson was a Wisconsin native who after serving in World War II and becoming a lawyer, took on political office. From the state senate, to governor, to the U.S. Senate, Nelson served the state of Wisconsin for the majority of his adult life. He is well-known for founding Earth Day and creating a following for the conservation movement. How did Nelson's ideas on the environment influence the way the legislature dealt with such issues and inspire regular people? What changed because of his work on conservation in Wisconsin and beyond?

- View www.nelsonearthday.net for documents and essays related to Earth Day.

Aldo Leopold and the Conservation Movement: (1887-1948) Leopold's work in Wisconsin put him at the forefront of the conservation movement in the state and nation. He advocated and wrote about game management, soil conservation, the importance of natural areas, and conservation. One of his most celebrated works, *A Sand County Almanac*, is based on his time in Wisconsin and is still influential today. How did Leopold's work change the way we see wildlife in our state? What impact did he make on the conservation movement?

- Leopold's papers are part of the UW-Madison Archives

H.H. Bennett Promotes the Wisconsin Dells: (1843-1908) Bennett is best known for his photography, especially as it captured the natural beauty of the Wisconsin Dells. His images helped increase tourism to the area by shedding light on this natural wonder. His technology and techniques enhanced his images. How did his innovative use of the newly emerging field of photography alter Wisconsinites' view of the Dells? What impact did he have on photography and tourism?

- Check out the H.H. Bennett Studio and History Center in Wisconsin Dells

Edward Birge and the University of Wisconsin: (1851-1950) Beginning his academic career as a professor, Birge later became president of the University of Wisconsin. While in that position he promoted science education, forming new departments such as zoology and a pre-medical curriculum. His personal research led to the development of the field of limnology, the study of inland waters. In 1921, Birge also played a role in a public conflict with William Jennings Bryan over fundamentalism and Darwinism. How did Birge's actions at the UW affect the University's legacy?

Roy Chapman Andrews: Naturalist, Zoologist, and the Real Indiana Jones? (1884-1960) Born in Beloit, Andrews' desire for travel didn't keep him in the state for long. Andrews spent his professional life at the American Museum of Natural History. He was a naturalist who traveled the world to collect data, and was intent on finding lost information on human evolution. His greatest journey took him to China where he collected fossils and went on numerous personal expeditions throughout Asia. His adventurous nature has led to the belief that he was one of the people upon whom the character Indiana Jones was based. How did Andrews' adventures impact our understanding and study of science through artifacts and examples?

Dam Removal Opens Wisconsin Waterways: Before Interstates or even plank roads, travelers used waterways as natural highways to move throughout the state. As industry grew, dams and locks were added to control the rivers' flow and harness the power of the water. As the years passed, many dams fell into disrepair and disuse. Faced with the decision to repair or remove dams, some communities have fought to have dams removed, returning the river and surrounding environment to the way people experienced it in the 1800s. What have been the benefits and problems of removing dams? How have differing sides engaged in the debate over this issue?

The Peshtigo Fire Devastates Northeastern Wisconsin: On October 8, 1871, Peshtigo was a prosperous northeastern Wisconsin town, booming with lumbering, expanding railroads, and increasing settlement. That night everything changed when a massive blaze tore through and destroyed an area 10 miles wide and 40 miles long, killing an estimated 1,000 to 1,500 people. As the Chicago Fire occurred on the same night, many people, including the governor of Wisconsin, were unaware of the tragedy that had befallen other Wisconsinites. What factors - both natural and man-made - set the scene for this tragedy to occur? How did the fire change life in northeastern Wisconsin?

Wisconsin's Endangered Wildlife Returns: As settlement increased across the state, increased competition for resources put a strain on some of Wisconsin's native animals. Sometimes, government policies actively encouraged the killing of animal species due to the perceived threats they posed to humans. Later on, as people began to recognize the value of biodiversity, programs came into place to protect and reintroduce these animals into the wild. Swans, cranes, wolves, and elk are just a few of the species you are now able to see in their natural habitat thanks to the work of the government and concerned citizens. How did the national environmental movement affect these movements in Wisconsin? How have people's opinions of these animals - especially wolves - changed over time? Investigate the story of one of these species in greater detail.

Conservation of the Horicon Marsh: Euro-American settlers were drawn to the area of the Horicon Marsh for the same resources and beauty that drew Native people before them. However, new demands soon changed how the marsh was used. Between 1846 and 1921 the marsh was dammed, drained, and farmed and the wildlife population dwindled as a result. Beginning in 1927, attitudes changed towards the marsh when the state passed the Horicon Marsh Wildlife Refuge Bill. How did conservationists work to reverse years of land abuse? What did they learn about the importance of the marshland ecosystem? How did this triumph effect other conservation movements in the state?

