

## WISCONSIN GENEALOGY & LOCAL HISTORY ROUNDTABLE OF THE WISCONSIN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION "WIGLHR"

---

### Stuffed Fish News

---

Vol. 11 #3 & #4

Fall & Winter 2009

#### From the Chair's Corner

##### WIGLHR 2009 Wrap-Up

Thank you to Michael Watkins, Vice Chair; Andrew Prellwitz, Secretary; Anita Taylor Doering, Newsletter Editor; Anne Kasuboski, Web Manager; and Past Chair Sue Braden for their encouragement and assistance during 2008, when I was Vice Chair, and during 2009, my year as Chair. And thank you to all the members – we have a great Round Table!

I'm happy to report that in 2009 WIGLHR sponsored well-attended programs at WAAL (1 program); WAPL (2 programs) and WLA (4 programs). The programs were a mix of traditional local history and genealogy workshops, author presentations organized in partnership with the Wisconsin Historical Society Press and technology programs. Attendees learned about oral history, Civil War genealogy and much more. Now, we need to find out if Round Tables are eligible to compete in the Drill Cart Team contests at WLA!

I thank those members who attended the WIGLHR business meeting. We talked about a lot of program ideas and whether multiple libraries could work together on projects. Perhaps we should look at Wisconsin History Day as a target date. As a public librarian, I think it would be great for public libraries or systems to share ideas for collaborative projects.

You'll be hearing a lot about future programming from Michael Watkins, 2010 Chair. Also pay attention to potential changes within WLA. Round Table members may have different viewpoints than section or division members.

As always, spread the word about WIGLHR to your colleagues – new members are always welcome!  
Janice Dibble, 2009, WIGLHR Chair

## **WHS and Wisconsin Newspaper Microfilming**

By Anita Taylor Doering

Archivist, La Crosse Public Library

Sometimes when one of our patrons tried to interlibrary loan a more current Wisconsin newspaper on microfilm (post 1990), the request would be denied as the paper had not been filmed. I asked the Wisconsin Historical Society if their policy had changed and Gail Gibson-Ranallo gave me this answer, “We [the Wisconsin Historical Society] still collect every Wisconsin newspaper and intend to have them filmed for preservation. That said – we have too few filers to keep up with the backlog of papers so we film only the papers that libraries are buying [due to budget cutbacks over several years]. So the ‘Sparta Herald’ is filmed through 2008 because the Sparta Public Library buys the reels but the ‘Holmen Courier’ hasn’t been filmed since 1999 because no one asked for it.”



If you are interested in purchasing your local newspaper on microfilm, refer to the Microfilm Sales page on the Society’s website at: <http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/microfilm/>. Basically the cost is \$80 per reel (\$95 if you prefer the better quality silver halide) plus shipping, handling and any applicable taxes. These papers are filmed for preservation and you will receive a 10% discount if your institution is a WHS member. You can check the MadCat catalog to see what holdings have already been filmed. If you have questions about specific titles, contact Gail at 608-264-6533 or contact her by email at [gail.gibsonranallo@wisconsinhistory.org](mailto:gail.gibsonranallo@wisconsinhistory.org).

## **Midwest Archives Conference Symposium Report: Appraising Electronic Records and Personal Papers**

By Anita Taylor Doering

Archivist, La Crosse Public Library

The Midwest Archives Conference hosted a two-day symposium this past fall in Madison, WI. The topic was on the appraisal of electronic records – we really didn’t spend much time on personal papers. We focused on materials that were “electronically born” rather than materials that were analog and digitized after the fact. An electronic record is basically data that was created in an electronic environment; in other words, it did not exist on paper nor was it intended to. A database is a great example of a cohesive grouping of individual electronic records. Records that were paper based and scanned are digital materials but were not “born electronic.”

Electronic records continually baffle and irritate archivists because of several factors, mostly because of the lack of preservation of these beasts. The data has to be continually refreshed to the most recent software and hardware, or we risk losing the data forever. Remember those Word Star files? Proprietary software can wreak havoc on long-term access to public information.

We also had several small group break out exercises, including some case studies where we had to appraise the historical value of several different types of electronic records and present our findings to the group. All the same appraisal methods we use for paper are applicable in the electronic environment, plus we have to ask ourselves a few more.

