



## NEWSLETTER OF THE WISCONSIN VETERANS MUSEUM FOUNDATION

### Frontline

# THEIR EXPERIENCES. THEIR WORDS. OUR WAR.

## “FACES IN THE SAND NOW OPEN!

On June 1, the Wisconsin Veterans Museum opened a long awaited exhibit about the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. “Faces in the Sand” features the stories of eight Wisconsin veterans who served overseas from 2001 to 2006. The planning for “Faces in the Sand” began in early 2007,

when the insurgency was on the rise in Iraq, the Taliban was establishing a new foothold in Afghanistan, and the frustration of the American public towards military involvement reached its peak. In planning this exhibit, curatorial staff knew it was a risk to interpret an ongoing conflict that could change

Jeff Kollath

at a moment’s notice. However, the war was already history. Afghanistan began in 2001, Iraq in 2003, nearly a half-decade ago. Americans had fought and died; Marines, soldiers, airmen, sailors, and guardsmen had all come and gone, often more than once; the walking wounded, the combat stressed, and the healthy walked and worked among all of us. It was then that we decided it was important to honor Wisconsin’s citizen-soldiers using their own words, experiences, artifacts,

and photographs.

The Wisconsin Veterans Museum, with the assistance of Wisconsin Public Television, interviewed veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan during the spring of 2008, at the

height of a presidential campaign where candidates hotly debated future policy in each theater. Those interviews, edited only for the purpose of time, are the words of the veterans, spoken without prompting or exhortation. The interviews, shot in wide-screen HD, can be accessed via touch screen display. The stories, from Army SPC Joseph Naylor’s retelling of his first firefight as a



**Faces in the Sand captures the feel of the overseas conflicts with interpretive displays such as this HESCO security outpost.**

combat medic to Special Forces Captain John McNally explaining how he and his men pursued Osama Bin Laden through the mountains of Afghanistan, are fascinating. The experiences of those veterans are unique, and while they may not tell the entire story, they provide insight into the everyday life of the military. The use of iconic imagery from the different theaters – HESCO barriers, the exterior of a centuries-old home in an Iraqi village, traditional Muslim dress and iconog-

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Bullet Holes

5th Annual  
Golf Outing

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# The Bugle

The purpose of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum is to commemorate, acknowledge, and affirm the role of Wisconsin veterans in America's military past by means of instructive exhibits and other educational programs.

The Bugle is a publication of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation, which serves to further the museum's mission by providing funds for the acquisition of artifacts, exhibit production, and development of educational programs.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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**WISCONSIN VETERANS MUSEUM**  
30 W. Mifflin St.,  
Madison, WI 53703  
- On the Capitol Square

**HOURS**  
**Mon.- Sat.**  
9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
**Sunday** Noon - 4 p.m.  
(April-Sept.)

## Registrar's Update

# COLLECTIONS AVAILABLE ONLINE

The Wisconsin Veterans Museum recently unveiled a new feature on its website, an online collections database. This function will allow users to search records on most of the 20,000+ items in the object collection of the museum. The feature can be accessed from the Wisconsin Veterans Museum website at [museum.dva.state.wi.us](http://museum.dva.state.wi.us), through the Object Collections section, or directly at [http://museum.dva.state.wi.us/OC\\_search.asp](http://museum.dva.state.wi.us/OC_search.asp)

The online collections database pulls information directly from the museum's in-house artifact management software. Object records contain information such as description,

