

THE BUGLE

FALL 2012
VOLUME 18:3

QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE WISCONSIN VETERANS MUSEUM



FIVE
★ *from the* ★
FRONT

**WISCONSIN
WWI
STORIES**





FROM THE DIRECTOR

WWI REMEMBERED

generation earlier would have been unimaginable. Tanks, airplanes, automatic weapons, and chemical warfare shared the battlefields with 19th century tactics and the results were astonishing. The major European players all endured over a million military deaths – Germany lost over 2 million, almost 4 percent of its population! As a late participant in the war, American casualties totaled over 320,000 total dead and wounded, 53,513 of which were combat deaths with another 63,195 perishing as a result of accident or disease. To this day 3,350 remain listed as missing in action. Indeed, WWI ranks third on the list of America’s most costly wars, behind only the Civil War and World War II. The “Great War” also reshaped Europe and in many ways set the political stage for a second world war of even greater proportions.

As always, Wisconsin sent its fair share of soldiers, sailors and airmen. Ultimately, 122,215 men and women from Wisconsin served during the war, helping to tip the scales in favor of the Allied powers. Almost 4,000 perished. In this issue of *The Bugle* we feature excerpts

from the letters and diaries of five Wisconsin veterans. Each one tells a unique personal story that forms the interpretive basis for the newly updated WWI exhibit. Using iPad technology, visitors will learn about the thoughts and experiences of WWI combat veterans directly from those who were there.

Of course, none of this can be done without the support of our stakeholders – members like yourself who value the rich history of Wisconsin’s military veterans. Thank you for your continued support, and remember that your contributions play a major role in preserving and honoring the memories of our veterans.

It may seem a bit out of place to be writing about the First World War while we sit smack-dab in the middle of the Civil War Sesquicentennial, but we are only five years away from observing the centennial celebration of the “war to end all wars.” While intense interest in the Civil War remains unabated, even after one-hundred and fifty years, the First World War remains a historical footnote for many, eclipsed in memory by the Second World War.

For most Americans the relevance of U.S. participation in the war is lost, and that’s unfortunate. It was a war that ushered in new, more deadly technology that only one

WISCONSIN VETERANS MUSEUM SPECIAL PROJECTS



YOUR MEMBERSHIP SUPPORTS THE MISSION OF THE WISCONSIN VETERANS MUSEUM. IN 2012, WE HAVE A NUMBER OF SPECIAL PROJECTS YOU MAY ALSO BE INTERESTED IN GIVING TO:

ACQUISITIONS

Help WVM acquire significant objects and archival materials.

2013 CIVIL WAR EXHIBIT

Support the final exhibit installment of the Museum’s 150th Anniversary of the Civil War.

AUGMENTED REALITY

Give to the Museum’s newest interactive technology - Augmented Reality. AR provides visitors with multiple ways to interact with current exhibits using their smartphones or iPads.



REMEMBER, YOUR GIFT MAKES *YOUR* MUSEUM STRONGER!





THE ANGRY TANK (WWM Mss767)

This fanciful approximation of a World War I-era tank was used by the Army to entice would-be recruits to join the service. Built upon an automobile chassis, its "angry eyes" were no doubt meant to convey a sense of belligerence. Part of the WWI collection of William Kopplemeyer, 128th Infantry, 32nd Division, the tank likely served as a prop in parades and recruitment drives.

KEVIN HAMPTON

INTERIM CURATOR OF HISTORY



TREASURES IN THE BASEMENT

When Linda Olson found a box of military items in her parents' basement last November, little did she know that she had uncovered a piece of lost history. Linda's father, Louis Olson, a native of Chetek, WI, served in the United States Army in the European Theater during World War II and during the occupation of Germany shortly after the war. While in service, he collected several souvenirs and brought them back to the States. As time passed, so too did the memory of those souvenirs, until Linda came across them last year. Amongst the various items from Nazi Germany was a very unique looking piece, an iron key mounted on a plaque that seemed to be from another era. The plaque, written in German, reads, "Key to Fort Cerfontaine of the Fortress Maubeuge" and is adorned with the wax seal of the Imperial German Empire.

Just at a glance, it is clear that this key has a very unique story that is not tied to Nazi Germany, but rather comes from the opening days of World War I, along the Western Front.