Wisconsin Helps Ban DDT: A cheap, effective, and once widely used pesticide, DDT was also found to be harmful to animals and human beings. Wisconsin moved to the forefront of the discussion when the Citizens Natural Resources Association asked the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to rule on the safety of DDT. The trial held the attention of the nation from December 1968 to April 1969 and DDT was banned in Wisconsin and in the nation shortly thereafter. Think about the opposing viewpoints. What were the risks and benefits associated with DDT? Why did Wisconsin become the location for this dramatic debate?

- "DDT on Trial: The Wisconsin Hearing, 1968-1969" from the Wisconsin Magazine of History

Wisconsin's Relationship with the Great Lakes: Bordered by Lake Superior and Lake Michigan, Wisconsin history has been shaped by our easy access to water. Along with the Mississippi River, these bodies of water have facilitated the transportation of passengers, manufactured goods, natural resources, and more. The stories of the ships on the Great Lakes were not always successful and these same waters contain more than 700 historic shipwrecks. Consider exploring one of these stories or taking a closer look at the role of government or organizations in protecting these underwater historic sites from scavengers. Were there any significant industries in your area that depended on lakes or rivers?

SOCIAL ISSUES

Frances Willard Advocates Temperance: (1839-1898) Willard grew up in Janesville. Beginning in the 1870s she began working with the Women's Christian Temperance Union and became a leader in the temperance movement (a movement against the use of alcohol). Eventually becoming president of the group, she helped to expand their focus to include several reform issues, including labor and suffrage. How did her work impact the public and raise the profile of the organization?

Theodora Winton Youmans and Votes for Women: (1863-1932) After graduating from Carroll College, Youmans wrote for the "Waukesha Freeman" on suffrage and women's rights. She led the campaign for women's suffrage in Wisconsin and won the support of several reluctant groups. She went on to work with other suffrage leaders on the national level to help pass the 19th amendment. What perspectives did

she represent in the suffrage debate? How did her work impact the larger movement on voting rights for women?

Milwaukee Fights Residential Segregation: As late as the 1960s, African Americans were denied access to the same housing as whites in Milwaukee. This forced the growing African American population to remain in inner city locations, keeping people from moving towards growth and opportunity. Through the work of many people including **Father Groppi** and **Vel Phillips**, anti-discrimination policies that had first been introduced in 1962 were finally established in 1968 in an attempt to stop the problem. What difficulties did African Americans in Milwaukee face? What impact did these policies have, both in the long and short term? How did this situation in Wisconsin fit into the larger picture of civil rights in the country?

- Father Groppi's papers are part of the Wisconsin Historical Society Archives

Lloyd Barbee Fights School Segregation in Milwaukee: (1925-2003) A graduate of the University of Wisconsin Law School, Barbee was a strong advocate of equality in educational opportunities for African Americans in Milwaukee. To support this cause he founded the Milwaukee United School Integration Committee (MUSIC) and legally challenged Milwaukee Public Schools to integrate 1963. The struggle lasted until a 1976 federal ruling prompted the state to begin a school integration program, though difficulties remained in the city. Why did Barbee take action against Milwaukee schools and why did they fight back? What impact does his work in desegregation have on Milwaukee schools today?

- Barbee's papers are part of the Wisconsin Historical Society Archives

Ezekiel Gillespie and African American Voting Rights in Wisconsin: (1818-1892) Moving to Milwaukee in 1851, Gillespie became involved in voting rights issues in the black community. With the encouragement of local abolitionists, he personally tried to register to vote in 1865, but was denied. He took the case to the Wisconsin Supreme Court, who ruled that blacks could vote in 1866 and had the right to since 1849. How did the Gillespie's case help change voting rights in Wisconsin? What else was going on in the nation at the time that influenced this specific case?

Joshua Glover, Sherman Booth, and the Fugitive Slave Law: (1812-1904) Moving to Wisconsin in 1848, Booth was an active supporter of the abolition of slavery. In 1854 Booth led the dramatic raid that freed Joshua Glover, a fugitive slave from Missouri. Booth was arrested for his role because, according to the federal Fugitive Slave Law, citizens had to help return escaped slaves to their owners. It was a crime to help slaves escape. The trial of Booth caught the attention of abolitionists across the nation. A six-year controversy between state and federal authorities began as Wisconsin declared the federal law unconstitutional. How did Sherman Booth's actions bring light to the issue of slavery in the north? How did this case affect anti-slavery or pro-slavery sentiment in the state?

- "The Public and Private Affairs of Sherman M. Booth," Wisconsin Magazine of History, by Diane S. Butler, Spring 1999
- *Finding Freedom: The Untold Story of Joshua Glover, Runaway Slave* by Ruby West Jackson and Walter T. McDonald

John McCaffary and the Death Penalty in Wisconsin: John McCaffary was tried, convicted, and sentenced to death for the murder of his wife on July 23, 1850 in Kenosha. On that day he became the last person executed in Wisconsin. The movement against capital punishment had been active in Wisconsin since before statehood, but the McCaffary trial and execution brought new attention to the issue. It was abolished in 1853. Why were Wisconsinites against the death penalty? How did the death penalty dissenters use McCaffary's trial and execution to eliminate the death penalty? Have Wisconsin opinions about the death penalty changed with time?