## Wisconsin Records Assessment Project Wisconsin Historical Records Repository Directory (WHRRD)

By Jennifer Graham

The **Wisconsin Historical Records Repository Directory (WHRRD)**, one of the several outcomes of the Wisconsin Records Assessment Project completed by the Wisconsin Historical Society, is now available online. The directory is a digital gateway to the varied institutions and organizations in Wisconsin that collect, preserve, and provide access to historical records that document Wisconsin's diverse history. The goal of the directory is to serve the needs of people who collect, use, or create records related to Wisconsin in a myriad of ways. The directory is a work in progress and its success depends on those individuals who care about our collective heritage.

The website for the directory uses Wetpaint Wiki software which allows for active participation and online collaboration. Currently the online directory includes sixty historical records repositories in Wisconsin. Each repository has a 'page' in the website which includes basic contact information, a description of the organization, a summary of the collecting goals, and highlights of the historical materials in their care. The directory also provides a venue for discussions about the management and discovery of historical records in Wisconsin. It has the potential to bring together various historical records stakeholders to work cooperatively to ensure the collection, preservation, and use of materials which document Wisconsin's history.

Visitors to the website can browse through the list of historical records repositories by name or find information using a keyword search. Wisconsin organizations and institutions that collect and preserve historical records can create a page for their repository information. Heritage custodians can access and contribute information related to their professions. The historical records community can get to know one another and discover what others are doing. Researchers can add content about historical records at the records repositories in the directory or discover new sources of historical materials. Anyone can join and post comments or make suggestions when they log-in. What this means is that the website belongs to YOU!

**Please visit and explore the Wisconsin Historical Records Repository Directory at <http://wisrecordsgroup.wetpaint.com/>**

Please direct your questions and comments about the directory or the Wisconsin Records Assessment Project to Jennifer Graham at (608) 264-6457 or [jennifera.graham@wisconsinhistory.org](mailto:jennifera.graham@wisconsinhistory.org)

### **Stuffed Fish News**

A quarterly newsletter of the Wisconsin Genealogy & Local History Round Table, a unit of the Wisconsin Library Association.

Send submissions to the editor:  
Anita Taylor Doering  
Archivist  
La Crosse Public Library  
800 Main St.  
La Crosse, WI 54601-4122  
Telephone: (608) 789-7156  
Fax: (608) 789-7106  
e-mail:  
[doering@lacrosselibrary.org](mailto:doering@lacrosselibrary.org)

<u>Deadline</u>	<u>Issue</u>
Feb. 1	Spring
May 1	Summer
Aug. 1	Fall
Nov. 1	Winter

## For Love of Story

(This article first appeared in The Daily News, August 19, 2009, West Bend, WI)

By Lisa Lickel

Farmington Historical Society

The story in these stones took a little coaxing to come out.

The Farmington Historical Society received permission last fall from the Town Board to work on restoring the many weather and age-related damaged stones in the town-operated Orchard Grove Cemetery. Neighbor Larry Stevens was hired by the town several years ago to keep the grass cut. He and his sons have also put in many hours of personal time to keep the place cleaned up.



“We’re fortunate that Orchard Grove is in such good shape,” Gene Kenney, a member of FHS, said.

He has more than a love of history to spend time, at age 80, restoring and sprucing up the monuments. He has personal reasons. Many of those buried here are his ancestors. Kenney, an amateur enthusiastic genealogist, springs from a long line of emigrants who trace their family tree to Ireland. Many of them proudly cut the origin of their birth into stone, like Nicolas Smith who born in Dumfries County. Kenney also has ancestors buried in St. John of God cemetery to the north of Orchard Grove. Elizabeth and Patrick Kenna (Kenney) were born in the 18th century in Ireland, and came to Farmington late in life. Elizabeth’s stone is in poor shape and on Gene’s “to-do” list. As soon as he gets a handle on learning how to properly repair and restore the granite, limestone, marble, or sandstone markers.



To that end, Farmington Historian Society invited professionals to help them learn. In the spring, Beverly and Don Silldorff of the Wisconsin Old Cemetery Society spoke at the annual meeting. Gene has also spent a pleasant hour on the telephone with Monroe County’s restoration guru, Ralph Hendersin, who shared his expertise.