As war broke out in Europe in August of 1914, the French fortress town of Maubeuge stood directly in the path of the German sweep across Belgium and into France known as the Schlieffen Plan. On August 25, 1914, the forts surrounding the town, including Fort Cerfontaine, were besieged by the German VII Corps, while the rest of the German forces advanced toward Paris. The fortress was bombarded, day and night, by the heaviest artillery that had ever been used in warfare up to that point. By the thirteenth day of the siege, September 7, with the walls of the Fort in heaps of rubble and only the gatehouse still discernable amongst the ruins, the French general commanding the garrison presented the German commander with a token of his surrender - the key to that gatehouse.



Brought home from Europe after World War II by Louis Olson, and later donated by his daughter Linda Olson, this plaque displays the World War I-era key to Fortress Cerfontaine, of the Fort Maubeuge in France. (N2012.17.2)

The stubbornness of the defense of Fort Cerfontaine (and the other forts around the fortress city of Maubeuge) delayed the German sweep across France long enough to allow the British and French allied armies to exploit a gap in the German lines at the First Battle of the Aisne, forcing the Germans to retreat and abandon their goal of capturing the French capital. Paris was saved by that gap in the German lines, the very same gap that the German VII Corps would have occupied but could not due to its siege of Fort Cerfontaine of the Fortress Maubeuge.

It is not clear how Louis Olson came across this key over thirty years after the fall of the fort, but thanks to Linda's discovery and donation, the significance of this artifact will be a story that will be preserved for decades to come.

DISCOVER MORE TREASURES AT THE WVM BY
TAKING A SEASONAL BEHIND-THE-SCENES TOUR.
CALL 608.264.6086 TO LEARN MORE.



SCOTT CAMPBELL
WVM FOUNDATION
BOARD DIRECTOR



MUSEUM GIVES LIFE, AUTHENTICITY TO DRYHOOTCH-MADISON

The Wisconsin Veterans Museum has generously loaned three collections which provide an inviting environment to Dryhootch-Madison. The collections: *Point of View- the Veteran Print Project*; *Scorching Desert Sun*; and *I Can See For Miles* provide an authentic environment to Dryhootch and the Veterans Welcome Resource Center (VWRC).

Dryhootch, a non-profit organization, provides veterans and their families with a stable, substance-free environment to gather, grow, and enhance their post-service life experience. Dryhootch provides a social setting for veterans, their families, friends, and the general public to connect and share stories. Also, Dryhootch's Peer Mentor Program provides veterans and their families mentoring from other veterans and their families.

Founded by Bob Curry (www.whitehouse.gov/curry), a Vietnam veteran, Dryhootch facilitates reintegration issues for the Iraq/Afghanistan generation of veterans. Bob's vision included serving veterans from all eras. They started selling coffee out of a tent at "Reclaiming Our Heritage" on the Zablocki VA grounds. After receiving a grant in 2009, they purchased an outreach truck to take to events throughout Wisconsin. In 2010, Dryhootch found a permanent location for a coffee house and support group center on Brady St. in Milwaukee.

In May 2012, Dryhootch Madison (8025 Excelsior Dr, Madison WI 53717, 608-827-2084) opened its doors in partnership with Edgewood College, the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Gialamas Company. Together they have created the Veterans Welcome Resource Center (VWRC) which provides a unique set of programs and services that is the first of its kind nationally.

Dryhootch's welcoming atmosphere is evident from the warm smiles received. Visitors are treated to three collections on loan from The Wisconsin Veterans Museum. The first collection you will see upon entry to Dryhootch is *Point of View- The Veteran Print Project*. This collection is a collaborative venture between The Veterans Museum Oral History Program, the talented artists of the Madison Print Cooperative and the UW-Madison. This series of artistic interpretations are based on the oral histories of Wisconsin veterans of the wars in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Desert Storm. If you visit Dryhootch at the right time, you may meet one of the artists,

Yvette Pino, who regularly volunteers as a barista, and is conducting a research fellowship for the WVM.

The second collection, *Scorching Desert Sun*, is a powerful series of photographs taken by Sergeant Mike Weber which chronicles the actions of the 82nd Airborne Division in Iraqi territory in the early 1990s. This collection captures the complex interactions and treatment of civilians who arrived at the Battalion Aid Station after a Pro-American Shiite uprising.