The Hmong Come to Wisconsin: After American troops withdrew from Southeast Asia in 1975, the Vietnam conflict ended for American troops and families back home. However, it left thousands of Hmong soldiers in a dangerous situation. They had allied themselves with the United States and when troops withdrew, so did their protection from the communists they had been fighting. Many Hmong fled to refugee camps in Thailand where they waited for the opportunity to resettle. Since then, thousands have come to call Wisconsin home. What challenges faced the Hmong in Wisconsin and how has settlement in

Wisconsin changed Hmong culture? What measures has the Hmong community taken to help others still living in Thailand and to receive recognition for their contributions to the Vietnam War effort?

- *Hmong in America: Journey from a Secret War* by Tim Pfaff
- *The Hmong and their Stories* by the D.C. Everest School District

Vietnam Anti-War Movement on Wisconsin Campuses: Protest against the Vietnam War took place on campuses across Wisconsin, including marches, teach-ins, and draft card burnings. The UW-Madison campus was well-known as a hotbed of anti-war radicalism. Most notably, Madison's Sterling Hall was bombed on August 24, 1970 because it housed the Army Math Research Center, which the bombers believed did research that was vital to the war. How did such a violent and deadly action affect the strength of the anti-war movement? What actions or protests took place on other campuses in the state? Take a closer look at an event or location to learn more about both sides of the issue.

- *Rads: The 1970 Bombing of the Army Math Research Center at the University of Wisconsin and Its Aftermath* by Tom Bates

Sifting and Winnowing: Richard Ely and the Defense of Academic Freedom: Richard Ely was a prominent academic at UW-Madison in the 1890s, with recognized research expertise in labor issues. In 1894 Ely was accused by the superintendent of education of advocating social unrest through strikes and boycotts with his research and writings at the University. His trial became a national issue, although Ely was eventually cleared of the charges. One of the most significant outcomes of the trial, however, was a commitment of the University of Wisconsin to academic freedom, the idea teachers and students should be able to seek knowledge without the fear of being silenced by those who may disagree. Why was the expression of his views considered dangerous? How did contemporary events influence the fears of his accusers?

- Wisconsin Stories: School Days - www.wisconsinstories.org/2002season/school/closer_look.cfm

Ardie and Wilbur Halyard Fight Discrimination in Wisconsin: After moving to Milwaukee in the 1920s, Wilbur and Ardie Halyard saw that African Americans in the North were faced with the same discrimination that existed in the South. Together, the Halyards took a stand against inequality in all facets of life. They founded the Columbia Savings and Loan Association, which loaned money without discrimination, and also led the National Association on the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in Wisconsin. They worked against discrimination in voting, schools, and employment. How did the Columbia Savings and Loan Association differ from other banks of the time? How were the actions of these two individuals able to have a lasting effect on many?

- The NAACP records in UW-Milwaukee's Archives document the group's history

Taking a Stand Against Discrimination in Oshkosh on Black Thursday: On November 21, 1968, approximately 96 black students at the Wisconsin State University of Oshkosh (today UW-Oshkosh) took over some of the school's administrative offices. They were protesting what they saw as discriminatory treatment by the university. The encounter is referred to today as, "Black Thursday." What influence did this event have on the civil rights of students on campus? What policies changed or were enacted because of this event? Take a closer look at the different sides of this issue.

Brewing and Prohibition in Wisconsin: Wisconsin was the scene for many opinionated debates over issues related to brewing, alcohol, temperance, and prohibition. On one hand, the state had a strong history of brewing and a large number of German immigrants. On the other hand, Yankees and other reformers sought to diminish the problems they felt were associated with alcohol. A series of laws were passed in the state related to the issue before the official beginning of Prohibition. Take a look at the issues surrounding this issue to better understand the historical context for the debate. What did each side believe and why? What effect did Prohibition have on industry and culture in the state?

- Check out Turning Points in Wisconsin history for a more detailed look at this chapter in Wisconsin history: <http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/turningpoints/tp-051>

EDUCATION

Margarethe Meyer Schurz Creates First Kindergarten in the United States: (1833-1876) Wife of Carl Schurz, an important German American politician of the time, Margarethe was originally from Germany. Upon moving to Watertown, she established the first kindergarten in the United States in 1856. She based her school on a system of teaching young students what she had learned in Germany, initially teaching her daughter and the children of relatives and friends. Her impact was felt beyond just Watertown as her opinions and expertise influenced other educators in the nation. What was the education system like in the United States when Schurz began her school? How did Schurz's innovation in education impact the system we know today?

