

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

Stuffed Fish News

Vol. 12 #2

Summer 2010

From the Chair's Corner

For many of us in Wisconsin this is a welcomed time of the year. The chill of winter passes as the renewal process of spring enhances the landscape and weather of Wisconsin.

For those of us in academia spring and summer affords us the opportunity to catch up on past due tasks and prepare for the forthcoming academic year. This is also the time of the year when the nominations process begins for the Wisconsin Library Association and its section, units and roundtables.



This year the Wisconsin Genealogy and Local History roundtable will be looking for nominations for two positions—Vice-Chair and Secretary. Both positions involve a two year commitment. We welcome any and all nominations for these positions including self nominations. Please consider running for these positions even though you may have been unsuccessful in the past in securing a nomination.

The positions also entail a lot of behind the scene activities. Our organization sponsors programs at the major conferences. This year we have sponsored one program at WAPL and we will be sponsoring five programs at the WLA conference in autumn. Four of the programs involve Wisconsin authors. WIGLHR is cosponsoring these programs with the Wisconsin Historical Society press.

For the past couple of years our group has collaborated in sponsorship of these programs with the WHS Press. We welcome the opportunity to provide conference attendees with programs on history pertaining to Wisconsin. In addition to these four programs WGLHR will all sponsor one other program which was coordinated by WIGLHR's vice chair, Russell Horton.

You will probably receive an email announcing the beginning of the nomination process shortly. In addition to these elected positions, there are other ways to serve in a volunteer capacity. We are currently in need of someone to serve as our web site manager. We also rely on volunteers to provide articles for our newsletter "Stuffed Fish." I think the key to the success of WIGLHR is that we have an active leadership and an involved group of volunteers among our membership. We should strive to continue to maintain this balance.

A Digital Archive of Historic Aerial Photos for Wisconsin

By Michael Watkins

Government Information Librarian, UW-Oshkosh

The University of Wisconsin Department of Geography and the University Of Wisconsin Digital Collections Center along with the state of Wisconsin Cartographer's office are collaborating to make an aerial photo collection of Wisconsin from the 1930's available digitally. The original aerial photos taken by the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture have been housed at the Arthur G. Robinson Map library at the University of Wisconsin Madison.

Funding for the project was obtained from a 2008 Ira and Ineva Reilly Baldwin Wisconsin Idea Endowment grant. The project which is currently in process entails digitizing thousands of aerial photos and making them available on a web portal. The original photographs were taken by hundreds if not thousands of over-flights of Wisconsin's landscape in the 1930's. Historical maps of this nature are useful in relation to land ownership and surveying. The changes of the landscape over the years are also of interest to geographers and also the general public.

Jaime Stoltenberg, Map and GIS Librarian at UW Madison and Melissa McLimans, Digital Services Librarian at the UW Digital Collections Center previewed the new collection in a presentation at the spring WAAL Conference. The presentation entitled "The Changing Landscapes of Wisconsin: A Digital Archive of Historic Aerial Photograph" provided a glimpse of the beta web portal of the site for this remarkable project.

When completed the digital photographs will overlay a map of Wisconsin allowing visitors to zoom into specific counties and geographic coordinates. The project involved painstaking indexing and piecing together of the digitized version of the photos for the map by the State Cartographer's Office. The web portal is scheduled to be made available in October. For more information go to <http://www.wisconsinidea.wisc.edu/profiles/Stoltenberg/> .



Left: Librarian Jaime Stoltenberg looks through a rare collection of the oldest aerial photos of the state of Wisconsin, taken by the USDA from 1937-41 and now stored at the Arthur H. Robinson Map Library in Science Hall. The Department of Geography and UW Digital Collections Center at Memorial Library were co-recipients of a 2008 Ira and Ineva Reilly Baldwin Wisconsin Idea Endowment grant to digitize the collection and create a Web portal to make the content more publicly accessible.

Photo: Jeff Miller

(<http://www.wisconsinidea.wisc.edu/profiles/Stoltenberg/> accessed May 2010)

Wisconsin State Genealogical Society Holds “Ethnic” Event; Plans for Research for Everyone

By Mary Rieder

President, Wisconsin State Genealogical Society



The Wisconsin State Genealogical Society held its 2010 Gene-A-Rama Conference, “Finding Your Ancestors in Wisconsin’s Ethnic Melting Pot,” at the Holiday Inn in Manitowoc on April 16-17. About 150 WSGS members heard lectures on a variety of ethnic groups which have settled in Wisconsin including German, Polish, Czech, Swedish, Hispanic, Scandinavian, Jewish and French-Canadian.

The featured speaker, Samuel S. Barthel, a former Reference Consultant at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah, regaled the group with interesting lectures and stories of his own family roots in Fond du Lac County’s “Holy Land” area around Mount Calvary.