The third collection: *I Can See For Miles* explores "down time" in Viet Nam, both the natural beauty and the inherent danger. This collection animates the group meeting room, which can be rented for meetings and webinars for small groups. If you get an opportunity, visit Dryhootch on your next visit through Madison, WI, and take special note of the many stories shared on the walls, thanks to The Wisconsin Veterans Museum.

Pictured above: Bob Curry, Founder of Dryhootch speaks with attendee for the Grand Opening at the new Madison location.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT DRYHOOTCH VISIT
WWW.DRYHOOTCH.ORG

MICHAEL TELZROW
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



FIVE

★ from the ★

FRONT

IN SEPTEMBER 2012, THE WISCONSIN VETERANS MUSEUM ADDED AN AUGMENTED REALITY COMPONENT TO ITS WWI EXHIBIT.

FEATURED IN THIS NEW EXHIBIT ARE THE STORIES OF FIVE WISCONSIN SOLDIERS AND AIRMEN. HERE ARE SELECTED EXCERPTS FROM THEIR DIARIES AND LETTERS.

RODNEY WILLIAMS, 17TH AERO SQUADRON

On July 20, 1918 Williams recorded the first confirmed aerial victory for his squadron, and followed it up with an unconfirmed kill.

"I was flying along, finally got my guns working and just about the time I got them back into shape, why, I heard a machine gun behind me. I immediately kicked my rudder left, made a sharp turn. Which isn't what they would expect. They always expect you're going to make that right climbing turn, which was your best turn. Well, I didn't do that, because I figured that's what they figured you're going to do. I generally kick to the left, then down, then up and out. When I did I came right up. He was going just right across in front of me, so I was able to get a good burst in on him. He flipped over on his back and down he went. I didn't look to follow him any farther."

WISCONSIN WWI STORIES



(WVM Mss465)

JOHN SENG, 120TH FIELD ARTILLERY

John Seng, a Milwaukee native, described in a letter the scene along the American advance in September 1918.

"In their advances is where I saw the most horrible sight. Dead Germans everywhere and some French and American dead, horses torn to pieces by the shell fire and maggots feasting upon the dead; German equipment and guns strewn all over.

Then the odor of decay of dead bodies and many unsightly things one can't describe. It is just a hell."



(WWM Mss 2009.172)



(WWM Mss1379)

**ALBERT FRITZ,
COMPANY I,
16TH INFANTRY REGIMENT**

Albert Fritz was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism while serving south of Soissons, France, July 18-23, 1918. Private Fritz, after being twice wounded in the head, continued to carry ammunition while exposed to heavy shell fire.

"I sure was sorry to hear that Morrie was killed. I know quite a few that got it up there, will name those that I can.

They sure as hell would like to have gotten me too. I got hit in the head twice, the first time it really knocked me for a ---house, but it didn't stop me. I have a scar above my left eye and on my dome. My old helmet sure saved my life a couple of times, although they didn't stop the pieces from going through."

**MORTIMER LAWRENCE,
104TH AERO SQUADRON**

Mortimer Lawrence, an aerial observer with the 104th Aero Squadron, recorded much of his wartime experiences in the letters he sent home. During the last month of the war, Lawrence wrote of several close encounters with the enemy.

"That day when my pilot and I were over the one-time city of Montfauçon, a machine gun on the ground opened up on us. We were close down to the tree tops and a peach of a target so no wonder they hit us. The first few came up through the bottom and the pilot's instrument board, smashing things to bits. Then he banked about 75 degrees to make a quick turn and also to give me a chance to get my guns into action. As he did so the bullets came up between the wings very close to both of us. One accidentally took the glass out of his goggles and as he put his hand to them another hit his thumb. About that time I let my two Lewis guns loose...and the firing stopped.

I don't really know whether I got any Boche – hope I hit a dozen."



(WWM Mss 710)

**WILLIAM TEMPLE,
129TH INFANTRY**

William Temple served with Machine Gun Company 129th Infantry, 33rd Division. While on the front lines of the Argonne forest on October 6, 1918, Temple suffered exposure to a German gas attack. He wrote of the incident in his diary.