1899 Bennett Law Requires English-Only Education: Enacted in 1899, the Bennett Law required school attendance of children ages seven to fourteen, levied a fine for parents who did not comply, and required that instruction be in English. This law ignited storms of controversy because it forbade Wisconsin's ethnically diverse school-aged population from being taught in the language their families used at home. How did his law impact schools in Wisconsin? Did it make changes to education and influence future education laws?

- "Wisconsin Ethnic Groups and the Election of 1890" by Roger E. Wyman in the Wisconsin Magazine of History, Summer 1968

Lyman Draper Records American History: (1815-1891) Draper was a lifelong student of early American history who devoted his life to rescuing and preserving pioneer stories and documents on frontier history. His extensive collection of materials became the foundation for the collections of the Wisconsin Historical Society, of which he was the first secretary and librarian. What impact do his collections have then and today?

Charles Van Hise and the "Wisconsin Idea" Brings the University Outside of the Classroom: The Wisconsin Idea, which guides the University of Wisconsin system, is based on the philosophy that the universities in the state should serve the people of the state and improve the quality of life for all those living within it. This idea was established by university President Charles Van Hise in 1904, as he hoped to reach every family in the state with the benefits of the university. This idea expanded beyond just education to influence politics and Progressive reforms such as primary elections and workman's compensation, among other policies. How does this idea govern the state today? How can one simple idea impact the educational and political goals of an entire state for over 100 years?

Frederick Jackson Turner and the Significance of the Frontier in American History: (1861-1932) A Wisconsin native, Turner was a professor of history at the University of Wisconsin and Harvard. His work on the role of the American frontier, "The Significance of the Frontier in American History," emphasized the role of the frontier in American history and character. This work had a major impact on historians that followed him. What reasons did he have for this idea? How was his interpretation of the role of the frontier unique? How did his work influence future generations of historians?

Wisconsin School for the Deaf and Wisconsin Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired: Universal education has traditionally been a priority for Wisconsinites. The State demonstrated when it helped to support the Wisconsin School for the Deaf (1852) and the Wisconsin School for the Blind (1849). Who advocated for these schools? How has education changed at these schools over the years? How have public schools changed their treatment of students with disabilities, and what does that say about our understanding of disabilities in the past and present?

UW-Extension and Rural Populations: The University of Wisconsin and its outreach programs helped Wisconsin become a leader in dairying and helped to diversify farming by extending the resources of the University to the people of Wisconsin through publications and visits by extension faculty. The impact on rural communities was enormous, from advice on the construction of barns and silos to programs on nutrition and health. Why did the University decide to extend its programs to rural populations? What did they hope to achieve through their work? How did farmers who heard this new information change the way they farmed? What other ways did new information change their lives?

- *The University of Wisconsin: A History* by Merle Curti and Vernon Carstensen

Native American Mission Schools: In the latter half of the nineteenth century, the Catholic Church, building on the earlier efforts of Spanish and French missionaries, extended its network of mission and schools among Native Americans in Wisconsin. Missionaries built school on reservations to educate Native children and convert them to Christianity. These mission schools often cooperated with federal education programs that removed children from their families and placed them in government-run boarding schools. What conflicts resulted between the goals of these schools and the beliefs of families? How have perspectives on these schools changed over time?

WOMEN'S HISTORY

You Are What You Eat: Lizzie Kander and the Settlement Cookbook: (1858-1940) Lizzie Kander was active in some of the Progressive reforms that took place in Milwaukee in the 1890s. Some of her most notable work was with the first settlement house in Milwaukee, which offered classes and programs to help Americanize new immigrants to the country. One of the methods Kander used was culinary, encouraging changing the diet and food of immigrants to more "American" styles. Also resulting from this was *The Settlement Cookbook*, which combined recipes and housekeeping ideas. More than 40 editions of this book have been printed! How did this impact the lives of the immigrants she taught?

- Lizzie Black Kander's papers are part of the Wisconsin Historical Society Archives
- "Lizzie Black Kander and Culinary Reform in Milwaukee, 1888-1920, by Angela Fritz, Wisconsin Magazine of History, Spring 2004

Juliette Kinzie and Her Memories of the Early Life in Wisconsin: (1806-1870) Juliette Kinzie was one of Wisconsin's early pioneers and her marriage to John Kinzie, an Indian Agent, brought her to Fort Winnebago (near present-day Portage). She wrote about her experiences in her book, *Wau-Bun: The Early Day in the Northwest*. She describes her life at the Indian Agency House, her neighbors the Ho-Chunk, and her observations of their lives and culture. How did Kinzie's writings influence understanding of Wisconsin's Native people at the time they were written and today?

