

THE BUGLE

SPRING 2012
VOLUME 18:1

QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE WISCONSIN VETERANS MUSEUM



IN THIS ISSUE

JEANETTE KAPUS

A story of one Wisconsin WASP

Jeanette Kapus posing on the wing of an F-86 Sabre.



FROM THE DIRECTOR MOVING FORWARD

The new calendar year brings a chance to reflect upon future initiatives. By now, many of you are probably aware that the Wisconsin Veterans Museum has been engaged in a project that seeks to triple our exhibit space through a joint project with the State Department of Administration, Wisconsin Historical Society and the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs. The multi-million dollar project is unique in that it seeks to bring the Wisconsin Veterans Museum and the State Historical Museum under one roof. Each institution would maintain its unique identity through its programs and exhibits but would share the site equally, providing the citizens of Wisconsin the benefit of one location for the state's primary history museums. The project has been in the works in one form or another since 2001, stopping and starting according to the political and economic landscape. The current administration has made a concerted effort to move the

project forward, and since February 2011, WVM and WHS have been working closely with consultants and staff to develop respective master interpretive plans. A new site has not been chosen, but potential redevelopment of the current State Historical Museum site offers an attractive opportunity for this public/private endeavor.

Our current site has served us well for nearly 20 years, but space limitations have hampered development plans and our ability to adequately interpret recent events. Even with the redevelopment of the former G.A.R. gallery, we are woefully short on space. The new facility would more than triple our current exhibit space. The joint project also promises economies of scale and a synergy with our friends at WHS that would provide citizens with a truly 21st century state museum complex, befitting the state's record of excellence. We will continue to keep you updated on the progress of this project as we move closer to the preliminary construction date of 2016.

Preceding the construction of the as yet unnamed new museum complex is the development of another joint building project with Wisconsin Historical Society and DOA. The new Joint Preservation and Storage Facility, scheduled to open in 2014, will house the collections of both the WVM and WHS in a purpose built, state-of-the-art facility located on the north side of Madison. The new facility will provide a collections environment

unsurpassed in the United States and will relieve the WVM of its current limited storage space problem at 30 West Mifflin.

Both of these projects will increasingly demand more time and attention from Museum staff members and leadership. Nevertheless, we will continue to offer the types of exhibits and programs that you have come to expect. In support of Governor Walker's proclamation establishing 2012 as the Year of the Veteran, the Museum will take part in a number of important special events. On May 4, 2012, the WDVA and WVM, along with its partners the National Railroad Museum, Wisconsin Public Television, the Wisconsin Funeral Directors Association and Old Glory Honor Flight, will host a WWII tribute at the National Railroad Museum in Green Bay. It's our way of thanking all of Wisconsin's surviving and deceased WWII veterans. On May 20, the Museum will take part in the establishment of a Wall of Honor at our Veterans Home in King, Wisconsin. When finished, the Wall will honor Wisconsin's Medal of Honor recipients. Finally, on June 30, 2012, the Museum will host a rededication ceremony at Camp Randall's famed arch. We will keep you informed about these events through the usual channels – our website and email announcements.

As always, thanks for your support!

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!



FROM THE ARCHIVES

AT THE FRONT

Soldiers from Company D, 8th Infantry Regiment pose for a photograph shortly after the battle of Hurtgen Forest. The image is part of a scrapbook kept by Ivan Schwartz, a Reedsburg, Wisconsin resident who served with the unit during World War II. The photographs in his scrapbooks provide a look into the conditions soldiers faced on the front line during the latter part of the war in Europe.

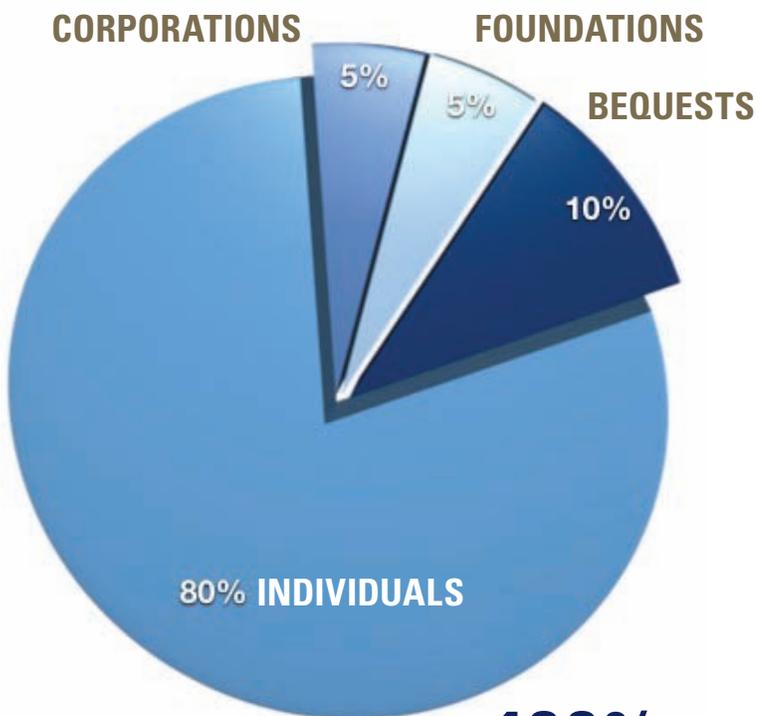




THE CASE FOR GIVING MAKING YOUR MUSEUM STRONGER

Did you know that 80% of all giving comes from individuals? Add planned giving and bequests, and the percentage rises to about 90%. Individuals far out-pace corporations and foundations, as well as government. Although pursuing funding from a variety of institutional sources is important, individual giving remains the primary source of support for nonprofit organizations.