"Fritz keeps up the bombardment; whiz bangs, shrapnel and gas...the air was full of gas. He opens up fiercer than ever in the pm. Slept in an old German dugout. My eyes smarted during the night. Wounded and gassed men are carried to the river. There are not stretchers enough and many crawl to the river on their hands and knees. War is more terrible than many people think it is. My eyes burned like fire, my throat got sore and my lungs bothered me. Was unable to talk for a week."

MARK VAN ELLS, PHD
AUTHOR



WISCONSIN DOUGHBOY NOT FORGOTTEN

I recently began work on a guidebook to U.S.-related World War I historic sites. When completed, it will help travelers trace the footsteps of the American doughboy from stateside training camps to the battlefields of Europe. Thus far, my research has taken me to many interesting places. In Ohio, I visited the site of a training camp built upon 2,000-year-old Indian mounds. In Tennessee, I met one of Sgt. York's sons. At a place called Morn Hill in the rolling green countryside near Winchester, England, I found a poignant Wisconsin connection.

In 1914, the British began to use Morn Hill as a staging area for troops headed to the trenches. When the United States entered the war in 1917, the camp was essentially handed over to the Americans. An estimated 700,000 doughboys passed through Morn Hill on the way to France, among them 1940 presidential candidate Wendell Willkie, Alcoholics Anonymous founder Bill Wilson, and Frank Buckles, America's last surviving World War I veteran. After the war, the camp was quickly dismantled. The grounds presently consist of farmlands and a butterfly preserve.

In Winchester today, the Morn Hill Project Group has been working to erect a monument to commemorate the camp in time for the World War I centennial in 2014. For my guidebook research, I contacted the organization and exchanged numerous emails with its founder, Tony Dowland. In the course of our correspondence he told me of a "remaining American in our cemetery" by the name of "Herman Blise of Iron Belt, a small settlement in Wisconsin."

The son of a mine foreman, Blise was born on May 25, 1895 in Commonwealth, Wisconsin, a mining and lumbering town



World War I-era shoulder sleeve insignia from the 86th Infantry Division, nicknamed the Blackhawk Division. (V1997.1.356, a transfer from the Wisconsin Historical Society)

in Florence County. The family migrated to mines of Iron County when he was a boy. Blise was inducted on July 22, 1918, and assigned to Co. K., 343rd Infantry Regiment, 86th Infantry Division. He shipped out for overseas duty on September 14.

The division did not see combat, but still saw its fair share of death. In World War I, disease ravaged the ranks. In particular, an influenza epidemic broke out among soldiers in training camps, and as they headed to Europe they brought sickness with them. The close quarters of military life – troopships, in particular – were ideal disease incubators. Blise became ill and died on October 2, the cause of death listed as pneumonia. In all, 553 Americans died at Morn Hill, their bodies buried in the front portion of the civilian cemetery adjacent to the camp.

After the war, most of the dead were brought back to the United States or re-buried at the Brookwood American Military Cemetery outside London. But the Blise family decided that Herman should remain where he died. His body was later re-buried with British and Commonwealth military personnel in a different portion of the cemetery.

As a Wisconsin native who now lives in another state, I was particularly struck by the story of this displaced Badger. I'm not usually very sentimental and have an outright aversion to military pomp, but I nevertheless felt compelled to do something. I ordered a small Wisconsin flag from the WVM Gift Shop, packed it carefully into my suitcase, and headed off to the United Kingdom to research my book. One of my first stops was Morn Hill.

Winchester is one hour by train from London. Mr. Dowland met me at the station and drove me to the cemetery. A self-described "Yankophile," he shared with me his fond boyhood memories of American troops in England during the Second World War, recalling how friendly GIs passed out generous amounts of chocolate to local kids. At the cemetery we met Brigadier General (Ret.) David A. Harrison of the British Army, the project chairman. As a former enlisted man, I am not accustomed to associating with generals, much less have them go out of their way to meet me. I was profoundly honored.

