



THE BUGGLE



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Newsletter of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation

September 1997

Celebrity Voices for Wisconsin Veterans

by Richard H. Zeitlin

Two celebrities have become voices for Wisconsin veterans. Gregory Peck, the Academy Award winning actor, and Stephen Ambrose, the Pulitzer Prize winning historian, lent their talents to the museum's production of an audio-taped tour of the exhibits.

In the tour, Peck reads letters and other first person accounts by Wisconsin veterans describing their experiences in various historical episodes. Peck's voice and his association with military films such as "Twelve O'clock High," "Pork Chop Hill," "MacArthur," and the "Guns of Navarone" make his participation in the audio tour especially welcome. In all, Peck has starred in over sixty films. He received the Academy Award for his 1962 role in "To Kill a Mockingbird," which is still being used today to explain Civil Rights history in American elementary schools.

Stephen Ambrose, one of the leading scholars of U.S. history, also narrated portions of the audio tour. His experiences along with those of his family during World War II provided emotion to the story of heroism and sacrifice by Wisconsin veterans. Ambrose has written twenty-one history books, including the best-sellers *D-Day* and *Un- daunted Courage*.

The audio tour contributes to the museum's educational mission. Studies have shown that while ninety-six percent of museum visitors in the Midwest read some portion of the display texts, few read all of the written material. The audio tour will re-inforce the museum's educational

message by involving visitors in Wisconsin military history through voices, in addition to the printed text. The tour gives information on the people and events depicted in the exhibits as well as human interest stories of the times.



Gregory Peck (left) in "Twelve O'Clock High" and Stephen Ambrose.

Curator's Chronicles

by William Brewster

Welcome to another installment of the Curator's Chronicles. The staff of the Veterans Museum maintains a busy schedule of activities throughout the year. Therefore, advance planning for major events can never begin too early. In 1998, the State of Wisconsin will turn 150 years old. In celebration of this important birthday, the Museum, with support from the Sesquicentennial Commission, will be sponsoring programs that highlight Wisconsin Civil War history.

On May 29-30, 1998, the museum will host a parade in Madison that will recreate the 1864 return of the Second Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry. The Second Wisconsin was the first three-year regiment from the state to muster out

of service. As part of the Iron Brigade, the Second gained national recognition for its fighting capabilities and earned the distinction of suffering the highest percentage of casualties for any Federal regiment during the War. When the regiment left the state in 1861, it mustered 1,000 men. Of those, 174 remained to march in the home-coming parade in 1864. In addition to the Second, the parade contained two marching bands, three military detachments, state and local dignitaries, and many interested civilians. To recreate this event, the Wisconsin Veterans Museum will call on living history personnel from around the state and nation. We will recruit nearly 500 participants to create the impressions needed. In addition to the parade, the military personnel will pitch their tents on the Camp Randall grounds as did the original members of the Second Wisconsin. The camp will feature daytime tours



that highlight the daily activities of soldiers during the Civil War. There will also be candlelight tours on May 29.

In August of 1998, a second Civil War event will be sponsored by the Museum at the Wisconsin Veterans Home in King. The Veterans Home was one of the first of its kind established following the Civil War. The King event will feature a concert of Civil War music by the First Brigade Band, and Civil War reenactors will portray the three stages of a soldier's life.

There will be a company that represents the soldier when he first enlisted, inexperienced and awkward. A second company will portray the seasoned campaigner, knowledgeable in drill and the ways of a soldier. And a third company will be of retired veterans, older and wiser, yet full of spunk and stories of past accomplishments.

Both of these events will be exciting for participants and spectators alike. To make it all happen we began work in June of this year and will not rest until the event in King comes to an end at this time next year. In addition to our own staff,

the work of many volunteers and reenactors will be needed to pay proper respect to our state and the citizens we honor. Until next time...

New Exhibit at Museum

by Richard H. Zeitlin

The Wisconsin Veterans Museum is preparing a new exhibit to open on Veterans Day 1997. "They Also Served" will tell the story of civilians who contributed to U.S. war efforts without being part of the military. Groups such as the USO, the Red Cross, the Salvation Army, the Merchant Marine, and the Women Airforce Service Pilots served during periods of crisis, providing much needed and appreciated support. Likewise, correspondents and artists participated in numerous military operations.