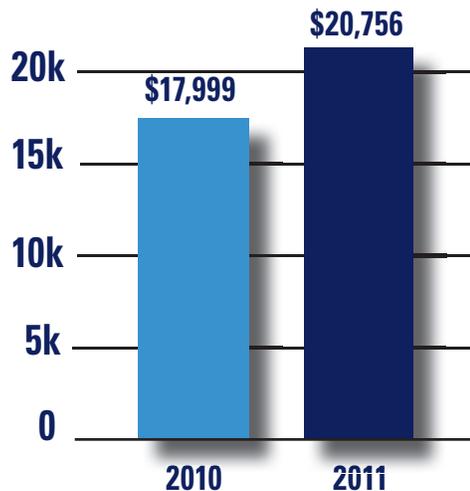
2011 CONTRIBUTIONS BY SOURCE



Source: Giving U.S.A.

+15.3 % INCREASE
IN GIVING TO THE FOUNDATION
IN 2011 VS. 2010

ANNUAL APPEAL CONTRIBUTIONS
from individual gifts to the WVM Foundation



Why is giving to the Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation important? 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 in excess of \$100,000 in direct support of exhibits, programs, publications, preservation efforts, and artifact purchase. And with an increase in donations each year, your support makes your Museum even stronger!

Visit www.wvmfoundation.com to learn more about the Foundation and how you can continue to help.

100% of your gifts are appreciated!

NEW FOUNDATION BOARD MEMBERS

The WVM Foundation Nominating Committee recently appointed two new members to the board. The Foundation welcomes R.J. Safranek and Mary Kolar. An avid supporter of Wisconsin's veterans, R.J. Safranek is the Chief Financial Officer of Midwest Storage Systems in Waukesha and holds a Masters in Business Administration. A Wisconsin native, Mary Kolar served 28 years active duty with the U.S. Navy, retiring as a Captain. Kolar is currently the Director of Public Operations at the Madison Museum of Contemporary Art and lives in Madison with her husband Scott. Both are active in their communities and are a great addition to the board.

For more information on the Foundation board of directors, visit www.wvmfoundation.com.





2012 WVM GALA AT THE MONONA TERRACE

SAVE THE DATE: THURSDAY, MAY 3, 2012

WISCONSIN VETERANS MUSEUM FOUNDATION

ANNUAL GALA

FEATURING AUTHOR HUGH AMBROSE

SPONSORED BY UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN MEDICAL FOUNDATION
AND EDGEWOOD COLLEGE

The Wisconsin Veterans Museum is honored to host Hugh Ambrose as guest speaker at this year's annual gala event on Thursday, May 3, 2012. Mark your calendars for an evening with the award-winning author!

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

5:00-6:30PM VIP RECEPTION AT THE MONONA TERRACE

— \$175 PER PERSON (INCLUDES DINNER & KEYNOTE ADDRESS)

Private reception on the Grand Terrace with Hugh Ambrose and VIP guests. Complimentary drinks and hors d'oeuvres included.

6:00-7:00PM RECEPTION AT THE MONONA TERRACE — \$125 PER PERSON (INCLUDES DINNER & KEYNOTE ADDRESS)

Cash bar and appetizers in Ballroom AB will be provided.

7:00-9:45PM THE MONONA TERRACE - Ballroom AB

Hugh Ambrose keynote address, dinner and book-signing



TICKET INFORMATION/QUESTIONS?

Purchase your tickets online at www.wvmfoundation.com, or contact Jennifer Carlson at 608.264.6086 or email jennifer.carlson@dva.state.wi.us.

100% of the proceeds support the development of educational programs and exhibits at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS: MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART, AMERICAN LEGION, LEWIS B. HARNED, M.D. AND QTI.

A SPECIAL EVENING WITH AUTHOR HUGH AMBROSE

2012 GALA GUEST SPEAKER



"THE MAKING OF THE PACIFIC"

Hugh Ambrose is the author of *The Pacific*, a non-fiction account of WWII, and he served as the Historical Consultant for *The Pacific*, an HBO miniseries produced by Tom Hanks, Steven Spielberg and Gary Goetzman. The book spent 17 weeks on the *New York Times*' Best Sellers List and was also an international bestseller. *The Pacific* received twenty-four Emmy nominations and won eight, including the Emmy for Outstanding Miniseries for 2010.

After earning a Master of Arts degree in history, Hugh went to work with his father, the late historian Stephen E. Ambrose. During their ten year partnership, Hugh helped his father produce a number of acclaimed documentaries and films, including *Price For Peace* and HBO's *Band of Brothers*, as well as a number of books, including the *New York Times*' bestsellers *Citizen Soldiers*, *Nothing Like it in the World* and *Undaunted Courage*.

Before joining *The Pacific* team, Hugh was the Vice President of The National WWII Museum in New Orleans. Currently, he works for the museum part-time, is writing another book and is involved in the development of another miniseries for HBO.

Join Mr. Ambrose on Thursday, May 3, 2012 to hear about his journey in the making of *The Pacific*.