We walked onto the cemetery grounds, and Harrison and Dowland showed me where the American dead were initially buried just inside the front gates. We then proceeded up the hill to the grave of Sgt. Newton H. Lovell of the 164th Infantry Regiment, another American who remained behind at

TALKING SPIRITS XIV

FOREST HILL CEMETERY TOUR

Did you know that at the beginning of the Civil War, Wisconsin troops trained at Camp Randall with wooden sticks rather than rifles? Were you aware that soldiers lined up for battle by height or that Petersburg, Virginia had one of the largest populations of freed slaves in the south in 1860? All of these questions will be among the topics featured at this year's *Talking Spirits: Forest Hill Cemetery Tour*. In its Fourteenth year, the award-winning living history program, supported by the Dane County Cultural Affairs Commission with additional funds from The Evjue Foundation, Inc., (charitable arm of The Capital Times), will highlight the lives of both prominent and lesser known figures in Wisconsin history.

Talking Spirits XIV will introduce many "characters" that have impacted the course of Wisconsin history, both on the battlefield and off. This year will mark the return of Theodore Read, the second to last Union General killed in the Civil War. Benjamin Butts, will share how he left slave life in Virginia and traveled with the 5th Wisconsin Infantry eventually settling in Madison and becoming a prominent citizen known for his work with Governors and at the Wisconsin Historical Society. The Bradford Brothers, Oscar and Rezillion, will tell their tale of fighting side by side at the battle of Gettysburg with the Iron Brigade. Finally, Napoleon Bonaparte Van Slyke will discuss his time as Quartermaster at Camp Randall and the challenges of supplying and training an army.

Directed for the eighth year by playwright John Sable, local actors will don period dress, giving the visitors the once-in-a-lifetime experience of meeting these characters on the cemetery grounds. Included in the 1 ½ hour guided walking tour will be informative discussions of the cemetery's rich history and gravestone art.



CEMETERY TOUR INFORMATION

Public tours are available at Forest Hill Cemetery (1 Speedway Road, Madison) on **Sunday, October 14** from 12-4pm. Adult admission is \$5, while children are \$2. Tickets are available at the cemetery gate the day of the event. Free parking is available along Speedway Road and behind West High School.

School and group tours will be held on **Tuesday through Friday, October 9-12** from 9am until 4pm. The cost per group is \$50 and maximum group size is 30 people. To book a tour, call Jennifer Kollath at 608.264.7663 or e-mail her at Jennifer.kollath@dva.wisconsin.gov.

For more information on the tour, see the WVM website, www.wisvetsmuseum.com/events.

Morn Hill. Finally, we visited Blise's grave, located a short distance away in a pleasant open area near the crest of a ridge. Our allies have maintained the grave with dignity and respect. I placed the flag just in front of his headstone. There were no snappy salutes or martial airs – just a little reminder of home for a Wisconsin soldier resting alone in foreign soil.

Afterwards, we toured the grounds of the former camp. I was then handed off to local guide Colin Cooke, and city councilor Robert Johnston, both project

group members, who showed me around the charming city of Winchester. Among our stops was the 1,000-year-old Winchester Cathedral, where services for the men at Morn Hill were held every day at 6:00 p.m. After much enlightenment and more attention than I rightfully deserved, I boarded the train back to London.

The project group members stressed to me repeatedly that their memorial efforts are not confined to British and Commonwealth troops. They very much want to honor the doughboys who served

in their community as well – men like Herman Blise – and welcome American participation in their efforts. For more information on the Morn Hill Project Group, contact Mr. Tony Dowland at tdowland@compuserve.com.

The author is a former archivist at the WVM and currently teaches at Queensborough Community College in New York City.

2012 FALL EVENTS AT THE WISCONSIN VETERANS MUSEUM

THE CIVIL WAR AS AN INTERRACIAL WAR

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19 – NOON

Mark Grimsley, Associate Professor - History,
The Ohio State University
Lecture and Discussion

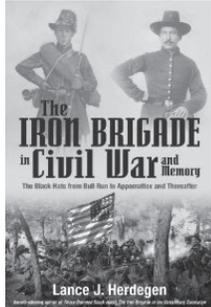
The guns that thundered at Bull Run and Shiloh were part of an argument by white Americans about the future of a white republic. Nevertheless, the outbreak of the Civil War created conditions in which marginalized Americans moved promptly to better their position or at least hold their ground. Sometimes eagerly, sometimes reluctantly, the Union and Confederate governments attempted to tap the military manpower of these groups, so that an estimated 20,000 Indians fought as participants in the conflict, as did at least 198,000 Blacks. As a result, the Civil War was in part an interracial war whose conduct tells much about American racial dynamics at a moment of crisis.