WSGS also inducted the fourth member into its Virginia V. Irvin Volunteer Hall of Fame, Mrs. Donna Kjendlie of Beloit. Donna has been a leader, teacher and mentor in the Wisconsin genealogical community for over 30 years, having formed and/or been an officer of the Rock County Genealogical Society, the Walworth County Genealogical Society, the German Interest Group – Wisconsin, and the Green County Genealogical Society.



On Saturday, October 9, WSGS will hold its Fall Seminar at the Ramada Hotel and Conference Center in Stevens Point, “Research: Something for Everyone.” Lori B. Bessler, Reference Librarian and Outreach Coordinator with the Wisconsin Historical Society Library Archives, will be presenting four lectures: Everyone’s a Beginner, How to Find Genealogical Collections, Google.com and Genealogy on a Budget.

Watch the Wisconsin State Genealogical Society’s website at <http://www.wsgs.org> for more details and registration information.

Forest Products Laboratory Oral History Collection

By Julie Blankenburg Supervisory Librarian, Forest Products Laboratory



The U.S. Forest Products Laboratory will be celebrating its centennial in 2010. In preparation, the Forest Products Lab has finished an oral history project in cooperation with the University of Wisconsin. Digital audio recorded interviews with 52 current and former employees are included.

The interviews were conducted by the University of Wisconsin-Madison Oral History Program in cooperation with the Forest Products Laboratory, to document the Forest Products Laboratory's history in their work to promote healthy forest and forest-based economies through the efficient, sustainable use of our wood resources in Wisconsin and through the U.S. The oral histories are posted at: <http://digicoll.library.wisc.edu/FPLHist/>.

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

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



Excerpts from "WHO News" Issue #15

By Debbie Cardinal

Manager, Wisconsin Heritage Online Program

Richland County Room



The Richland County History Room <http://content.mpl.org/cdm4/browse.php?CISOROOT=/rchr>, part of the Brewer Public Library in Richland Center, has posted a first group of 81 historic photographs to their CONTENTdm collection, hosted by the Milwaukee Public Library. The project, led by Richland County History Room historian Crystal Foley and Dr. Aharon Zorea, professor of history at the University of Wisconsin-Richland, will eventually include over 1,000 photographs depicting people and places throughout Richland County.

This digitization initiative is part of the "Richland Heritage Project" at UW-Richland. Project coordinator Dr. Zorea writes: "Our campus started the Richland Heritage Project in the fall of 2007, and it has been working in cooperation with the Richland County History Room since its inception. The Richland Heritage Project has received partial funding from the Richland County Historical Society. It also includes a student internship program where students receive college course credit for their work on the project. Each term, 2-3 students are working as interns — usually for a period of two or more terms. As of this year, we have had 10 students pass through the internship."

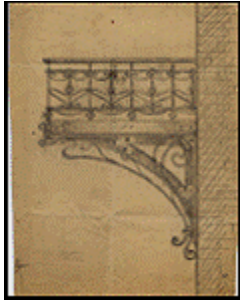
McMillan Memorial Library



Story of a raftsman's life on the Wisconsin River: Earning their money

Andy Barnett, Assistant Director at McMillan Memorial Library in Wisconsin Rapids <http://content.mpl.org/cdm4/browse.php?CISOROOT=/mcml>, is a long-term advocate of digitization in Wisconsin. He's had digital versions of local history texts and photographs available on his library's website for over ten years. But these kinds of HTML-based digital collections can be difficult to maintain and control. Andy wanted a way to organize his digital collection in a web-accessible database, which provides better control of metadata and images and allows more options for the re-use and display of digital content. Andy chose the hosted CONTENTdm service from the Milwaukee Public Library. Andy will continue to load digital content to the library website hosted by the server at South Central Library System.

Villa Terrace Decorative Arts Museum



Milwaukee's Villa Terrace Decorative Arts Museum <http://content.mpl.org/cdm4/browse.php?CISOROOT=/VillaTerrac> has begun to digitize its Cyril Colnik Archive, consisting of over 300 blueprints and original drawings created by Cyril Colnik, a master blacksmith in turn-of-the-20th century Milwaukee. Jenille Junco, Curatorial Assistant at the Villa, is currently working to scan and catalog each image. When the collection is complete, it will serve as a valuable resource for blacksmiths, collectors, and fans of this popular craftsman's work throughout the country.

Two new WHO members

Whitefish Bay Library and the Old Main Historical and Community Arts Center in Galesville are the newest members of Wisconsin Heritage Online. Whitefish Bay Public Library is digitizing and will add to the server at Milwaukee Public Library a unique collection of scrapbooks called the Mimi Bird Historical Collection. The collection consists of 39 volumes of research compiled by local historian Mimi Bird, each bound in a three-ring binder. The content covers roughly what was formerly known as the Town of Milwaukee, including the communities of Glendale, Fox Point, River Hills and Bayside, in addition to Whitefish Bay.