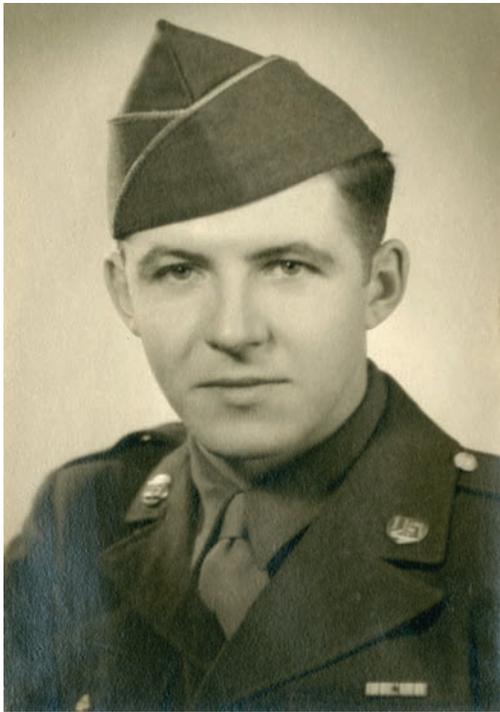




RUSS HORTON
REFERENCE ARCHIVIST

TAKING FLIGHT WITH THE GREATEST GENERATION

My grandfather, Warren Norkofski, served in World War II, was wounded on Saipan, and lived out his life as a proud veteran. He passed away in 2001, the same year construction began on the National World War II Memorial. So when I found out that I would accompany Badger Honor Flight to see the Memorial in November 2011, my first thought was that it would be a very meaningful journey for me, done in memory of



Warren Norkofski (WVM Mss 22)

my grandfather. While my experience certainly had that personal, emotional aspect to it, the lasting impression that I took away was an appreciation for Badger Honor Flight (and the other flight organizations throughout Wisconsin) and the service that they provide to our veterans.

Almost 100 World War II veterans, men and women in their 80s and 90s, were greeted at the airport in Madison before the sun rose by enthusiastic admirers. Along with their chaperones, they were efficiently checked in, officially welcomed, and boarded on the plane. Upon arrival in Washington, DC, the veterans were greeted by hundreds of cheering people of all ages, as well as a band playing patriotic music. Throughout the day, strangers walked up to them, shook their hands, and thanked them for their service. Many veterans were moved to tears by these unsolicited acts of appreciation.

From the airport, we boarded buses that, with a police escort, took us in turn to Arlington National Cemetery, the Marine Corps War Memorial, the National World War II Memorial, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, the Korean War Veterans Memorial, the Lincoln Memorial, and finally the U.S. Air Force Memorial. Through all of the stops, assisting

nearly 100 World War II veterans on and off buses and around the memorials, we remained on schedule. Badger Honor Flight has the entire operation down to a science. The care they take with the veterans, and the obvious reverence in which they hold them, is truly inspiring.

The flight back to Madison included “mail call,” in which letters written by friends and loved ones were handed out to the veterans. Upon landing, one final surprise awaited the vets—thousands of fans welcoming them home in the airport terminal. It was an incredible end to an emotionally and physically exhausting day, one in which Wisconsin veterans saw some of the ways that a grateful nation continues to honor them.



World War II veterans being greeted upon arrival at Reagan International Airport in Washington, DC.

INTERESTED IN TAKING FLIGHT?

Next Badger Honor flights - April 21 and May 19 of 2012.

To learn how you can participate, visit www.badgerhonorflight.org.

FOLLOW RUSS ON HIS BADGER HONOR FLIGHT AT WWW.WISVETSMUSEUM.COM.

CAN'T FLY?

Join the Museum on Friday, May 4, 2012 for Operation Greatest Generation at the National Railroad Museum in Green Bay to honor our WWII veterans.

See details on page 7.

RSVP at www.wisvetmuseum.com.





OPERATION GREATEST GENERATION

Join us in a day of celebration and recognition for the Wisconsin men and women who shaped the course of history during World War II.

WWII VEHICLE EXHIBIT ★ WWII RE-ENACTORS ★ 132ND ARMY BAND ★ TOUR GENERAL EISENHOWER'S EUROPEAN COMMAND TRAIN

MAY 4TH, 2012 **FEATURING** **Hugh Ambrose**, author of *The Pacific*
10:00AM - 4:30PM **GUEST SPEAKERS** **James Megellas**, 82nd Airborne officer, WWII
and author of *All the Way to Berlin*

NATIONAL RAILROAD MUSEUM 2285 SOUTH BROADWAY, GREEN BAY, WI ★ FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL 608-266-1009

PRESENTED IN PARTNERSHIP BY



WISCONSIN EMERGENCY DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION
GUIDING YOU FORWARD



TO RSVP PLEASE VISIT
WWW.WISVETSMUSEUM.COM

ANDREA HOFFMAN
COLLECTIONS MANAGER



THE STORY OF ONE WISCONSIN WASP

HAPPY LANDINGS



Jeanette Kapus holding flight gear. (Courtesy of the Kapus Family)

THE STORY OF JEANETTE KAPUS

Whether they were WACs, SPARs, WAVES, or WASPs, no witty acronym or cute nickname could belie the fact that women performed dangerous jobs across the country and around the globe during World War II. By 1945, there were women serving in every branch of the United States military, standing a remarkable 350,000 strong. Many of these women dedicated their time in the more traditional role of nurse; others offered their skills as clerical workers. Even though the original impetus had been merely to “free a man to fight,” it was greatly underestimated at the onset just

how many of these women would be truly needed. Despite the ever-growing demand for men in active combat, the military remained cautious about what duties they would allow women to perform.

