

THE BUGLE

NEWSLETTER OF THE WISCONSIN VETERANS MUSEUM FOUNDATION

Frontline

CELEBRATING A VETERAN'S LEGACY

WVM REMEMBERS FRED G. COOK

Beloved docent, Fred Gotham Cook, passed away suddenly on April 15, 2004. He was born in Hillsboro, Wisconsin on May 5, 1937. He served in the U. S. Air Force after graduating from Hillsboro High School in 1955.

State Grand Army of the Republic Commander. James became one of the founders of the Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Hall, which is now known as the Wisconsin Veterans Museum.

After serving in the U. S. Air Force, Cook worked for WISCO Hardware in the early 1960's. He then worked for the Wisconsin Department of Transportation in Madison before retiring in 1994.

Cook was an avid volunteer, serving as a Scout Leader, a member of the Volunteer Fire Department, a church elder at First Presbyterian Church, a member of the Jaycees, and a member of the Poynette Historical Society. He also wrote an editorial column for his hometown newspaper called, "Hillsboro, Our Hillsboro."

After retiring, Cook's greatest passion was Civil War reenacting with the 2nd Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry Regiment (Company K). He served as Chaplain and infantryman for more than ten years. He also volunteered for the Wisconsin Veterans Museum as a docent, and was the Camp Commander for the Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW).

Cook comes from a long line of veterans. His great grandfather, David G. James, served in the Civil War. Not only was his great grandfather a State Senator, but he was also a veteran of Shiloh, survivor of Andersonville prison, and



Fred Cook, in Civil War attire, attending the "Tribute to Freedom" gala

As a docent for the Wisconsin Veterans Museum, Cook was lively and passionate. He received many requests by teachers to give tours each year. Those who took his tours adored him. He was one of our greatest storytellers. He knew how to grab the attention of students with his animated character and passion for history.

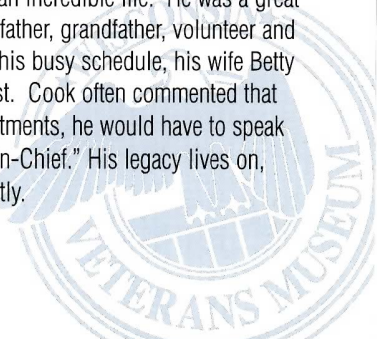
On June 27, 2004, at the Veterans Museum's Annual Volunteer Recognition Party, we will be renaming our Docent Award. The award will now be called the Fred G. Cook Legacy Award. The docent who is chosen to receive this award will be the one who serves with the same love of history, and dedication to the community as Cook.

Cook led an incredible life. He was a great husband, father, grandfather, volunteer and friend to many. In spite of his busy schedule, his wife Betty and family always came first. Cook often commented that before he made any commitments, he would have to speak to Betty, his "Commander-in-Chief." His legacy lives on, but we will miss Cook greatly.

By Jennifer Dahl

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The Bugle

The purpose of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum, an activity of the Wisconsin Dept. of Veterans Affairs, 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-August only)

Director's Corner

A CHANGING, BUT VIBRANT STAFF

NEW FACES AT WVM

Spring is often associated with new developments and this spring the Wisconsin Veterans Museum has experienced staff turnover. Matt Piersma, a museum employee for nearly ten years, decided to change careers. He intends to become an Army National Guard helicopter technician. A veteran of the first Gulf War, Piersma is a sergeant in the Army Guard where he serves as crew chief of a Blackhawk helicopter. Matt departs officially on July 6. He plans to become an active volunteer at the Veterans Museum. Matt's abilities and support skills will be missed, but his continued presence as a volunteer will help ease the feeling of loss.

Katherine (Leedle) Ripley resigned and moved to Appleton where she and her husband, Brandon, bought a home. Katie served as Curator of Programs and successfully developed a series of well-attended public educational programs over the past two years. Katie also played an important role in the operation of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation; assisting with fund raising efforts, the museum's gala during 2002 and 2003, as well as grant applications. She remains involved with the Veterans Museum, acting as a consultant and as a volunteer for key programs such as the national prize-winning Cemetery Tour. Jeff Kollath joined the staff in May as a limited term



Jeff Kollath

employee (LTE) to work in the Programs area. He will assist with the development of public educational activities, special events, and foundation work. Kollath, a Madison area native, earned a BA and an MA degree in History. He has two years of experience working for museums and other historical agencies.