A 2012 Distinguished Lecture Series Event

THE IRON BRIGADE IN CIVIL WAR AND MEMORY: THE BLACK HATS FROM BULL RUN TO APPOMATTOX

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 25 – 7:00 PM

Lance Herdegen, Author and Chair of the Wisconsin Civil War
Sesquicentennial Commission
Lecture and Book Signing



More than a standard military account, Herdegen's latest book puts flesh and faces on the men who sat around the campfires, marched through mud and snow and dust, fought to put down the rebellion, and recorded much of what they did and witnessed for posterity. Although primarily known and studied because of its remarkable stand on the first bloody day at Gettysburg, the Iron Brigade's stellar service during the earliest days of the war and from the Wilderness to Appomattox has been routinely slighted. Herdegen has finally rectified this historical anomaly with his newest book.

EMBERS OF WAR: THE FALL OF AN EMPIRE AND THE MAKING OF AMERICA'S VIETNAM

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1 – 7:00 PM

Fredrik Logevall, John S. Knight Professor of International Studies,
Cornell University
Lecture and Discussion

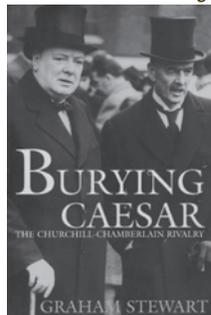
The struggle for Vietnam occupies a central place in the history of the twentieth century. Fought over a period of three decades, the conflict drew in all the world's powers and saw two of them—first France, then the United States—attempt to subdue the revolutionary Vietnamese forces. For France, the defeat marked the effective end of her colonial empire, while for America the war left a gaping wound in the body politic that remains open to this day. Tapping into newly accessible diplomatic archives in several nations and making full use of the published literature, Logevall traces the path that led two Western nations to lose their way in Vietnam.

A 2012 Distinguished Lecture Series Event

COMETH THE MAN, COMETH THE HOUR: HOW CHURCHILL NEARLY DIDN'T BECOME PRIME MINISTER

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2 – NOON

Graham Stewart, Author
Lecture and Book Signing



The arrival of Winston Churchill as Britain's Prime Minister in May 1940 at the very moment Hitler's tanks were sweeping through Belgium and France seemed providential: finally Britain had a war leader strong enough to keep his country in the fight and then help construct the Grand Alliance that would ultimately win the war. But it nearly did not happen. In this talk, Graham Stewart (author of *Burying Caesar: the Churchill-Chamberlain Rivalry*) shows how Churchill emerged as leader against all the odds.

SOLDIER DOGS: THE UNTOLD STORY OF AMERICA'S CANINE HEROES

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8 – 7:00 PM

Maria Goodavage, Reporter and Author
Lecture and Book Signing



Goodavage, a reporter and author, tells heartwarming stories of modern soldier dogs and the amazing bonds that develop between them and their handlers. Beyond tales of training, operations, retirement, and adoption into the families of fallen soldiers, Goodavage talks to leading dog-cognition experts about why dogs like nothing more than to be on a mission with a handler they trust, no matter how deadly the IEDs they are sniffing, nor how far they must parachute or rappel from aircraft into enemy territory.

A 2012 Book Festival Event

LETTERS HOME TO SARAH: THE CIVIL WAR LETTERS OF GUY C. TAYLOR, THIRTY-SIXTH WISCONSIN VOLUNTEERS

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10 – 2:45 PM

Kevin and Patsy Alderson, Historians
Lecture and Book Signing

Forgotten for more than a century in an old cardboard box, these are the letters of Guy Carlton Taylor, a farmer who served in the Thirty-Sixth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry Regiment in the American Civil War. From March 23, 1864, to July 14, 1865, Taylor wrote 165 letters home to his wife Sarah and their son Charley. From the initial mustering and training of his regiment at Camp Randall in Wisconsin, through the siege of Petersburg in Virginia, General Lee's surrender at Appomattox, and the postwar Grand Review of the Armies parade in Washington, D.C., Taylor conveys in vivid detail his own experiences and emotions and shows himself a keen observer of all that is passing around him.