It was only after the Europeans proved successful that some American service women were offered more mobility. This is particularly the case for the WASPs—Women Airforce Service Pilots—an elite group of service women who rose to a different challenge during the war. Unlike their other sisters in the

military—who by this point were all recognized with reserves status by their respective branches—these courageous women put their lives on the line as civilians. Only a handful of female fliers like Amelia Earhart had ever garnered any significant attention, but over 25,000 women submitted applications to become a WASP. Only 1,830 were accepted to the elite program, and of them, only 1,074 made it through the rigorous program to reach graduation. While their numbers were only a small fraction of the other branches of servicewomen, the WASPs lost 38 fliers during the line of duty – attesting to the disproportionate danger of their job.

Even before war was officially declared, Milwaukee-native Jeannette C. Kapus had already set her eyes to the skies. Encouraged by her father, a World War I veteran, Kapus joined the Civilian Pilot Training Program in Davenport, Iowa in July of 1941. She was already working as a clerk stenographer at the Rock Island Arsenal in Illinois just across the river from Davenport, making it possible for her to take evening courses at St. Ambrose College and flight training at Cram Field.

While Kapus worked and studied and the war intensified, famed flier Jacqueline “Jackie” Cochran was struggling with how to best suggest the use of female pilots as part of the effort. She’d already mentioned the idea to Eleanor Roosevelt back in 1939, but she was promptly turned down. Independently, pilot Nancy Harkness Love toyed with the same issue, proposing a program with the Army Air Corps Ferrying Command, but she too was denied. Their first efforts were turned down not because of lack of skill, but because of perceived lack of need. At the onset of the war it was assumed the United States had more than enough male pilots to do the job, and no one had yet seen a reason to believe otherwise.

So, Cochran left the United States to offer her help as a captain with the British Air Transport Auxiliary in England, whose country’s dire circumstances left them open to accepting any pilots who could assist. By 1942, recognizing the

ATA success with women in Europe paired with a decline in male pilot availability, General “Hap” Arnold, commander of United States Army Air Forces, rescinded his earlier denials and requested that Cochran and Love start ferrying programs stateside that employed women. Love assigned a small number of females to the Women’s Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron, putting the WAFS to use in ferrying new aircraft directly from factory to bases or ports. Cochran’s program was larger in scope, incorporating more women and broader flight-related duties. In August of 1943, the programs joined together to form the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP).



Fellow WASPs posing together in their flight gear.

Kapus was keenly aware of Cochran’s new program, although she had not met the 200 flight hours requirement. Eventually, entry requirements dropped to 35 hours, at which point Kapus’ then-38:10 made her eligible. She applied and was accepted to the 44-W4 WASP class, and became one of only 52 of her original class of 104 to graduate from Sweetwater, Texas on 23 May 1944. She’d had three, nine week phases of training, with Primary phase requiring 70 hours in either a PT-19 Fairchild or a PT-17 Stearman, Intermediate phase needing 35 hours on the BT-13, 35 hours on the AT-6 the Texan, and Vultee instrument training, and finishing with the Advanced phase which worked with the largest aircraft, demanding 70 hours of cross-country flying, including two solo 1,000 mile flights.

Aside from ferrying, WASPs delivered a variety of cargo, flew tracking and searchlight missions, worked as instructors, and had the unenviable task of testing aircraft after maintenance, a job Kapus was well familiar with. Kapus was often asked to try out aircraft after parts were replaced, assuring good working order. Test piloting was a job male pilots notoriously spoke out against, believing that if they

were going to die in an aircraft, it should at least be in combat. This hazardous assignment then often became the responsibility of the WASPs, and it was not one to be taken lightly.

In one test flight, a mechanic asked Kapus if he could tag along since he had never been in a plane before. She invited him to test out the new engine, never guessing the mechanic’s first flight might very well be his last. While flying “fast time” the throttle got stuck, and despite both their best efforts, neither of them could free it. After radioing the tower for help, she was told to cut the engine and land in a nearby field. While neither was hurt in the incident, it obviously impacted the mechanic, who made certain to let her know that he was never going to fly again. Some women were not so fortunate as they had been, such as Kapus’ own roommate Mary Howson, who just prior to their graduation had crashed into another student during a landing, losing her life.

Just when it seemed the WASPs had hit their stride, they were dealt a terrible blow. On 1 October 1944, each WASP was sent a letter from General Arnold, stating in part “... the nation can count on thousands of its young women to fly any of its aircraft. You have freed male pilots for other work, but now the war situation has changed and the time has come when your volunteered services are no longer needed.” He went on to state that if

they continued they’d be “replacing rather than releasing” other men, a sentiment that would ring true for all women who were displaced from their wartime occupations—military and otherwise—once the men came home again.