- *Wau-Bun* by Juliette M. Kinzie

Mathilde Anneke: Forty-Eighter: (1817-1884) Mathilde Anneke was born in Germany but came to call Wisconsin home just as other "Forty-Eighter" immigrants to the United States. Once here, she continued her pursuit of the ideal of freedom, including women's rights and opposition to slavery. She published a suffragist newspaper and founded a girls' school in Milwaukee. How did Anneke's past in Germany influence her actions in the United States? What legacy did Anneke and other "Forty-Eighters" leave in the United States?

Golda Meir: Israel's First Female Prime Minister: (1898-1978) In 1907, Golda Meir was one of the many new immigrants to Milwaukee. Although her time in Wisconsin was brief, it was influential in her later quest to establish a homeland for Jews in Palestine. She moved there in 1921 with her husband, and was active in many Zionist organizations and the Israeli government. She was elected as Israeli Prime Minister in 1969 and served until 1974. How did her role as the first woman in that position change the mold of leadership? What difficult political decisions did she have to make and what was her legacy?

Rhoda Lavinia Goodell: Wisconsin's First Female Lawyer: (1839-1880) The daughter of an abolitionist, Goodell came to Janesville in 1871. Goodell began to study law and was the first woman admitted to the Wisconsin bar in 1874, however, obstacles to her career as a lawyer didn't end there. Unable to present her own case in front of the state Supreme Court, Goodell helped pass a bill that removed the statute that women could be denied access to the bar simply based on gender. How did the work of Goodell change the law for women? What effect did her work have on women then and today?

Belle Case La Follette: First Lady of Wisconsin and More: (1859-1931) Belle Case La Follette was the wife of Robert La Follette, but her success extended far beyond her role as his wife. She was the first woman to receive a law degree from the University of Wisconsin Law School and served as counselor for her husband's politics. She was an advocate for suffrage, woman's rights, and was a modern woman with both a public life, professional life and a successful home life. What type of example did Belle leave for women? What effect did her writings and work have on her favored causes?

Ada James Campaigns for Women’s Suffrage: (1876-1952) Born in Richland Center, James is best known for her work in the suffrage movement. Her work began as the president of the Political Equality League, which then combined with the Wisconsin Women’s Suffrage Association that was led by Theodora Youmans. Her reform work did not stop with suffrage, as she worked on causes such as pacifism, birth control rights, and prohibition. She devoted the rest of her life to various local and political causes in the state. How did her personal actions affect the movements she advocated? What is the lasting impact of these organizations?

- Ada James’ papers available in the University of Wisconsin’s Digital collections

Olympia Brown: Unitarian Minister and Women’s Rights Activist: (1835-1926) Brown became the first woman to enter the clergy of an American church when she became an ordained Unitarian minister. Always an advocate of suffrage, Brown spoke and wrote in favor of the nineteenth amendment. As a woman with such unique attributes, how did Brown view her world?

- *Olympia Brown: An Autobiography*

Emma Brown Publishes the “Wisconsin Chief”: (1827-1889) Brown was editor and co-founder of the newspaper the “Wisconsin Chief” and was the first woman to be an editor and publisher in the state. The paper focused on the causes of temperance, woman suffrage, and woman’s roles in public life. She is credited for keeping the momentum for women’s rights movements alive after the Civil War. How did her work affect the women’s rights movement in Wisconsin?

Dr. Kate Pelham Newcomb and Rural Healthcare in Northern Wisconsin: (1886-1956) Residents of rural Wisconsin in the first half of the 20th century faced challenges unique to their area. In the Wisconsin Northwoods, one problem was difficulty in accessing healthcare facilities, which could sometimes be hours away. Dr. Kate Newcomb, traveling on snowshoes, roads, and canoes, helped to meet that challenge by working tirelessly to bring quality healthcare to rural Wisconsinites. What brought Dr. Kate to Wisconsin to practice medicine? How did Dr. Kate and other physicians triumph over the challenges in rural Wisconsin?

- *Dr. Kate, Angel on Snowshoes: The Story of Kate Pelham Newcomb, M.D.* by Adele Comandini

Kathryn Clarenbach Helps to found the National Organization for Women: (1920-1994) “The whole nation suffers from the failure to make use of one half of its brainpower and ability,” stated Clarenbach, a pioneer in the women’s rights movement in the 1960s and 1970s. Born in Sparta, she became a political science professor, scholar, and activist. She taught at Edgewood College and in 1966 helped establish the National Organization for Women (NOW), turning her home into NOW’s national headquarters when she served as the first chairperson of the organization’s board of directors. On what issues did NOW take a stand? How has the organization been significant in history?