To test some of the tips, Kenney spent time recently at Orchard Grove on his knees digging through some broken stones surrounding a tree. “It took me awhile to locate this stuff,” he said, indicating a large container of a cleaning product recommended by Hendersin that tackles organic matter. “Then I found it at West Bend Elevator. You mix it up, spray it on, then use a brush. This way, you don’t rub away the inscriptions.”

Kenney also sharpened some wooden dowels, much like pencils, for scraping lichens growing in delicate carving. “Well, one thing I learned is that I have to make these sharper,” he said after some dedicated elbow grease. He worked at one piece of stone for about a half hour to brighten the darkly stained limestone. It turned out to be the middle piece of a family marker for a young boy. He later discovered the missing top nearby. “Henry,” it read, passed away at just about one year of age in 1895.



“A stiffer brush would work better,” Kenney decided, too, after using a soft artist’s brush to scrub at lichens and moss. Wire brushes are a no-no, as are harsh salt or acid-based cleansers and power washing. “Normally we don’t recommend cleaning,” Silldorff said at the meeting last spring in her talk. “If lichens grow deep into soft limestone or sandstone, removing the material damages the inscription.” But when there’s vandalism, or the stones are in imminent danger of complete loss of their designs, cleaning is applied.

Kenney also plans to right as many of the leaning monuments as the society, and his back, can handle. The society plans to borrow a backhoe to dig out the heavier stones. Kenney will fill the depressions with more sand and gravel, and when necessary build new bases out of cement on site.



Today’s foray into the cemetery was to inventory the broken stones that had been set aside by Stevens, and determine how the cleaning solution worked. An inventory of the entire cemetery had been done last May. Each stone has been photographed, and an original plat has been obtained by the society from the town records and matched to the current markers.



A date later in the fall will be set aside for the first attempts to right a couple of the stones. “We’ll use levers and pulleys when we have to,” he said. “Otherwise, with the help of some strong backs, dig.”

The Farmington Historical Society earned money for the project from a bake sale and silent auction sponsored and matched by the Modern Woodmen of America last December. <http://lisalickel.com>

## New Digitization Project

By Susan Braden

Reference Librarian, Hedberg Public Library



Hedberg Public Library Reference librarians in Janesville obtained an LSTA grant to have the early Janesville city directories digitized and hosted by the University of Wisconsin Digital Collections Center. The directories range in years from 1857-1931, and give “snapshots in time” – who lived where, what businesses were active, statistics, and general description of the Janesville community. City directories are heavily used by genealogists and local history aficionados. The collection went live at the end of December. In January, HPL Reference staff and the Digital Collections Center completed the final edits to make the collection keyword searchable. The collection can be found at <http://digicoll.library.wisc.edu/WI/subcollections/JanesvillesPastAbout.html#CityCounty> or through a link off the Hedberg Public Library website page for local history: [http://hedbergpubliclibrary.org/community\\_local\\_history.html](http://hedbergpubliclibrary.org/community_local_history.html).

## Archeology Surveys in the Pulaski Area

By Kris Kolkowski, Stone Barn Committee

Town of Chase, Pulaski, Oconto Co., WI

[editor's note: I had to cut down some of the story so make sure to visit the link at the end to read the whole thing]

Bob Fay, an archaeologist from Old Northwest Research, is conducting surveys on parts of the Stone Barn property where the old farm buildings once stood. The Stone Barn Committee felt it was important to try to find and document these sites before ground was broken for the driveway, parking lot, and other park development.



In November 2009, Taylor Maccoux and Kathy Gerds from the *Pulaski News*, met with Bob Fay inside the silo entrance of the Stone Barn to interview him about the archaeology surveys he is doing. Bob walks the freshly plowed field where farm buildings once stood to visually look for artifacts laying in the dirt.

Bob holds up pieces of broken pottery that he found laying in the plowed field. A wooden screener called a "shaker" is

used to screen out the artifacts from the dirt. Shovels of dirt are dumped on top of the screen which is then manually pushed back and forth to allow the dirt to sift through the screen, leaving the larger pieces on top.



Bob found many interesting artifacts, including old pieces of glass, pottery, small tools, nails, fence insulators, and small pieces of metal. He even found a tiny white glass 4-hole button! Talk about finding a needle in a hay stack! It's amazing how these items could still be found considering how many times the field has been plowed over the past 100 years.