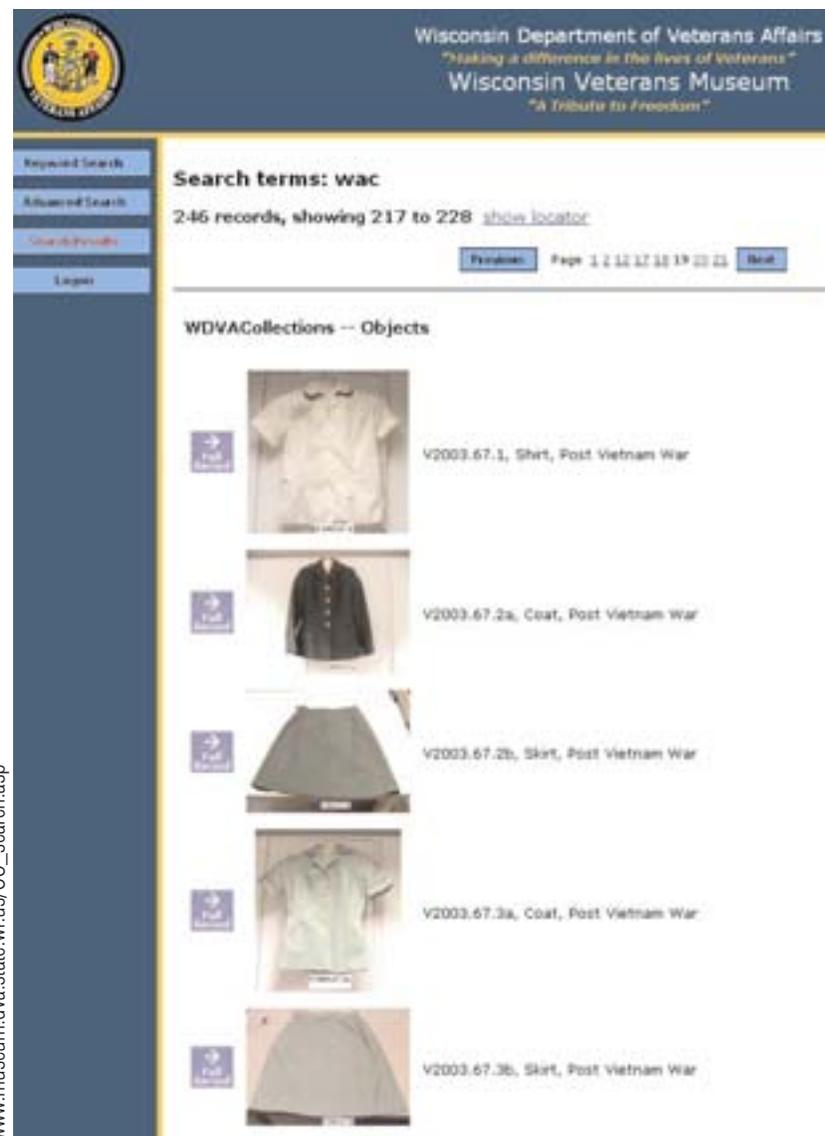
title, era, materials, dimensions and background information. Searches can be made with simple keywords or with more elaborate specifications, such as era or material. At this point approximately half of the 20,000 object records also have photographs and more are being added regularly. Many of the photographs are the original black and white catalog photo, so modern color photographs are also being added to those records. If you have an interest in a particular object without a photo, we can also arrange to have it photographed and added to the database for you.

Some of the fields and records have been withheld due to privacy concerns and not all objects are fully cataloged, but the vast majority of records are available online. We hope this will be a helpful resource for people all over the world who are interested in Wisconsin's military history.

Please try out this new feature and give us your feedback. Please don't hesitate to contact me for assistance with searches or with any problems you encounter. You can reach me at [kristine.zickuhr@dva.state.wi.us](mailto:kristine.zickuhr@dva.state.wi.us) or (608) 261-6802. At this point some of the searches are taking a while due to our server capability, so we're working on a solution for that issue. This is a brand new feature, so we appreciate your patience while we fine tune the service.

If you haven't visited recently, please don't forget to also take a look at the new Wisconsin battle flag website at [www.wisconsinbattleflags.com](http://www.wisconsinbattleflags.com). The site features regimental histories and recent color photographs of flags carried during the Civil War.

By Kris Zickuhr



[www.museum.dva.state.wi.us/OC\\_search.asp](http://www.museum.dva.state.wi.us/OC_search.asp)

A sample search of the museum's collections provides 228 matches.

## WVMF Events

# BIG EVENTS AND WIDE AUDIENCES



**ABC's Bob Woodruff interviewed by WKOW's Greg Jeschke in the "Faces in the Sand" exhibit.**

Over the course of the last few months, the Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation hosted two events, to raise awareness of the museum's mission to preserve and honor the service and sacrifice of Wisconsin veterans.

## Frontline- Continued

raphy, and the different clothing and equipment used by the American military – further supplements these stories.

A special addition to the exhibit is the Wisconsin KIA Gallery which pays special tribute to those who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country. Three Wisconsin Gold Star families – Kermit and Ruth Hugo, Madison (SPC Rachael Hugo, KIA 2007); Ray and Diane Maida, Madison (SGT Mark Maida, KIA 2005); and David and Donna Opicka, Casco (LCPL Dean Opicka, KIA 2008) – contributed artifacts, images, and other effects used by their children while they served in Iraq. Each family sat for a family portrait with local photographer Nicole Cooke, providing a stirring look into the pride and sadness these families feel each and every day over the loss of their loved ones.