POLITICS and GOVERNMENT

“Fighting Bob:” Robert M. LaFollette: (1855-1925) Robert La Follette developed his fierce opposition to corporate power and political corruption as a young man. Affiliated with the Republican Party for almost his entire career, La Follette embarked on a political path that would take him to Congress, the governorship of Wisconsin, and the U.S. Senate. His support for progressive reforms, rousing oratory, and frequent clashes with party leaders earned him the nickname “Fighting Bob.” He supported measures that doubled the taxes on railroads, broke up monopolies, preserved the state’s forests, protected worker’s rights, defended small farmers, and regulated lobbying to end patronage politics. Take a closer look at any one of these innovative ideas or policies. What was the historical context for the development of this policy or idea? What impact did this one man’s ideas have on progressive politics in the early 20th century? What specifically changed to create a new political environment in America because of his work?

Edwin Witte and Social Security: (1877-1960) Witte was as an economist at the University of Wisconsin before taking on a position with the government. He is credited with developing the first Social Security program for the U.S. What changed for Americans because of this new policy? What impact did this policy have at the time? Today?

Alan Bovay and the Birth of the Republican Party: In 1854, thirty opponents of the Kansas-Nebraska Act (which repealed the Missouri Compromise that banned slavery in western territories, making it possible for territories to decide individually if slavery would be allowed on its land) met in Ripon to create a new political party. They named themselves the Republicans based on their affinity to the goals of the Declaration of Independence. Their party spread throughout that year on the idea that no compromise could be reached with the continuation of slavery. What other groups or locations lay claim on the same honor? How did this new party change the political landscape of America? What impact did it have on slavery?

Senator Joseph McCarthy and McCarthyism: (1908-1957) McCarthy was a U.S. Senator from Appleton with military experience as an intelligence officer during World War II. While serving in the Senate, he began an anti-communist campaign against public figures in the U.S. that played on the country's Cold War fears and eventually ruined the reputation of many of those he accused. When his accusations moved to federal employees, he was censured. How did the campaign against communism led by McCarthy change those involved? What was the lasting effect on the nation?

Seidel and Zeidler: Socialist Mayors of Milwaukee: Emil Seidel (1864-1947) was the first Socialist mayor of a major American city and Frank Zeidler (1912-2006) was the last Socialist mayor of a major American city, both in Milwaukee. Under the leadership of both men, the city underwent great changes in accordance to the needs of their time. Consider looking at either one of these individuals. What was the historical context of their elections? How did their actions and ideas influence the city of Milwaukee?

William Rehnquist on the United States Supreme Court: (1924-2005) A Milwaukee native, Rehnquist served his country in the highest court in the land. He worked for the federal government as assistant attorney general under President Nixon before being appointed to the Supreme Court in 1971. He became Chief Justice in 1986 and was the second-longest serving justice upon his death in 2005. What judicial legacy did Rehnquist leave? How did the decisions and actions of Rehnquist change the U.S. Supreme Court?

The State Constitutions of 1846 and 1848: In the fall of 1846, all signs seemed to point to a quick transition to statehood for Wisconsin. But when the elected delegates met in Madison to write a constitution, several issues led to debate and delayed the process. When complete, the constitution included a number of controversial articles, including currency modification, allowing immigrants who applied for citizenship to vote, granting married women the right to own property, and making the question of black suffrage subject to popular referendum. This constitution was defeated and delegates met in 1847 to begin working on a more moderate version, omitting women's property rights and black suffrage. How did the 1846 constitution present conflict for Wisconsinites? What necessary compromises were made on the path to statehood?

WPA Handicraft Project in Milwaukee: During the Great Depression, the effects of the New Deal were felt in many communities across the state. While some were employed in conservation camps in the Northwoods, some in construction in cities, and many other jobs, some in Milwaukee were busy working with handicrafts. This successful project involved mainly women and provided work for unskilled workers in need of employment to support themselves and their families. Workers created toys, textiles, prints, dolls, and other items for use in public institutions. What impact did this program have on the lives of the individual women?

ARTS, CULTURE AND ENTERTAINMENT

Albert Ringling and the Ringling Bros Circus: (1852-1916) Ringling had an interest in the circus as a young man and that interest would grow into the most well-known circus in the world. Ringling began his circus career with his brothers in Baraboo. The show grew over the years with the acquisition of animals, and especially with the purchase of Barnum & Bailey's Circus in 1907. What role did entertainment, like the circus, play in communities in the state? How did the Ringling Brothers change other circuses with their successful model?

Pulitzer Prize Winner Zona Gale: (1874-1938) Novelist, playwright, and short-story writer Zona Gale successfully used her background and experiences in small town Wisconsin to gain national acclaim. Gale was one of the few fiction writers of her time to write contemporary stories emphasizing local color, costumes, and the depictions of ordinary people. Gale became the first woman to win the Pulitzer Prize for drama in 1921. How did her innovative writing styles change the literary world?

Les Paul and the Electric Guitar: (1915-2009) Paul is known for innovations in the world of music. More than just playing guitar, Paul was responsible for the sound of many forms of modern music, including blues, alternative, and metal. He developed the solid-body electric guitar and also effects (such as multi-track recording) to be used in sound recording. How have Paul's innovations in music impacted the music we hear today?