A 2012 Book Festival Event



DOLLY AND THE BOYS

U.S. soldiers line-up for rations during World War I. Reminders of home include a box of sliced Libby's brand pineapples, and service with a smile from a Doughnut Dolly.



GREG LAWSON
STORE MANAGER



SIGNATURE ITEM: "MILLER'S CORNFIELD"

The second in the W. Britain Art of War 150th series, this set depicts the 6th Wisconsin Regiment moving through Miller's Cornfield on the morning of September 17, 1862, which is based upon Keith Rocco's life-size mural and diorama at The Wisconsin Veterans Museum. A portion of the proceeds from the sale of this set will fund the conservation of a Wisconsin Civil War battle flag.

At dawn, on September 17, 1862, the Iron Brigade spearheaded Gen. Joseph Hooker's assault against Gen. Lee's left at Antietam, on what became the bloodiest day in American history. The Iron Brigade's assault through Miller's Cornfield was a critical moment of the battle as they pushed Jackson's veterans beyond the Hagerstown Pike.

The sets are currently available for pre-order through The Wisconsin Veterans Museum store website, www.store.wisvetsmuseum.com, or by calling The Wisconsin Veterans Museum Gift Shop Manager at (608)-261-0535. The set was unveiled at a special event hosted by The Wisconsin Veterans Museum and in conjunction with W. Britain on Saturday, September 15, 2012. The sets retail for \$350.00, but we are currently selling them for \$300.00, and remember that WVM Members can save an additional 10%. "Miller's Cornfield" is limited to 600 sets, so be sure to pre-order yours today!

FRESH FACES: NEW MUSEM EMPLOYEES

Sarah Kapellusch is the Registrar for the Wisconsin Veterans Museum. She earned her Bachelors degree in Political Science and Masters in Public History and Museum Studies from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Previous positions have included Registrar and Archivist for the Kenosha Public Museums and Collections Manager at the Outagamie County Historical Society. She also worked on the start-up projects for the Kenosha Civil War Museum and the Harley Davidson Museum. Sarah is on the Nomenclature Committee for the American Association for State and Local History and has experience presenting on topics of data migration, Nomenclature 3.0, and general collection management.



Debbie Ripp is the new Executive Staff Assistant at The Wisconsin Veterans Museum. Debbie was born in San Diego, California, where both of her parents were serving in the U.S. Navy. In 2006, she began her career with the Department of Veterans Affairs as a Paralegal in the Office of Legal Counsel. Debbie serves as Vice-chair of the Equity and Diversity Committee and EAP Coordinator and enjoys studying Civil War and WWII history. Her ancestors served in the 41st Wisconsin Infantry Regiment during the Civil War and she was greatly influenced by her uncle, a 1st Lieutenant who served in the U.S. Air Corps from May 1941 – October 1945, flying 50 combat missions as a B-24 Liberator Bombardier with the 400th Bomb Squadron, of the 90th Bombardment Group, 5th Air Force. This Pacific Theater Bomb Group was better known as the Jolly Rogers, and the 400th Squadron enjoyed the *nom de guerre* of Black Pirates. Her uncle was awarded the Air Medal and three oak clusters. In her free time, Debbie and her son give presentations to school and community groups about their experience visiting the Auschwitz Concentration Camp in Poland.





MOLLY GRAHAM
ORAL HISTORY ARCHIVIST

ORAL HISTORY WITH

ROBERT REENERS

Robert Reeners, a World War II veteran, was interviewed recently for the Wisconsin Veterans Oral History Program at The Wisconsin Veterans Museum. At the end of his interview he spoke to the loss of American lives in World War II and wondered, “Can you imagine what those men could have done for our country? ... Future scientists, engineers, carpenters, plumbers.” Reeners interview provides something that other research materials may not – it gives future generations a lasting and intimate connection to the individual. When we lose someone, we lose their voice, their story and their memories. This oral history interview will out live Robert Reeners and will be preserved at the museum for his descendents and future generations.