Kapus’ love for flight didn’t let this set back end her profession. Instead, she returned to Milwaukee and acquired her flight instructor rating, and taught pilots at what is now Timmerman Airport. In 1949, she was challenged by AmVets to break the world spin record, which stood at 48. After coaching and practice, she succeeded with room to spare, clocking a total of 64 spins. She later unofficially smashed her own record, performing an unbelievable 73 spins. Kapus was also one of the first women in the state to

enlist in the United States Air Force in 1947. During the Korean War, her request to fly was rejected and instead she served in personnel. She continued to dedicate the next two decades of her life to the Air Force, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1972.

Jeannette Kapus passed away in Germantown, Wisconsin at the age of 88 in 2009, one and a half years before she was inducted into the Wisconsin Aviation Hall of Fame. Thankfully, she shared her unique story during her lifetime, and has left extensive information on her days as a WASP in the Wisconsin Veterans Museum archives. Jeannette Kapus’ uniform and beret are also on permanent display as part of the Museum’s 20th Century gallery.

★

TELL US YOUR STORY!

Have a story about your family history? We want to hear it!

Call 608.264.6086 or email jennifer.carlson@dva.state.wi.us and yours could be our next feature story!

AT THE WISCONSIN VETERANS MUSEUM

2012 SPRING EVENTS

WE ARE A COLLEGE AT WAR:

WOMEN WORKING FOR VICTORY IN WORLD WAR II

THURSDAY, MARCH 8 - 7:00 PM

MARY WEAKS-BAXTER, CHRISTINE BRUUN, & CATHERINE FORSLUND

Faculty, Rockford College
LECTURE AND DISCUSSION

We Are a College at War reveals how the war years influenced women's history in the twentieth century by offering a glimpse of the present-day roles of women through the legacy of the contributions of Rockford College women to the war effort.

FROM ENEMIES TO ALLIES: THE AMERICAN OCCUPATION OF JAPAN, 1945-1952

TUESDAY, MARCH 13 - NOON

LOUISE YOUNG, Professor of History, University of Wisconsin-Madison

LECTURE AND DISCUSSION

Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor began WWII for the U.S. and America's atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki ended it for Japan. This lecture traces the stunning shift from enemies to allies as the escalating Cold War provided grounds for an enduring military, political, and economic partnership.



HOW THE CIVIL WAR TRANSFORMED AMERICAN MAPPING

TUESDAY, MARCH 20 - 7:00 PM

SUSAN SCHULTEN, Chair, Department of History, University of Denver

LECTURE AND DISCUSSION

The sectional crisis generated tremendous attention to maps, as both sides raced to gain adequate geographical intelligence for a military conflict. But the crisis also prompted new and creative uses of maps, particularly in the effort to map the strength of the rebellion. To read more of Dr. Schulten's Civil War research and writing, please visit <http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/author/susan-schulten/>.

SECOND IN NAME ONLY: THE SECOND WISCONSIN AND MINNESOTA INFANTRY REGIMENTS DURING THE CIVIL WAR

FRIDAY, MARCH 23 - NOON

MICHAEL ECKERS, author and historian

LECTURE AND DISCUSSION

When the Civil War began in the spring of 1861 the resulting patriotic fervor in the North resulted in many more men joining the army than anyone expected. Two of the regiments that came out of this tremendous surge of pride were the Second Wisconsin and Second Minnesota infantry regiments. The Wisconsin and Minnesota "boys" all had many days of hard fighting; yet each had one particular day that stands at the top of each list. Wisconsin, would never forget the first day at Gettysburg, while the Second Minnesota saw its mettle severely tested at the Battle of Chickamauga in 1863. Join Mr. Eckers, speaking as Brig. General Henry Hastings Sibley, as he weaves together the compelling story of these two regiments.



THE WESTERN TRADITION OF HONORABLE SURRENDER FROM THE CRUSADES TO THE CIVIL WAR

THURSDAY, APRIL 12, 2012 - 7:00 PM

JOHN LYNN, Distinguished Professor of Military History, Northwestern University

LECTURE AND DISCUSSION

This lecture will trace the distinctly Western tradition of honorable surrender, which took shape in medieval Europe during the eleventh and twelfth centuries and was eventually codified in the literature of chivalry and the law of arms during the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries. By the seventeenth century these promises of honor, protection, and release were extended to common soldiers as well as to the well born. The provisions for reasonable treatment of prisoners agreed to in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries became the foundation for much of the humanitarian law of war.

*A 2012 Dr. Richard H. Zeitlin Distinguished Lecture Series Event
Presented in partnership with the University of Wisconsin-Madison Department of History*

WISCONSIN LETTERS PROJECT - THE LETTERS OF THE PATCHIN FAMILY

THURSDAY, APRIL 26, 2012 - 7:00 PM

Produced and Directed by JOHN SABLE

DRAMATIC READING OF CIVIL WAR LETTERS

Join us for the third installment of the Wisconsin Letters Project, a dramatic reading of Civil War letters from the collections of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum. This selection features the letters of the Patchin Family of Wyocena, highlighting the service of Augustus Patchin, an officer with the 10th Wisconsin Infantry captured at Chickamauga and held captive by the Confederates, and his son, James, who served in the 40th and 47th Infantry Regiments in the later part of the war. Other voices include Mrs. Patchin, and a series of siblings, cousins, and friends, who inform the Patchins about life on the homefront. *Read more on Patchin on page 13.*

A SPECIAL CIVIL WAR 150 PROGRAM EVENT: COUNT THIS PENNY

FRIDAY, MARCH 9, 2012 - 8PM - \$5 DONATION AT THE DOOR

FRIDAY, APRIL 13, 2012 - 5:30PM - SPECIAL HAPPY HOUR CONCERT

RECORD RELEASE CONCERT AND WORLD PREMIERE OF TWO BRAND NEW CIVIL WAR SONGS

Join the Wisconsin Veterans Museum as we present this special Civil War 150 event with *Count This Penny*. Originally a duo, but now a four-piece, the band has established itself as one of Madison's top folk groups with heartfelt lyrics, sensational harmonies, and simple instrumentation.