Bob moves on to the foundations of the old out-buildings that were once part of the farm. The foundations were only partially exposed, so Bob finished uncovering them with his shovel (a labor of love) until the entire floor of the foundation was exposed. This particular area is believed to be where the granary once stood.

An old photo from the early 1900's shows where the old out buildings used to stand. Bob uses this photo to help him identify the foundations he is excavating. Once exposed, the foundations are measured and documented.

Bob moves on to the house foundation next, which was built around 1887. A traveling reporter for the *Oconto County Reporter* stated in their 1887 newspaper that Daniel Krause had a large



location of the house.

Removing the stones and debris by hand was physically challenging to say the least. A small skid steer, operated by Richard Huben who is the head of the town park commission, was used to help load the stones and haul them away.



As Bob excavated down around the stone footings, he discovered they were the walls of the house cellar. Bob works hard to expose the stone footings so he can outline and record the parameters of the cellar. The house burned down around the 1930's or 40's. Since then, someone had cleaned out all the debris from the fire because there were hardly any signs of the fire in the rubble; only stones and pieces of an old threshing machine were found.

Other small items were found in the rubble, including broken glass, pottery, and old square nails. Within a couple of days, all the stones and debris were removed to expose the cellar, which was much larger than originally suspected. Once the cellar had been cleared, Bob found evidence where the cellar steps had been. The backhoe was used to carefully help dig out the steps to the cellar.



Another old photo of the house shows that it was L-shaped. This told Bob that there was another foundation adjoining the cellar that he should look for. Bob took a metal rod and probed down into the ground east of the cellar foundation and hit stone. This confirmed that there was another foundation adjoining the cellar. You can see how it continues past the cellar wall.

Bob will continue removing the topsoil to expose the rest of the foundation so it can be recorded. A close-up of this 1887 house shows the rain gutters going across the middle of the house with a spout going down along the left center of the house. This spout drained the rain water down into a cistern (holding area) in the cellar below. This water was then pumped up into the house and used for every day cleaning. The outhouse was on the other side of the carriage shed. Keep checking back for further updates on this story!  
<http://townofchase.org/ARCHAEOLOGY%20SURVEYS.htm>

**WIGLHR Business Meeting**  
Wisconsin Library Association  
October 23rd, 2009

Present: Michael Watkins, Janice Dibble, Jo Dawn Anderson; Andrew Prellwitz; Don Litzer; Nancy Brewster

The meeting was called to order at 11:43 by Janice Dibble.

Old Business:

The roundtable sponsored four successful programs this year at WAAL, WAPL and WLA. These included a program on Civil War Ancestors by the Wisconsin Historical Society, a program on Picture Oshkosh by the Oshkosh Public Library and a program on Oral History by Troy Reeves and a program on email and records policies.

New Business:

A hearty welcome and congratulations were extended to Michael Watkins for being elected chair and Russell Horton for being elected Vice-Chair. Andrew Prellwitz will continue his term as secretary for one more year.

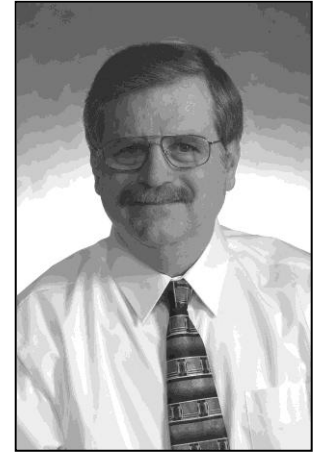
- The second item on the agenda was the decision to defer the revision of the roundtable's bylaws until later in the year when the WLA has reorganized the committees.
- The next item discussed was a pending decision on the part of WLA to assume the project money from the roundtable. WLA is currently seeking opinions.
- New programs for the coming year were discussed. Some of the ideas presented are listed below:
  - o Scrapbooks
  - o Implementing an oral history program (possibly with Josh Ranger and Stephen Kercher of UW Oshkosh)
  - o Capturing video or images of Main Street Wisconsin
  - o Preservation of new media files with either an expert or panel of experts
  - o Sharing digital archival material
  - o Archiving Video
  - o Digitizing audio visual materials