From the library's website: Mimi Bird was a resident of Whitefish Bay since the age of four. In the 1980's Mimi researched the history of the community during which she compiled materials on the area, photographed homes, businesses and landmarks, and organized it all into a set of thirty-nine volumes which she donated to the Library. The Milwaukee Historical Society recognized Mimi for her outstanding work and in her Milwaukee Journal Sentinel obituary she was praised as "the undisputed expert on local history, both in the village and the greater North Shore area".

In 1976, Wade Britzius, with the support of the Trempealeau County Historical Society, photographed historic sites and everyday life throughout the county. He is now working with the Old Main Historical and Community Arts Center and the Arcadia Area Historical Society to digitize these photographs in order to share them with new audiences.

Langlade County Historical Society

The Langlade County Historical Society <http://www.langladehistory.com/> in Antigo signed on as a



WHO member this winter in order to share their collection of over 750 photographs by Arthur. J. Kingsbury, a professional photographer who traveled throughout northern Wisconsin in the first two or three decades of the 20th century. His photographs were used to create picture postcards of local scenes including lumber camps, resorts, and railroads as well as both posed portraits and candid images of Ojibwa and Menominee Indians of the region.

Joe Hermolin, Langlade County Historical Society president, is working with students in the Tribal Libraries, Archives and Museums (TLAM) course <http://tlam999.wordpress.com/2010/01/25/tlam-spring-2010/> in the School of Library and Information Studies (SLIS) at UW-Madison. The TLAM students are exploring appropriate controlled vocabularies for cataloging Native American archival materials and are investigating

contacts at tribal archives in the region in hopes of identifying some of the people and places depicted in the images. In March, Professor Nancy Marie Mithlo of the Art History and American Indian Studies departments at UW-Madison <http://nancymariemithlo.com/poolaw2008.htm> visited the class to share her work with the Poolaw Photography Project and to examine the issues surrounding photographic representations of Native subjects.

Blanchardville Historical Society

Blanchardville Historical Society takes on first project In late February, WHO Outreach Specialist Emily Pfothenauer traveled to southwest Wisconsin to train new WHO member Blanchardville Historical Society in scanning and cataloging. Last fall, Blanchardville was awarded a mini-grant from the Wisconsin Historical Society to fund the purchase of a scanner in order to share their collections online. In the grant application, they wrote: "We believe that access to the collection is a vital part of the preservation of history and are working toward making that possible by digitizing our collection and getting it up on the web. Given our staffing limitations, this is the most efficient way to reach the most people with our collection."

The group's first project is the digitization of two popular local history books: *A History of Blanchardville*, *Gem of the Pecatonica* and *Memories of Blanchardville*.

Wisconsin Heritage Online

To find more heritage material, all in one easy-to-search portal, go to <http://wisconsinheritage.org>.

What is WHO?

The mission of Wisconsin Heritage Online (WHO) is to inspire education and discovery by making Wisconsin's cultural heritage available to a broad audience. This expanding online search portal provides access to our state's history, culture, environment, government, and economy through a variety of digital collections. Digital content comes from universities, museums, libraries, archives, and historical societies across the state, all strong partners in preserving and sharing Wisconsin heritage. Click on Content Providers for a list of WHO's digital collections.

What can be found in our Wisconsin Collections

The WHO portal is intended for students, teachers, genealogists, history buffs, and anyone who values our state and its wealth of resources. If it's a digital resource for Wisconsin's history and culture, you'll find it here. The diverse content includes photographs, artifacts, books, diaries, maps, audio files, and much more. The materials discovered through WHO might be used to write a research paper, refresh a syllabus, plan a visit to a museum or historic site, or discover your ancestors.

Nicholas Family Foundation Training and Outreach Grant

A generous grant from the Nicholas Family Foundation has enabled WHO to support an Outreach Specialist through May 2010. The Outreach Specialist works closely with local historical societies, libraries, and museums throughout the state to help them learn how to create quality digital collections and share their unique treasures online. To find out how your local history organization can participate, contact us at info@wisconsinheritage.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS IN 2010*

Genealogy Classes and Workshops at WHS

These will start up again this fall. For dates, locations, content and registration information, please see the Wisconsin Historical Society web site, www.wisconsinhistory.org/libraryarchives/classes or email asklibrary@wisconsinhistory.org or write to Lori Bessler, Outreach Coordinator, Library Archives, 816 State Street, Madison, WI 53706.

July 10 at Whitewater, WI

German Interest Group-Wisconsin presents its Annual Workshop featuring James M. Beidler
<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~wigig/>



Oct. 9 at Stevens Point, WI

WSGS Fall Seminar at the Ramada Hotel and Conference Center in Stevens Point, "Research: Something for Everyone." Lori B. Bessler, Reference Librarian and Outreach Coordinator with the Wisconsin Historical Society Library Archives <http://wsgs.wetpaint.com/>



Nov. 2-5 at Wisconsin Dells, WI

WLA's annual conference
<http://www.wla.lib.wi.us/conferences/2010/>



Apr. 15-15, 2011 at La Crosse, WI

WSGS Gene-A-Rama at the La Crosse Center and Radisson Hotel



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

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