The concert will feature two brand new *Count This Penny* songs inspired by archival letters of Wisconsin Civil War soldiers. "Do Not Borrow Trouble" uses the words of Cpl. Walter Persons, 16th Wisconsin Infantry, while "I'll Take A Walk," is based on the story of John Hunt, 7th Wisconsin Infantry, who was taken prisoner at Gettysburg. For a sample of the songs, visit www.wisvetsmuseum.com/events. *Read more on page 11.*





JEFF KOLLATH
CURATOR OF HISTORY



THERE IS A SONG HIDDEN IN THESE LETTERS

THE WVM PRODUCES TWO CIVIL WAR SONGS TO COMMEMORATE THE SESQUICENTENNIAL

As we complete the first full year of the Civil War Sesquicentennial, we are able to look back and reflect on a year of great successes in programming and exhibitions. The Museum opened *From Paper to Iron: Wisconsin Joins the Civil War, 1861-62* in July, a new temporary exhibit that highlights the Museum's vast Civil War holdings and tells some incredible stories about Wisconsin soldiers during the early war years. Our annual "Talking Spirits" Cemetery Tour broke attendance records again this year. The development of the Wisconsin Letters Project, dramatic readings of Civil War letters from the Museum's vast archives, proved to be a great addition to our program offerings and brought to life the rarely told stories of two Wisconsin soldiers, George Haw and John Corey.

On March 9, 2012, the next chapter of Museum programming unfolds as the Wisconsin Veterans Museum presents the debut of two original songs written by Madison's *Count This Penny*. The two songs – "Do Not Borrow Trouble" by Amanda Rigell, and inspired by Walter Persons, Co. F, 16th Wisconsin Infantry Regiment, and "I'll Take A Walk," written by her husband, Allen, based on the letters of John Hunt, Co. D, 7th Wisconsin Infantry Regiment – capture the experiences of each soldier. Speaking of Hunt, Allen noted, "He had a great sense of humor in his writing. What struck me was how matter of fact he was." Hunt, a veteran of the Iron Brigade, was captured at Gettysburg and later died in a Confederation POW camp. His resource-rich letters provided Allen a broad story from which to draw inspiration, and revealed to the Tennessee native the role Wisconsin played in defeating the Confederacy.

"Do Not Borrow Trouble" takes a much different tack that "I'll Take A Walk," as it uses the exact words Walter

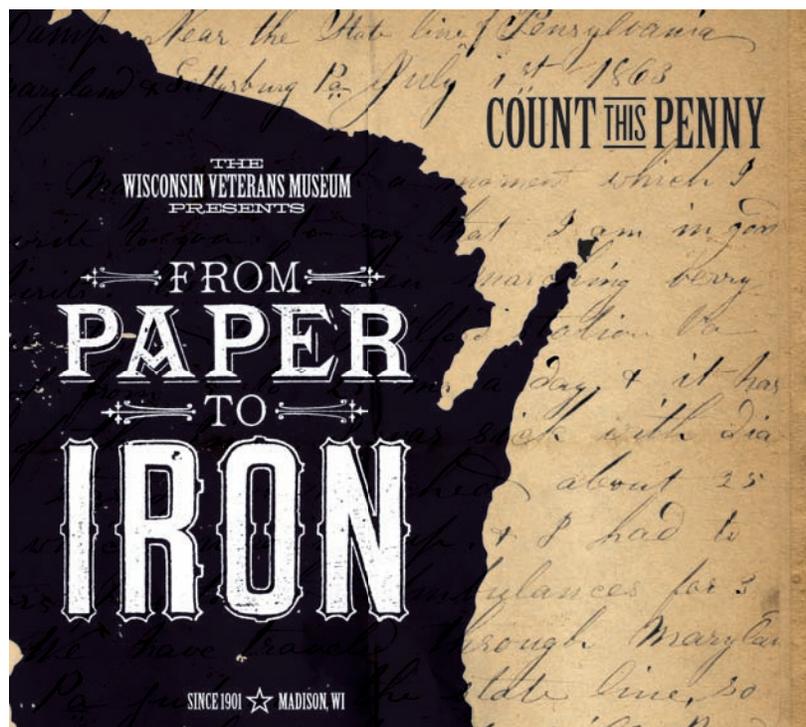
Persons wrote around the time of the Battle of Shiloh in April 1862. Songwriter Amanda Rigell opined, "Once I started looking at the lines from his letters in order, they had a rhythm of their own." The writing began quickly "because the language was there, and it was just so moving." For Amanda, a middle school English teacher in Oregon, Persons' words carried her throughout the

process, returning to their power each time her focus drifted. "It was hard to narrow things down. There were just so many great stories to tell, and I wanted to tell all of them," she said.