This exhibit is by no means an exhaustive treatment of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. There are many stories in this very small space, and we have told them as accurately and sensitively as possible. We know the history of these wars, and we know the interpre-

In April, WVMF was pleased to host ABC News Correspondent Bob Woodruff. Woodruff toured the museum, interacted with guests at the Tribute to Freedom Gala, and spoke about his experiences as an embedded reporter in Iraq. While there, he was critically injured by a roadside bomb. His recovery, and experiences with military personnel and doctors, make for an incredible story.

In early June, WVMF hosted the 3rd annual Toast to Veterans Family Field Day. Adults and children of all ages enjoyed an obstacle course, horse-shoes, volleyball, face-painting, a rock wall, basketball hoops, military vehicles and a Blackhawk helicopter. The event was held at Truax Field at the VFW Post 8483.

Watch for both events to take place again in 2010, and check the center insert for information on the upcoming golf outing!

By Laura Kocum

tation of them will change as time passes. What will not change is the service and sacrifice of Wisconsin's citizen-soldiers and the debt of gratitude we owe them. Their stories matter. They are true, they are real, and they are significant.

By Jeff Kollath



**Special Forces Captain John McNally grew a beard and wore native clothing during his tours in Afghanistan to blend in with America's tribal allies.**

## Museum Staff

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**Eric Lent**  
608.427.1280

**INFORMATION**  
**608.267.1799**  
www.museum.dva.state.wi.us

"Faces in the Sand" exhibit

## Preserving History

Websites  
to Visit**WISCONSIN  
BATTLE FLAGS**[www.wisconsinbattleflags.com](http://www.wisconsinbattleflags.com)

Featuring photographs of the museum's extensive collection of civil war battle flags, this website is an excellent resource. The flags are displayed by regiment, along with detailed information about their history and involvement in the war. The Wisconsin Veterans Museum houses this collection, and is pleased to make it available online.

**EYES OF THE ARMY**[eyesofthearmy.dva.state.wi.us](http://eyesofthearmy.dva.state.wi.us)

This exciting new online exhibit, presented by the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs Wisconsin Veterans Museum, publishes the historic collection of World War I Aerial Observer, Lieutenant Mortimer M. Lawrence. Transcripts of Mortimer's letters are posted 90 years from the day they were originally written, giving viewers the impression that they are experiencing his day-by-day adventures in real-time.

# GOLF FOR HISTORY

## 5TH ANNUAL OUTING IN JULY

### Register Now Using the Center Insert

Who's up for some golf? Have some fun and help ensure the continued success of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum by joining us for a four-person scramble at one of golf's choice destinations, The Oaks Golf Course on Monday, July 13, 2009. This year's event is sponsored by Spacesaver Corporation.

Winning best layout and design in 2003, the Oaks features an 18-hole par course with number 18 named "Best Hole" by the Wisconsin State Journal. There will be prizes for the winning teams, opportunities for hole-in-one prizes, and a prize drawing.

The fee for individual golfers is \$125. Foursomes with at least three first-time golfers to this event can play for \$100 each. Price includes green fees, cart with GPS, range balls, lunch, dinner (provided by Neesvig's Fine Quality Meats), and tee gifts. Hole-in-one prizes include a Capital City Harley Davidson motorcycle.

Those of you who attended last year's golf outing, we are really looking for your support again this year. For those of you who did not get the chance to join us last year...get involved and be a part of this year's success, and have fun doing it!

Proceeds from the event benefit the Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation. WVMF is a non-profit 501(c)3 charitable organization. The foundation exists to support the educational programs and exhibits at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum.

Sign-up now! Fill out the registration form attached and send it in or sign-up online and pay by credit card, at [www.wvmfoundation.com](http://www.wvmfoundation.com). Space is limited. If you have questions, please contact Jennifer Carlson at (608) 264-6086 or email [jennifer.carlson@dva.state.wi.us](mailto:jennifer.carlson@dva.state.wi.us).

By Jennifer Carlson

## Thank You Sponsors!



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Ted Duckworth

## Curator's Corner

# INTERN ENJOYS “HANDS-ON HISTORY”

When asked if I would like to write an article about my time at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum I was more than happy to oblige. My time at the museum is coming to a close and what better way to bring closure to a great experience?