Respectfully submitted,  
Andrew Prellwitz

## Incoming Chair Message

By Michael Watkins, 2010 WIGLHR Chair

The results of the WLA elections were announced on October 12. Russell Horton, the Outreach Specialist and Archivist at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum in Madison, was elected as the Vice-chair/Chair elect of WIGLHR. Our current secretary is Andrew Prellwitz from Ripon College. Anita Doering has agreed to stay on as our “Stuffed Fish” newsletter editor. Anne Kasubowski of UW Green Bay has decided not to continue as WIGLHR’s web page editor. I will take on this responsibility in the interim until we can find someone who is willing to take over this responsibility. I want to congratulate Russell on his election and also thank Anne for her contribution as the past web page editor. I also want to thank Steve Platterer from UW Parkside who ran unsuccessfully for the Vice-chair/Chair position and encourage him to try again in the future.



WLA has been discussing changes in unit leadership structure and finances. Among the changes I have heard of are limiting the number of elected positions for the units within WLA and removing unit project funds from the units’ individual budgets. The latter item would not affect our unit as we don’t have any projects or initiatives that are revenue producing. In terms of limiting the number of elected officers I understand that some feel that some WLA units would only need a chair. I am hopeful that WLA’s leadership will make some decisions and provide some direction for units like ours in the near future. I went through our by—laws and they are woefully out of date and do not reflect the current practices of our leadership. I was hoping to take some action on this but at this time with the current discussion on unit structure I think it is best to wait until the WLA leadership concludes its deliberations. Hopefully we can get to the bylaws revision before the end of my tenure.

At our business meeting, we decided to ask my colleague at UW Oshkosh, Joshua Ranger, to present a program at both the WAAL conference and the WAPL conference this spring on how he put together his “Black Thursday” presentation which used various forms of media to commemorate the black student rebellion that occurred on the UW Oshkosh campus in 1968. Joshua has agreed to present at the WAPL conference but due to a previous commitment will be unable to present at the WAAL conference. The due date for WAAL program proposals was November 16 (seems a little early) so WIGLHR will not be sponsoring a program for WAAL as of this writing unless there is an extension of the due date.

If anyone has any comments or suggestions relating to our program proposals or with regard to unit structure please let me know. I want to wish all of you a happy holiday season.



## Project Always Remember -- LZLambeau May 20 – 23, 2010

By Mary Jane Herber

Librarian, Brown County Library, Green Bay



The month of May 2010 will be a special time in Wisconsin, a time to welcome home our Veterans of the Vietnam War. LZLambeau will be an event to honor the 165,400 Wisconsin citizens who served in Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos. Additionally many more Wisconsin members of the Armed Forces served to support those in Vietnam.

1,241 Wisconsin residents did not come back from the War. That is what “Project Always Remember” is all about, to honor these 1,241 brave men and women. “Project Always Remember” will remind us of their time with us. The Project is going to locate and photocopy the articles in hometown newspapers notifying the community of each casualty. It is a project which will help us all to “Always Remember”.

Two copies of each news story will be needed: one copy for the local community to honor their Viet Nam soldiers, sailors, marines, airmen and coast guard casualties in a display within the community; at the library, the historical society, the public museum, or the county courthouse are a few of the possible sites for the display on the local level. The second copy is to be displayed at LZLambeau in May 2010. The display will honor all of those who have given the ultimate sacrifice. A display for each county will be part of the exhibits from May 20 – 23, 2010. It is anticipated that 70,000 to 100,000 individuals will be in attendance.

A list of the 1,241 has been created, and breakdown by county is now being prepared and will be available shortly. This is just the type of project librarians know how to do. This type of project makes libraries/librarians important to their communities. Some of this work may already have been completed by the library, historical society or veterans’ organization. It may not be as much work as you think! Your best genealogists will be able to help. Your help is needed. More information will be provided shortly, probably through the WIGLHR email list. Thank you.