In addition to Amanda and Allen Rigell, *Count This Penny* features John Ray on banjo and John Henry on fiddle. The group recorded the songs with Dan Probst at Shotgun Studios in Madison and had them mastered for production by Mike Zirkel at Smart Studios. The finished product is a limited

release, 7-inch, 45 RPM vinyl record. As a Museum, we interpret three-dimensional objects, handwritten letters, photographs, and so much more. These items are a physical connection to the past and to stories written long ago that may only be told in the present. This project encourages active listening and an interaction with music that we hope spurs an interest in the story of Wisconsin's role in the Civil War.

Please join us on Friday, March 9, 2012 for this special event. A special, invite-only membership event will begin at 5:30pm. Doors for the public concert will open at 7:30pm, and the show will begin promptly at 8:00pm. Admission is \$5.00 and will go to ensuring that projects like these will continue here at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum. Copies of the 7-inch record will be available for \$8.00 and will include a CD copy of the songs for portable listening. For more information or if you have any questions, please contact Jeff Kollath at 608.261.0541 or Jeffrey.Kollath@dva.state.wi.us.



MUSEUM NEWS

FRITZ WOLF EXHIBIT

In February, a new exhibit opened at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum highlighting the service of Fritz Wolf of Shawano, Wisconsin, a naval aviator who flew with the famed "Flying Tigers" in Burma and China in 1941-42, and later off the decks of the *U.S.S. Hornet* and *U.S.S. Yorktown* in 1944-45. During World War II, Wolf shot down five enemy aircraft, including two Japanese bombers on December 20, 1941.

This new exhibit features numerous artifacts, including a scarf given to him and his fellow "Flying Tigers" by Madame Chiang Kai-Shek, photographs and mementos from his service, and a short film detailing Wolf's homecoming parade in July 1942.

If you haven't had the chance to see this new exhibit, visit us at 30 West Mifflin Street in Madison today!

MUSEUM HIRES NEW ASSISTANT DIRECTOR



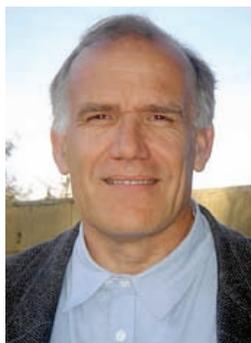
Recently, the Museum hired Kristine Zickuhr as the Museum's Assistant Director. Replacing her long-time predecessor Lynne Wolfe, Zickuhr previously held the position of registrar since 2002. Her background in information management stretches back to her days as an Electronic Warfare Analyst and Linguist while on active duty with the U.S. Army from 1990-1994.

A graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1998, Zickuhr also completed Graduate level coursework in Museum and Field

Studies at the University of Colorado, Boulder. She has been employed in the museum and preservation field for 13 years.

VICTOR DAVIS HANSON TO SPEAK IN 2013!

The Martin and Illie Anderson Senior Fellow at Stanford University's Hoover Institution, Victor Davis Hanson, has agreed to be the keynote speaker at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum's Fundraising Gala in 2013. Considered the expert on classical warfare, Hanson has written a number of best-selling books and was awarded the National Humanities Medal in 2007 for his work.



FROM THE MUSEUM STORE SIGNATURE ITEMS

Recently, the Wisconsin Veterans Museum Gift Store purchased new items to add to its vast gift collection. Here are some cool signature items to add to your shopping list.

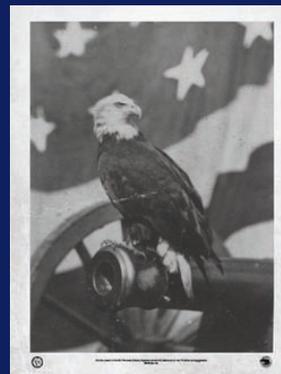


Keep warm with an olive acrylic-wool military sweater with reinforced shoulder and elbow patches. Incredibly warm and durable, this item is available in the Museum Gift Store and has been moving fast. You can also purchase online at www.wisvetmuseum.com.

Now available for \$39.95

Featuring images from the Museum's collection, you can now own a piece of history by purchasing one of four posters! The collection includes pictures of Old Abe, Edward Blake, and other veterans of the Civil War. The posters measure 18 x 24 and are great additions to any military history collection.

Now only \$9.25



GREG LAWSON
STORE MANAGER



To learn more about these products and other selections of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum Gift Store, start shopping at www.wisvetmuseum.com.

The Wisconsin Veterans Museum accepts all major forms of payment, including cash (U.S. currency only), check, Visa, Mastercard and American Express. Checks should be made payable to the Wisconsin Veterans Museum and include a valid Driver's License Number and phone number. All items purchased in the State of Wisconsin are subject to sales tax.

All inquiries will be answered within 24 hours. Orders will be processed on the same date as received, and depending on item supply will be sent same day via USPS for an additional \$4.00 shipping for first item and \$1.00 for each additional item.

Questions?

Call 608.261.0535 or email giftshop.manager@dva.state.wi.us.



ANDREW BARANIAK
PROCESSING ARCHIVIST

CIVIL WAR CONNECTIONS: THE PATCHIN LETTERS

All Civil War letters are not created equal. The Wisconsin Veterans Museum houses a number of letters that provide significant information beyond the mundane often found in many letters of the period. One such collection is the *The Patchin Family Collection*. Comprised of letters written between Patchin family members, it is a rich source of material about the home front as well as the battlefield.