After graduating from Carroll College with a Bachelor's degree in History and a Certificate of Civil War Studies, it was time to find a dream job working at a military history museum or similar institution. However, it quickly became apparent that going back to school was essential in order to work in the history/museum field. Following the advice of Elisabeth Engel, the Curator of Collections at the Waukesha County Historical Society & Museum, I decided to apply for graduate school at UW-Milwaukee where a museum studies program is an option. After a long and worrisome wait, an acceptance letter arrived in the mail and it was off to Milwaukee. Majoring in Public History and taking the 15 credit Museum Studies Program to complement the traditional historical studies was the best choice for getting the most relevant career training.

During the fall 2007 semester the first opportunity to work at the Veterans Museum came about because of the History and Theory of Museums course. The main project of the course was to perform an assessment of any museum other than the Milwaukee Public Museum, where the classes are held and whose staff teaches them, that was of personal interest and was approved by the instructor. Choosing the Veterans Museum was an easy decision as it was the only military type museum on the list. During a visit to the museum to work on the project Bill Brewster, the Curator of Collections, mentioned an internship at the museum could be arranged in the future. This was great to hear because two internships of at least 150 hours and a final paper each is a requirement of the Public History Program.

Bill kept his word and between May and August 2008, a 183-hour internship was completed at the Veterans Museum. The main project of the internship was moving the museum's entire bayonet and knife collection to a new location in main storage. The project provided experience in numerous types of museum work including managing accurate object movement records, identifying the different states of physical deterioration of objects, using Past Perfect software, and learning how to properly store and care for objects.

The internship was a great experience and an offer to complete a second internship at the Veterans Museum was quickly accepted. More time at the museum provided the opportunity to continue working with the bayonet collection as well as more research, taking better photographs, and cataloging a large number of objects.

During the second internship, the opportunity to work with an extensive collection of Civil War era artillery projectiles donated to the museum by Kurt Knoll

arose. The work included numbering, photographing, and cataloging. A sampling of these projectiles is now on display in the 19th Century Gallery.

Working at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum provided the experience necessary to seek employment in the competitive museum field. A master's degree in public history and a certificate of museum studies do not make an individual automatically qualified although they do help. Hands-on work experience is a vital part of the training that goes into making a museum professional. My greatest thanks go to the staff of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum for being so open and eager to help and allowing me to acquire valuable experience working at such a fine institution.

By Michael Hernandez



**Confederate stand of grape from recently donated Kurt Knoll collection, now on exhibit in Civil War gallery.**

Michael Hernandez, Curatorial Intern

## Websites to Visit

### ROSES OF NO MAN'S LAND: WISCONSIN WWI NURSES

[museum.dva.state.wi.us](http://museum.dva.state.wi.us)  
Click on the sidebar link.

The online exhibit focuses on two nurses from Wisconsin, Helen Bulovsky (Madison) and Aimee O'Keefe (St. Croix County). The exhibit includes photographs, diary excerpts and other key materials which describe the nurses' roles in World War I.

### WVM FOUNDATION

[wvmfoundation.com](http://wvmfoundation.com)

The website of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation provides updates on exhibits, programs, and upcoming events. It also includes a tribute to the museum's late director, Dr. Richard H. Zeitlin.

### WISCONSIN VETERANS MUSEUM

[museum.dva.state.wi.us](http://museum.dva.state.wi.us)

The website of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum provides online tours of the galleries, the latest updates on events, and access to archives, collections, and educational resources. The gift shop also has items available for purchase.