Margaret Newell H'Doubler and Modern Dance: Moving to Madison in 1903, H'Doubler attended the University of Wisconsin to study biology and philosophy. After being influenced by new forms of music education, H'Doubler began to teach dance. Her form of dance was feminine but also allowed students to describe their movement in terms of science. She returned to the University of Wisconsin and helped to establish the first dance major in the country and documented her unique style in the five books she authored. How did her new ideas on women's education change higher education? What impact did her work have on other schools in the country?

- *To Want to Dance: A Biography of Margaret H'Doubler* by Judith Anne Gray

Vinnie Ream: Sculptor: (1847-1914) A Wisconsin native, Vinnie Ream became the first woman and youngest artist to receive a federal commission for her work. Most famously she created the full-size marble statue of Abraham Lincoln for the U.S. Capitol Rotunda. She went on to create several other significant pieces. How did her role as a sculptor differ from other women at the time? What is her legacy as a young woman artist who worked on such a meaningful work?

Cinematic Visionary: Orson Welles: (1915-1985) Born in Kenosha, Welles became a famous writer and director. His radio broadcast of "War of the Worlds" is known for causing panic among public listeners. His film "Citizen Kane" is also considered an American classic. How was his work different from other pieces at the time? What impression did they leave with their viewers and the industry?

Danger and Magic: Harry Houdini Enchants the Country: (1874-1926) Houdini said he was from Appleton, but actually moved there from Hungary as a child. He began his magic career with the name Houdini. By the early 1900s, his magic and escape acts had made him famous. Beginning in 1919, Houdini made numerous films, before beginning his quest to disprove the issue of spiritualism, or the belief that the living can talk to the dead. Which of Houdini's actions has most influenced his legacy? How did he capture the imagination of a nation?

Georgia O'Keefe Paints the American Southwest: (1887-1986) Born in Sun Prairie, O'Keefe's art is most commonly associated with the American Southwest. Her paintings gained fame after exhibits of her work opened across America in 1916 and made her reputation grow. She moved to New Mexico where she lived until age 98. What made her particular artistic style unique? How does her work affect people in a way that makes her well-known long after her work was created?

Novelist and Playwright Edna Ferber: (1885-1968) Ferber was born in Appleton and spent her professional life as a writer of popular works that were turned into musicals or films, such as "Show Boat." She was also awarded the Pulitzer Prize for her novel, *So Big*. What legacy has Ferber's work left on the literary community?

Alfred Lunt, Lynn Fontanne, and Ten Chimneys: For over 50 years, Alfred Lunt and Lynn Fontanne, the most famous acting couple of their generation, made their summer and, later, retirement home at Ten Chimneys in Genesee Depot. Here, they entertained fellow actors and playwrights and worked on new plays and acting methods. In addition to being a theatrical laboratory, Ten Chimneys was the setting for the Lunt's promotional press. How did Lunt and Fontanne's work on Broadway and at Ten Chimneys contribute to the theatre and theatrical methods? How did the Lunts use Ten Chimneys to communicate a public image to their fans?

- Alfred Lunt and Lynn Fontanne papers are part of the Wisconsin Historical Society Archives

Laura Ingalls Wilder Writes of a Midwestern Childhood: (1867-1957) Born in Pepin, Wisconsin, Laura Ingalls is best known for her work on the Little House book series that chronicle her time on a farm during the late 19th century. Written in conjunction with her daughter, the book series has been in print since its first publication and was even adapted into a popular television series. Why does the story of a girl on the farm catch the hearts of readers from all ages? What does her work tell us about life in the Midwest during the 1800s?

SPORTS

Green Bay Packers and Wisconsin: Well-known for having “cheeseheads” as fans, the Packers have played an important role in the identity of the state as well as professional sports. With many influential figures, the history of the Packers has many possible History Day topics. The Packers were also innovative as it is the only publicly-owned NFL team. How did this new way to create and support a professional team impact the NFL? What impact has this team had on the community and the state? What events inspired the formation of this team? How does the story of the Green Bay Packers fit into the larger story of the rise of professional sports in the U.S.?

Charlie Mohr and the End of Boxing at the UW: Charlie Mohr, a boxer at the University of Wisconsin, left legacy that influenced events far outside the ring. Mohr was killed after an NCAA fight and, just 22 days later, the sport was abolished at the University of Wisconsin. The NCAA followed by terminating the sport. Why was the death of Mohr so influential? Why was the reaction to his death the end of the college sport?

Elroy “Crazylegs” Hirsch: (1923-2004) Born in Wausau, Hirsch played running back for the 1942 Badgers. Here he gained his nickname “Crazylegs.” Like many other men at the time, Hirsch put college on hold to join the military before going on to play professionally. How were the patriotic actions of Hirsch and many other Badger athletes influential?