Jennifer R. Dahl accepted the museum's Visitor Services position on May 3. Jennifer graduated from the University of Wisconsin at Whitewater with a psychology major. Jennifer worked at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum as an LTE for more than a year, honing her Visitor Services skills.



Jennifer Dahl

She coordinates the museum tours, volunteers, educational travel trunk program, as well as supporting the work of the Foundation. Tour group attendance has risen significantly since Jennifer joined the staff.

Anna Gayton has transferred from the museum store to the second floor to assist with Foundation fund-raising activities. Anna worked for George Christensen on a part-time basis. A graduate of MATC in the field of Interior Design, Anna intends to go to graduate school in San Diego in mid-August.



Anna Gayton

Museum Marketing Specialist Laura Kocum and her husband Paul are expecting their first child in August. Laura will be using her six month maternity leave at the end of July. The Veterans Museum will look forward to Laura's return. In the meantime, Charlotte Deleste has been hired to fill-in for Laura. Charlotte has several years experience as a television anchor and has also assisted in event planning for nonprofit organizations. She will be a great help to WVM as we plan the 2004 Tribute to Freedom gala and additional events.

By Richard H. Zeitlin



WVM Outreach

REMEMBERING D-DAY

MAKING IT A FAMILY AFFAIR

On June 5th, the Wisconsin Veterans Museum (WVM) hosted a program both in the museum and outside on the Capitol Square to commemorate the 60th anniversary of D-Day. The Original Wisconsin Ducks provided a DUKW amphibious vehicle ("duck") for everyone to explore. Playing a pivotal role in the D-Day invasion, the ducks ferried troops and supplies to the Normandy shore. Of the 21,000 ducks produced by General Motors, nearly 2,000 participated in D-Day. The duck drivers discussed the history of the vehicle with patrons, handed out free t-shirts, and allowed children to climb inside the duck, including a group of students from Horicon that truly got into the spirit of the event.



Horicon students try on uniforms and climb aboard an Original Wisconsin Duck at the D-Day Observance.

The goal of the family activity day was to connect the events of D-Day in a manner young children can understand. WVM provided an activity table where kids and their parents worked together to recreate helmets worn by the 1st ("Big Red One"), 4th ("Ivy") and 29th ("Blue and Gray") Infantry Divisions on D-Day. Mimicking the way soldiers personalized their helmets, most kids took the opportunity to add unique touches with silver pens and stickers depicting stars, unit insignias



Children proudly wear their personalized helmets, made at WVM's activity table.

and American flags. The event was a resounding success with more than 700 visitors participating in the day and nearly 100 children making helmets. WVM staff heard nothing but positive feedback. Most visitors looked forward to returning to WVM and participating in future family activities.

WVM staff member Matt Piersma represented the 1-147 Aviation Battalion based at Truax Field, supplying night vision goggles for children to use in darker parts of the gallery. Several World War II re-enactors also took part in the commemoration program. Stationed inside the gallery and also near the DUKW, the participants enjoyed interacting with the public, discussing their artifacts and the significance of D-Day. Truly a sight to behold, the re-enactors were treated to a trip around the Capitol Square before the DUKW headed back to Wisconsin Dells.

WVM was honored to be joined by Kermit Bliss, a veteran who participated in the D-Day invasion as part of the 14th photographic reconnaissance squadron. Bliss has vivid memories of D-Day, and he shared his experiences with visitors, and members of the local media.

As part of WVM's goal to honor veterans and educate the public, WVM plans to implement more family-activity days in the near future.



D-Day veteran and WVM docent Kermit Bliss talks to a television crew about his memories of D-Day, and the use of the DUKW.

By Jeff Kollath

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<http://museum.dva.state.wi.us>

WVM Outreach

Exhibit Schedule

Sketches by Santos Zingale

View Navy life during World War II through the eyes of a Madison artist and veteran. Santos Zingale joined the Navy in 1944. While serving, he drew dozens of sketches, depicting fellow sailors, ships and daily life. His sketches were donated to the Wisconsin Veterans Museum, and will be on display during the month of August.



Zingale's sketches depict life in the Navy.

Watch for Vietnam-related programs and exhibits in 2005!

JOINT PARTNERSHIPS

“METRO TO MUSEUM” ATTRACTS NEW VISITORS



The Wisconsin Veterans Museum (WVM) is raising visibility this summer through new neighborhood partnerships. Beginning in the spring,

WVM agreed to join the Wisconsin Historical Museum and the Madison Children's Museum in a joint marketing campaign.