Although members of these organizations were not a part of the military, some were eventually awarded veterans' status for their contributions. The Merchant Marine and the WASPs, for example, were awarded veterans' status by Congressional enactment. "They Also Served" highlights the service of these groups from World War I through present day.

Exhibition construction will begin in September. "They Also Served" will replace the "Rise of Veterans Organizations in Wisconsin" exhibition and will be the first major exhibit produced by the Wisconsin Veterans Museum since it opened in 1993. Funding sources, including grants from the Institute of Museum Services and the Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation, have enabled the work to move forward.

BUGLE

Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation

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Conservators Visit Museum

by Lynnette Wolfe

In 1996, the Wisconsin Veterans Museum applied for and was awarded a Conservation Assessment Program (CAP) grant of \$6,110.00 from the Institute of Museum Services, an agency connected to the U.S. Department of Education.

CAP provides funding for an on-site visit by two conservators to assess conditions that affect the care and preservation of museum collections as well as its physical plant. In May 1997, Professor Anton Rajer of Fine Arts Conservation Services, Madison and Edgar De Jong of Hooker/De

Jong Architects, Muskegon, Michigan met with museum administrators and curatorial staff to discuss our conservation needs.

These written, comprehensive assessment reports will serve as the foundation for the development of a long-range strategic conservation plan. Each conservator provides a large body of valuable information to the museum. CAP reports are often used by museums as an important tool for prioritizing and establishing conservation fundraising projects.

Museum Receives Sesquicentennial Grants

The Wisconsin Veterans Museum received four grants totaling \$54,000 from the State of Wisconsin's Sesquicentennial Commission. The museum's projects will honor the history of Wisconsin with the following programs.

When Johnny Comes Marching Home: the Return of the Second Wisconsin Infantry, a living-history event with an encampment to be held at Camp Randall on May 29–30, 1998. The event will include a parade to the Capitol Square. The museum will also host a Civil War living history event and concert at the Wisconsin Veterans Home at King, Wisconsin in August of 1998. A resource guide for school teachers on the *War for the Union: Wisconsin and the Civil War* is being written for free distribution to teachers in 1998. And an Internet guide to Wisconsin Military Heritage Sites, including the print version, is being produced.



Wisconsin's Civil War battleflags are part of an ongoing conservation project. The photo above shows the 1861 regimental state color of the Sixteenth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry prior to conservation. The photo on the right is the same flag after conservation. The battleflags are stored flat in a temperature and humidity controlled environment. A case in the exhibit gallery displays the flags on a rotating basis.



ARCHIVIST'S CORNER

by Mark D. Van Ells

While no great campaigns or battles were ever fought in Wisconsin, military-related historic sites nevertheless dot the state. To raise awareness about these historical treasures in our midst, the WVM has initiated the Wisconsin Military Heritage Sites project.

The final product will be an Internet guide to military history sites in Wisconsin. A print version of the guide is also in the works. The museum has compiled a list of about forty historic sites around the Badger State. These sites span more than 300 years of Wisconsin history. Some, like the remnants of French fortifications in northern and western Wisconsin, date to the seventeenth century. Others, like the Wisconsin Veterans Home at King, are still in use today.

For each site, the Internet homepage and print guide will give its historical background, a description of what there is to see today, a list of

local contacts, and suggestions for further reading. Wisconsin Veterans Museum staff members will write the bulk of the essays, but we have also recruited experts from academia and public history to contribute essays.