The Oral History Program began in June of 1994 with an interview of a World War II D-Day veteran, but it has grown rapidly in the last year with the museum’s first full time oral historian. The collection holds over 1,700 oral history interviews that preserve the voices and stories of Wisconsin’s veterans from World War I to the present.

An oral history interview is unique from other kinds of interviews and the material contained within these recordings is different than other historical resources found at the museum. The interviews capture stories in their purest telling, told from a singular perspective. As an Oral Historian, I approach interviews with the goal to comprehend subjects at a level Henry James termed “felt life”. This means it will be the closest the listener or the researcher of this interview will get to feeling what life felt like for the interviewee. The end result is a resource that speaks to us on a literal level. Moving forward, The Wisconsin Veterans Oral History Program at the WVM will continue to seek out those individuals with stories to tell about the role of Wisconsin veterans in shaping this nation’s history.

TO PARTICIPATE, SUBMIT AN ORAL HISTORY
REQUEST FORM AT

WWW.WISVETSMUSEUM.COM/VETERANS/STORY/ONLINE

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT

MOLLY.GRAHAM@DVA.WISCONSIN.GOV



Since 1991, the Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation has worked in partnership with The Wisconsin Veterans Museum to provide educational opportunities and services designed to tell the stories of Wisconsin's service members and to illuminate the role they played in shaping this nation's history. Each year the Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation provides significant direct financial support for exhibits, programs, publications, preservation efforts, and artifact purchase. That's a tribute to the hard work of Foundation Board members, Museum staff and most of all, our supporters like you who understand the value of history.

Historically, the WVMF has relied on special events and an annual appeal as the primary means of increasing donations. This approach, while adequate to meet the basic needs of the Museum, is not sufficient to meet its demands moving forward. While the current organizational model has served the Museum well for over twenty years, greater fundraising challenges that lie ahead demand increased efforts that cannot be adequately met with current resources. In an effort to meet the growing needs of the Museum, the Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation has begun the process of hiring a major gifts fundraiser and membership coordinator.

Working with the Director, the new development director will personally identify, cultivate, solicit, and steward both individuals and corporations for major gifts, including planned giving and endowments. Directing all the fundraising activities for the Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation from individual, corporate, foundation and government sources, as well as overseeing the museum's fundraising events, and membership, is a major responsibility, that previously fell to staff on a volunteer basis.

The recent acquisition of a membership program has provided a base from which to draw additional support. Indeed, membership forms the primary base for successful fundraising—it's the first step. It's a critical program that demands daily management to ensure success, and the new membership coordinator will be expected to provide the attention needed to boost membership.

These are transformational times for the Wisconsin Veterans Museum. A new storage facility is slated to break ground in 2013, and planning for a proposed new museum is now in its second year. The decision to add professional development staff is a major step in the right direction and will ensure that the Foundation's ability to support the Museum continues to grow.



GROWING THE WISCONSIN VETERANS MUSEUM FOUNDATION



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30 WEST MIFFLIN STREET
MADISON, WI 53703
ON THE CAPITOL SQUARE
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www.wisvetsmuseum.com

MUSEUM HOURS

Closed Mondays

Tuesday-Saturday 9:00 AM-4:30 PM

Sunday (April-September) Noon-4:00 PM

MUSEUM MISSION

The mission of The Wisconsin Veterans Museum is to commemorate, acknowledge, and affirm the role of Wisconsin veterans in America's military past.



THE BUGLE

The Bugle is published quarterly by the Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation for our members and friends. The Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation provides funds for the support of artifact acquisition, exhibit production and the development of educational programs.

COMMENTS & SUBMISSIONS

We welcome your comments and editorial submissions concerning *The Bugle*. Comments and submissions should be sent to Jennifer Carlson at Jennifer.Carlson@dva.wisconsin.gov

JOIN US ONLINE!



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THANK YOU DONORS!

A most sincere thank you to all who donated to The Wisconsin Veterans Museum! We cannot provide quality programming and award-winning exhibits without your help.

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The Wisconsin Veterans Museum 2013 Wall Calendar, features unique images of our collection and is highlighted with daily historical entries corresponding to 1863.

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A most sincere thank you to all who purchased a membership in June 2012 to August 2012! We cannot provide quality programming and award-winning exhibits without your help.

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