Augustus Patchin was living in Wyocena, Wisconsin when war broke out. Despite his advanced age (he was 40), he volunteered for duty and eventually was promoted to 1st lieutenant in Company D, 10th Wisconsin Infantry Regiment. He was wounded and captured at the Battle of Chickamauga and spent several months as a prisoner of war at Libby Prison before being released.

The letters written by Augustus to his family discuss military life and the differences between Southern and Northern lifestyles, as well as his time in prison. While the letters from Augustus are interesting, what enhances the collection are the letters written by his wife, Margaret, and his eldest son, James. Margaret and James both describe the stress the family faced in maintaining the farm while Augustus was away. James, a young man of eighteen, frequently wrote to his father about wanting to enlist, but he followed his father's instructions to stay at home for a time. However, after his father was captured, James enlisted with the 40th Wisconsin Infantry Regiment for one-hundred days and then joined Company I, 47th Wisconsin for the remainder of the war.

While all of the letters in the Patchin collection are an important Wisconsin Civil War resource, one letter in particular holds special interest to the Wisconsin Veterans Museum. In a letter dated May 1, 1862, James' cousin Clarence Burnett wrote about seeing Confederate

prisoners en route to Madison. The letter also contained information about a piece that would end up in the Museum collection. Burnett wrote:

"Well, James, I have had the pleasure of seeing some Secesh prisoners, and a worse looking set I never saw, not excepting the fresh Norwegians that came over last spring. Mary can tell you how they looked. There was about 300 of these prisoners—they were taken at Island No. 10 and were in the hospital at the time, sick. There was about 60 that were not able to walk. They had every kind of disease you could think of, I guess. They stopped in Mazomanie—a town 3 miles from here towards the

prairie—to get their dinner, and the whole town turned out to see them; so I guess that there will be some sick there before long. The prisoners are at Madison now—there is about a thousand there now. There was about 3 carloads of the wounded soldiers from the 14th, 16th, & 18th Regiments went through here today. Those that were able to be up felt happy as clams, because they were going home I suppose. It looked rather

hard, though, to see so many with their heads, hands, arms and everything else done up. Some were laying down on the seats with the pillows under their heads and sides and covered just where they hurt. The cannon that was taken by the 14th that they sent to Madison went through yesterday—it has seen some hard times. A cannonball had taken a hunk out of one of the tires and broke one full away, and there was about a half dozen musket-holes in the spokes and carriage."

The Shiloh cannon now resides in the collection at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum.



Captured from Thomas Jefferson Stanford's Mississippi Battery by the 14th Wisconsin at Shiloh, this cannon referenced in Burnett's letter now resides in the Civil War gallery at the WVM.

WANT TO HEAR MORE?

Join us at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum for dramatic readings of the Patchin letters on April 26 at 7PM. See page 10 for more details.

KRIS ZICKUHR
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR



ADJUTANT'S REPORT

FLAG CONSERVATION UPDATE



32nd Wisconsin Infantry flag, pre-conservation.

The museum is pleased to report that two Civil War flags recently returned from conservation treatment and are now available for research. The flags were conserved by Sarah Stevens of the New York State Bureau of Historic Sites. New York has an extensive battle flag conservation program and provides fee-based services to states such as Wisconsin, which do not have their own conservation laboratories.

One of the flags to return is a national flag of the 6th Wisconsin Infantry Regiment. The flag was issued to the regiment in late June 1863 but didn't reach them in the field until after the battle of Gettysburg. Unfortunately it is one of the most extensively damaged flags in the collection, with only a small portion of the flag remaining. Due to the important history of the regiment, a sheer removable overlay was created to replicate the original appearance and battle honors. The recreation of the flag's appearance was based on a 2nd Wisconsin flag as well as an account of Lieutenant Colonel Rufus Dawes, the famous commander of the 6th Wisconsin.

The second flag to return to the museum belonged to the 32nd Wisconsin Infantry Regiment and was issued in 1862. Made of beautiful dark blue silk, a notation found during conservation indicated the flag was made by Horstmann Brothers. The flag bears no regimental designation, but fortunately state records from the close of the Civil War preserved its identity.

Both flags were conserved with a non-invasive technique which involves encapsulating the original fabric between layers of light bobbinet. Hand stitching through areas of loss

keeps the support fabric in place with no stitches placed in the fabric of the flag itself. The technique allows the flags' brilliant colors to show through, keeps both sides visible and produces light, but flexible, support for the fragile fabric. You can see the tremendous difference conservation treatment can make in the before and after photo shown here.

There are several other flags currently out for conservation. Those include an unusual national flag of the 1st Wisconsin Cavalry, a regimental flag of the 21st Wisconsin Infantry and a national flag of the 15th Wisconsin Infantry.

Although a state owned facility, the museum relies on the generosity of donors to assist with the goal of saving the flag collection. Funding for this project was provided by an anonymous donor to the Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation.

Thank you to all who have contributed funding, research and support. If you would like to sponsor a flag or learn more about our state's incredible flag collection, please visit www.wisconsinbattleflags.com.



32nd Wisconsin Infantry flag, after conservation.

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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.state.wi.us.

JOIN US ONLINE!



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The Wisconsin Veterans Museum is an educational activity of the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF BEING A MEMBER?

"We love our Museum membership because it gives us, including my children, the chance to learn more about what Wisconsin veterans went through during their time of service, and the sacrifices they made."

-Trevor & Gwen Guenther

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