Milwaukee Braves Baseball: The relocation of a sports team can alter a community’s economic health, daily life, and identity. How did the Braves’ move from Boston to Milwaukee affect each community? How did citizens of Milwaukee react to the triumph of the Braves victory and the tragedy of their decision to leave the state?

- *Milwaukee Braves: Heroes and Heartbreak* by William Povletich

SCIENCE

Wisconsin Scholar Increase Lapham: (1811-1877) Often referred to as the first Wisconsin scholar and ecologist, the interests of Lapham covered many branches of science. He wrote approximately 80 books, including important titles on conservation, Indian mounds, and maps of Wisconsin landscapes. He worked to establish educational opportunities throughout the state and also helped found the federal weather service. How did his work impact the state? What changes were made in various fields of science due to his innovative work?

- *Journals of Increase A. Lapham for 1827-1830*, ed. by Samuel W. Thomas and Eugene H. Conner
- *Antiquities of Wisconsin* by Increase Lapham

Stephen Babcock and the Butterfat Tester: (1843-1931) Babcock worked at the University of Wisconsin following his agriculturally-focused education. He developed a test that determined the butterfat content in milk. This test revolutionized the production and sale of dairy products. How did this simple invention change impact an entire industry? What changed because of the scientific and consumer problems that Babcock solved with his work?

Dr. William Beaumont Advances Medical Knowledge: (1785-1853) Beginning his career in the upper Midwest region through work with the American Fur Company in 1822, Beaumont found himself treating a patient with a serious wound to the stomach. The patient, St. Martin, survived the dire wound, but forever

had a hole in his stomach. Due to this wound, Beaumont discovered the role of gastric acid, exercise, and temperature on digestion. How did these new findings of Beaumont impact the medical community? What changed due to the knowledge he gained through his experiments?

- Dr. William Beaumont's papers are part of the UW-Madison Archives

The Spanish Flu Kills Wisconsinites: The Spanish Flu Epidemic of 1918 was a serious health situation, as it infected more than 100,000 and killed 8,400 Wisconsin residents. Across the world 50 million people died in what was one of the most destructive disease pandemic in history. Wisconsin's government officials were quick to react to this flu and enacted statewide health measures, resulting in Wisconsin having one of the lowest flu-related death rates in the country. What impact did the work of Wisconsin scientists have on the health of the public? What changed to make sure no pandemic would be as widespread in the future?

Harry Steenbock and Vitamin D: (1886-1967) Steenbock is best known for his experiment in 1923 that showed irradiation increased the Vitamin D in foods. This discovery helped to cure rickets, which is serious disorder caused by a lack of Vitamin D. Steenbock's legacy continued with his decision over how to use this new knowledge. Instead of using it for personal profit, Steenbock worked to create the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation (WARF) to manage the patent. In this way, the university was able to benefit from the work of its faculty, while industry and the public benefitted from their inventions and research. How did these ideas of Steenbock change not only the University of Wisconsin, but medical and food programs? What is the legacy and role of the WARF today?

Farrington Daniels and Solar Energy: (1889-1972) After being educated in Minnesota and working on various large endeavors, such as the Manhattan Project, Daniels brought his knowledge of chemistry to the University of Wisconsin where he served as director of the Solar Energy Lab. Here he worked on ways to collect, use, and save solar energy. Along with his students he helped to establish The Solar Energy Society. How did the work of Daniels change the way we think of energy? What effects of his research can be seen today as we discuss current energy options?

Ira L. Baldwin and Biological Warfare: (1895-1999) Baldwin began and ended his career in bacteriology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, but during WWII he was called upon to aid the government with the development of a biological warfare program. How did Baldwin rationalize his actions and his religious beliefs? How did his work during World War II affect his time at UW?

Deke Slayton and NASA: (1924-1993) Slayton was born in Sparta, and gained military experience in the Air Force during World War II. After gaining more aeronautical training in college, Slayton was one of the original seven astronauts chosen in 1959, but ended up being the only member of the "mercury seven" that did not fly due to a heart condition. He continued to work for NASA and helped choose the astronauts who flew on Gemini and Apollo flights. In 1972 Slayton was finally able to enter space on the crew that connected the American module with the Soviet Union's. How did Slayton's work impact the NASA program?

Harry Harlow Studies Psychology through Primates: Harlow's research at the UW centered on using rhesus monkeys to further our understanding of psychology and childhood development. His tests involved introducing newborn monkeys to substitute mothers, either made of cloth or wire, and studying the influence this had on the development of each monkey. Harlow's research was controversial, but revealed the importance of mother/child bonding. How were Harlow's ideas on childhood development different from other psychologists at the time? What impact did his study have on psychology? What were the long-term effects of the negative reactions to his work and use of monkeys as subjects?