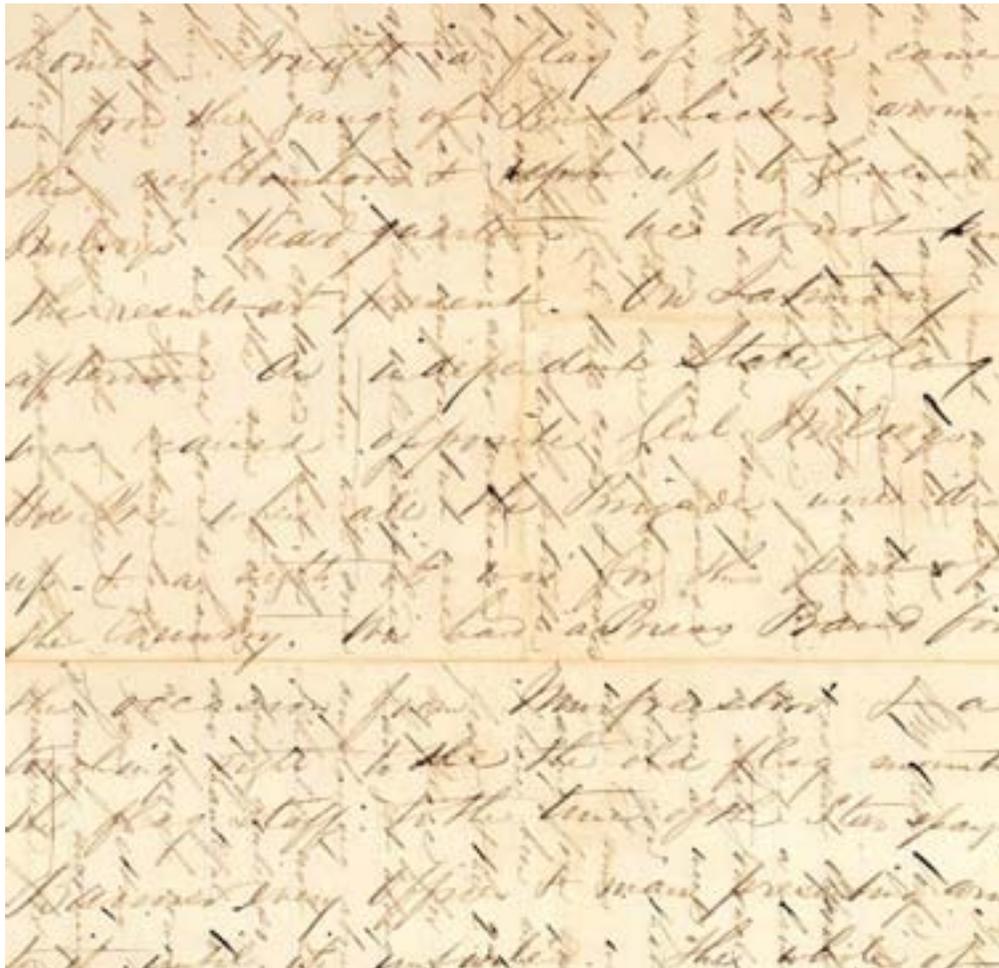
From the Archives

# CIVIL WAR SHOW AND TELL

When the Civil War exhibit gallery at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum temporarily closed in the spring, many of the Wisconsin students who tour the museum stood to miss an opportunity to learn about the role of our state in the Civil War. Luckily, Research Center staff stepped up and offered a unique experience for the students- a show and tell that featured some of the absolute treasures relating to Wisconsin's role in the Civil War that are being preserved in the Research Center.

Wisconsin, signed by Governor Alexander Randall; architectural drawings of the barracks Wisconsin soldiers stayed in while training at Camp Randall; letters and diaries written by Wisconsin men; a sample of the types of images soldiers sent home to their families, including a glass plate ambrotype, a tintype, and cartes de visite; and the infamous Vicksburg wallpaper newspaper.

Two items became consensus favorites among the students.



**A sample "weave" letter made for good discussion with student groups.**

The first was the "weave" letter of David Scrampton. Writing home to his wife, Scrampton wanted to get as much use out of each sheet of paper as he could. So, upon filling the front and back of a piece of paper with writing, he turned the paper ninety degrees and proceeded to continue with his letter, writing over what he had just written. If that sounds confusing, it's nothing compared to seeing the actual letter! Students were challenged to find where the letter began or where it ended and a few succeeded. The second favorite

Starting in mid-April and going until the end of May, Russ Horton, Andrew Baraniak, and Amy O'Shea "showed and told" over 1,400 students, some coming from as far away as Menomonie, La Crosse, Stevens Point, and De Pere. Among the items they saw were: the official proclamation of war for

item was the "history mystery" poem and photographs from Courtland Larkin. Walking through the same steps that Research Center staff used to identify the materials several years ago, students used clues to uncover the story of Larkin. He received a poem from his mother and some pic-

David Scrampton Papers, WVM Archives

Stay informed  
on WVM  
programs and  
exhibits

**SUBSCRIPTIONS  
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Please send your  
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and address to:

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Madison, WI  
53703

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**Continued-From the Archives**

tures of friends and family when he went off to war. On June 17, 1864, a Confederate musket ball passed through the folded poem and photographs into his side, leaving Larkin with a flesh wound, the poem and pictures with interesting holes, and the students with the fascinating story behind it all.