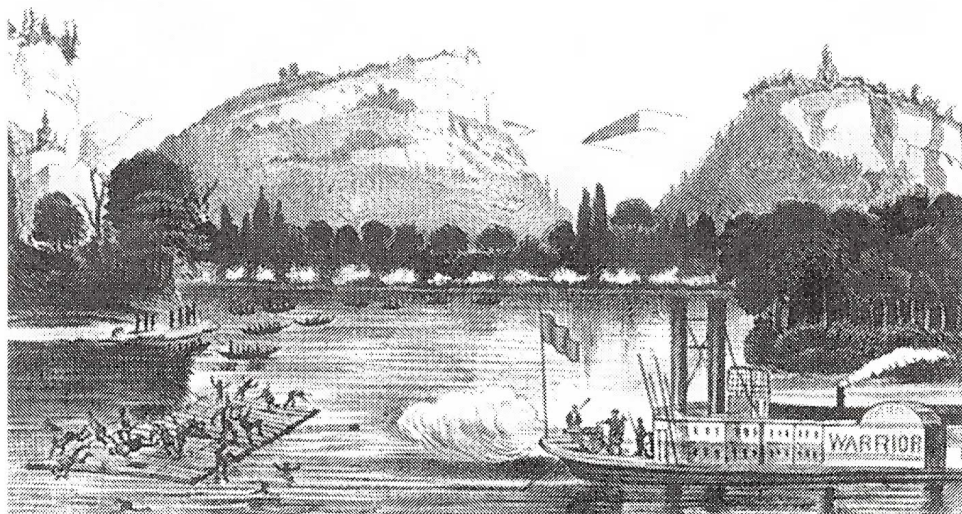
The project was made possible by a grant from the Wisconsin Sesquicentennial Commission and is being done in cooperation with the University of Wisconsin Cartography Lab. The Cartography Lab will design the Internet site and produce maps especially for the project. At present, plans are to place on the Internet an interactive map of the Black Hawk War, complete with moving arrows charting the progress of the 1832 campaign through Illinois and Wisconsin.

We hope the Wisconsin Military Heritage Sites project will promote both Badger State tourism and an appreciation of history by the general public.



The museum installed the photographic exhibition "The Road of the Ho-Chunk Warrior" on August 18. On loan from the Ho-Chunk Historic Preservation Commission, the sixteen photographs honor the service of Ho-Chunk in the U.S. military from the Civil War through the Vietnam era. Included are photographs of Mitchell Red Cloud, Jr., who posthumously received the Medal of Honor for his service in the Korean War.

On October 25, at 10 a.m. and 12 p.m., Roxanne Owens of the Ho-Chunk Historic Preservation Commission will present a program on the history of Ho-Chunk in the nation's wars.



The Wisconsin Military Heritage Sites project will document such sites as the Battle of Bad Axe in the Black Hawk War. State Historical Society of Wisconsin WHI(x3)18222

A Thank You to Museum's Volunteers

Twenty percent of the museum's visitors are participants in the school tour program. Volunteers provide tours of the museum to the children. The museum receives many thank you letters from teachers as well as students. Here is an example of one such letter:

Dear Veteran,

Thank you for the opportunity to tour the museum with you. I really enjoyed it because I like history. I'm thinking of becoming a history major.

I have learned a lot about the Civil War. It was neat to see things from that part of time. I also learned some things that I didn't know. It was nice to learn about the 20th century. I liked the 20th Century the best because my cousin is in the army and fought in the Gulf War.

My grandfather just received the purple heart for his naval services. He was in the Korean War. He was sorry he received it so late that my grandmother couldn't see it. He was really happy when I told him I visited the museum. I told him about the models and flags and etc. that I saw there. He told me about the Korean War and gave me lots of information on it. You really put the things he told me into my mind better. You also told me things I didn't already know.

My mom and dad think it would be a nice idea to find a day and take the whole family there. I know I would like to come again and my grandfather would love it. I hope I get to see it again and you were the greatest tour guide. Maybe I'll see you again. Thanks again for taking the time to inform and educate me. I really enjoyed the tour even though it only lasted an hour.

Sincerely,

*Jenny Lynn Ludack
Seymour High School*



On July 19, Curator William Brewster presented the "History of Soldiers' Clothing." The program covered the evolution of soldiers' field uniforms from the Civil War through the present. Using uniform jackets and field shirts as examples, Brewster surveyed how the government has modified field clothing over time, and how soldiers have adapted uniforms to suit their needs.



On August 16, Kathleen Ernst presented "Voices from the Homefront: Civil War Women." Ernst discussed the roles of Wisconsin women and their experiences during the Civil War. A slide presentation detailed how women's roles and responsibilities changed during the war.



On June 25, delegates from the Republic of China (Taiwan) toured the exhibits with museum volunteer Dr. James McIntosh (far right). State Senator Dale Schultz arranged for their tour.

From the Gift Store

GREGORY PECK



Visit the Wisconsin Veterans Museum and let Gregory Peck and Stephen Ambrose guide you through the museum!

One Free Acoustiguide rental with this coupon.

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STEPHEN AMBROSE

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Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation

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