### If you can help, contact:

Mary Jane Herber,

Brown County Library, herber\_mj@co.brown.wi.us, 920-448-4400 ext 394

Lori Belongia,

Marshfield Public Library, lbelongia@marshfieldlibrary.org, 715-389-2745



You or your library can pre-order the Wisconsin Vietnam War Stories 3 hour television documentary produced by the Wisconsin Public Television in conjunction with the Wisconsin Historical Society <http://shop.wisconsinhistory.org/productcart/pc/viewPrd.asp?idproduct=1091> Wisconsin Vietnam War Stories will feature dozens of veterans from all regions of Wisconsin who will reflect on their memories of the Vietnam War and their experiences during and after the war. More than 100 Wisconsin veterans from all branches of service have been interviewed by Producer Mik Derks for the programs, sharing moving stories of triumph and loss in the field of duty, brotherhood and companionship in the ranks and a welcome homecoming they never received after sacrificing nearly everything on the battlefield. Archival video and historical photography and maps evoke the stark imagery of the war alongside the veterans' stories.

## UPCOMING EVENTS IN 2010\*

### Genealogy Classes and Workshops at WHS

The following topics will be given at Saturday classes and workshops to be held by the Wisconsin Historical Society Library Archives in Spring 2010. Registration will begin on January 15th. At that time, a registration form will be made available at the website listed below.

Beginning Genealogy (Lori Bessler, Reference Librarian)

Courthouse Research (Rick Pifer, Director of Reference & Public Service)

Digital Collections and Databases on Wisconsinhistory.org (Dee Grimsrud, Reference Archivist)

Organizing Photograph Collections (David Benjamin, Visual Materials Archivist)

Ancestry.com and FamilySearch.org (Lori Bessler, Reference Librarian)

For dates, locations, content and registration information, please see the Wisconsin Historical Society web site, [www.wisconsinhistory.org/libraryarchives/classes](http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/libraryarchives/classes) or email [asklibrary@wisconsinhistory.org](mailto:asklibrary@wisconsinhistory.org) or write to Lori Bessler, Outreach Coordinator, Library Archives, 816 State Street, Madison, WI 53706.

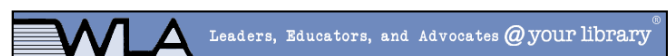


#### **Apr. 16-17 at Manitowoc, WI**

WSGS Gene-A-Rama "Finding your Ancestors in Wisconsin's Ethnic Melting Pot" with featured speaker Stephen S. Barthel, accredited genealogist  
<http://wsgs.wetpaint.com/>

#### **Apr. 20-23 at Milwaukee, WI**

WLA's WAAL conference check back to the WLA site



#### **Apr. 28-30 at Sheboygan, WI**

WLA's WAPL spring conference at the Blue Harbor Resort for more registration and program info on the WLA events site: <http://www.wla.lib.wi.us/wapl/conferences/2010/index.htm>

\*WHS = Wisconsin Historical Society  
WSGS = Wisconsin State Genealogical Society



---

**Wisconsin Library Association**  
**5250 East Terrace Dr., Suite A1**  
**Madison, WI 53718-8345**

---

**WIGLHR Officers 2009**

<p><b>Chair to Jan. 2010:</b> Janice Dibble Reference &amp; Adult Services, Head Oshkosh Public Library 106 Washington Ave. Oshkosh, WI 54901 (920) 236-5214 Dibble@oshkoshpubliclibrary.org</p>	<p><b>Chair Elect:</b> Michael Watkins Government Information Librarian Forrest R. Polk Library Univ. of Wisconsin-Oshkosh 801 Elmwood Ave. Oshkosh, WI 54901-8650 (920) 424-7305 watkins@uwosh.edu</p>	<p><b>Secretary to Jan. 2009:</b> Andrew Prellwitz User Services Librarian Ripon College P. O. Box 248 Ripon, WI 54971-0248 (920) 748-8752 prellwitza@ripon.edu</p>
<p><b>Immediate Past-Chair:</b> Sue Braden Reference Librarian Hedberg Public Library 316 South Main St. Janesville, WI 53545 (608) 758-5832 SBraden@Hedbergpubliclibrary.org</p>	<p><b>Newsletter Editor:</b> Anita Taylor Doering Archivist La Crosse Public Library 800 Main St. La Crosse, WI 54601 (608) 789-7156 doering@lacrosselibrary.org</p>	<p><b>Web Manager:</b> INTERIM Michael Watkins Government Information Librarian Forrest R. Polk Library Univ. of Wisconsin-Oshkosh 801 Elmwood Ave. Oshkosh, WI 54901-8650 (920) 424-7305 watkins@uwosh.edu</p>