Following the show and tell, students were allowed to see all of the materials up close, though not too close.

Being allowed to look, but not touch,

led one student to

exclaim that

Research

Center staff

“are so lucky

because they

get to touch that

stuff!” Students

were thrilled to be

so close to 150-

year old documents

and to see how they

are being preserved

so that they can be

shown to students 150

years from today.

Of course, you don't

have to be a student to

see any of the materials in

the Research Center. We

are open to the public

Monday through Friday from

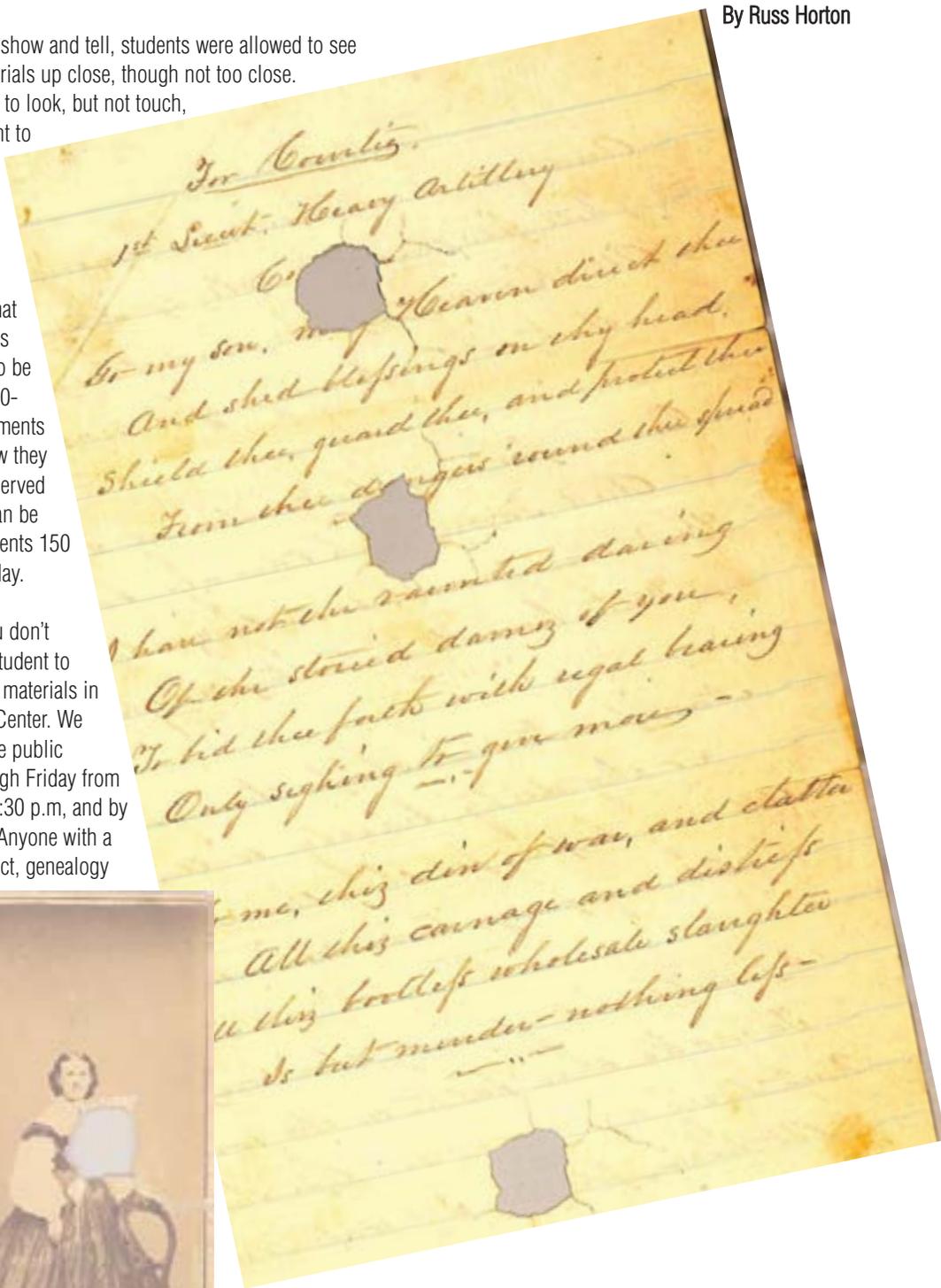
9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and by

appointment. Anyone with a

research project, genealogy

questions, or just a desire for a little show and tell, can come in to see collections ranging from the Civil War to the current conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. Contact Reference Archivist Russ Horton if you have any questions: 608.267.1790 or russell.horton@dva.state.wi.us.

By Russ Horton



**A photograph and poem held by Courtland Larkin reveal bullet holes and a memorable story for later generations.**



**Commemorate Those Who Served**

Help keep the history of Wisconsin's veterans alive by contributing to the educational programs and exhibits of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum.

**SUPPORT THE WISCONSIN VETERANS MUSEUM FOUNDATION**

**DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE!**

Please send your contributions along with your name and address to:

**Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation**  
P.O. Box 2657  
Madison, WI  
53701-2657

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_

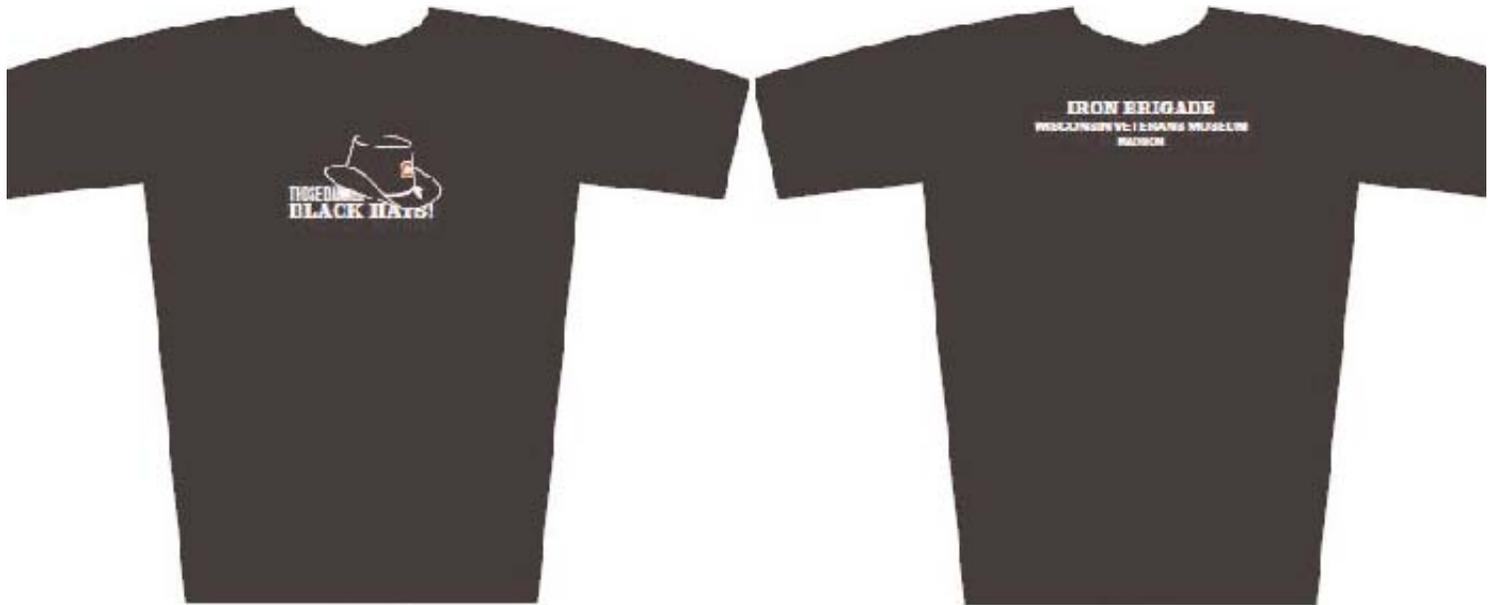
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From the Gift Shop

## IRON BRIGADE T-SHIRTS!



Try on the newest t-shirt available at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum Gift Shop. The front reads "Those Damn Black Hats." The back reads "Iron Brigade, Wisconsin Veterans Museum, Madison." Shirts are available in men's sizes S-XXL and women's sizes XS-XL. Cost is \$14.95 and \$3.00 shipping. To order, call (608) 267-1799. Wisconsin residents, please add 5.5% tax.

# The Bugle

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