The campaign includes several advertisements in publications, a weekly booth with hands-on children's activities at Madison's Farmer's Market, and an additional promotion with Metro Transit. From now until the end of the summer, visitors who come to WVM using Metro Transit

will receive a free gift from the WVM Gift Shop, along with gifts from both neighboring museums. In return, Metro Transit has agreed to provide free advertisements for each museum in city buses and on its web site.

Visit your **MUSEUMS** on Capitol Square!



The promotions are intended to attract new visitors to WVM and to encourage regular visitors to return during the summer road construction on Capitol Square. Overall, the promotions are proving successful, and are introducing new audiences to the interesting programs and exhibits available at WVM.

By Laura Kocum

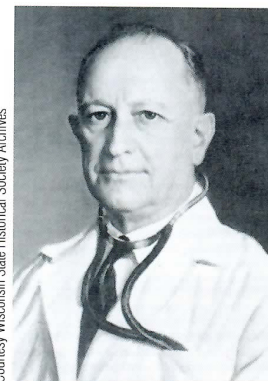
TALKING SPIRITS VI PLANS UNDERWAY

Preparations are underway for “Talking Spirits VI,” Wisconsin Veterans Museum's annual tour of Forest Hill Cemetery. Museum staff members are researching the lives and war service of several Wisconsin citizens. The World War Two theme began last fall, and will continue this year.

In addition to individuals who have never been featured in a vignette, this year's tour will include one man who tour participants first met in 2001: Dr William S. Middleton. Dr. Middleton's service at Base Hospital 22 in France during World War I was featured in “Talking Spirits III.” Three years later, his service in World War II as Chief Consultant of Medicine in Europe will form part of the 6th tour.

Other potential vignettes include: Villiers W. Meloche, who worked on the Manhattan Project; George L. Mosse, German Jewish refugee and UW history professor; and Gordon Sinykin, UW law professor and former member of Gen. Douglas MacArthur's staff.

Public tours at Forest Hill Cemetery will take place on Sunday, October 3rd, from Noon to 4 p.m. Adult tickets are \$6 and children's tickets are \$3, available at the cemetery gate on the day of the event. Golf carts will be on hand for visitors who cannot take the entire tour on foot, and parking will be available at West High School.



Courtesy Wisconsin State Historical Society Archives

Dr. William S. Middleton

School and group tours will be held on Thursday and Friday, September 30th and October 1st, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The cost per group is \$40 and the maximum group size is 30 people. For more information call Jennifer Dahl, Curator of Visitor Services, at 608.264.6086.

By Matt Piersma

WVM Programs

PAYING TRIBUTE

WVM HONORS ELIZABETH PARK

On the blustery morning of April 20, 2004, a Madison civic leader was honored, six years after her death, with the placement of a grave marker. Donors and friends of Elizabeth Park were on hand to celebrate her life and honor her with the permanent granite marker.

Park was featured in the Wisconsin Veterans Museum's annual "Talking Spirits: Forest Hill Cemetery Tour" last fall. A gifted musician, writer and teacher, she taught Morse code to soldiers at Truax Field during World War II. Local actress Heather Renken portrayed Park as part of "Talking Spirits V." Renken returned to deliver the portrayal again when the grave marker was installed.



Laura Kocum

Friends and donors honor Park at the April ceremony.

It was first noticed that Park's grave was unmarked when researcher Katie Leedle began preparations for "Talking Spirits V." Soon after the cemetery tour, the gift of a headstone was provided through the generosity of Bruce Gregg, Katie Leedle, Seth Perelman, Matthew Piersma, Pechmann



Laura Kocum

Madison actress Heather Renken delivers a portrayal of Park, using research from WVM staff and a script written by Madison playwright Callen Harty.

Memorials, Inc., Southeast Wisconsin Genealogical Society, and the Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation.

Park was born on April 20, 1920, and died on her 78th birthday, April 20, 1998. In addition to her service at Truax Field, she wrote copy for "America's Beloved Gospel Singer," George Beverly Shea. Park earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin and a master's degree from the University of Michigan and became involved with music education. She taught at Juilliard, the Manhattan School of Music, Trinity College of Music in London, and Harvard University. She also became active in directing professional choirs. Her passion for literacy showed when she established a children's book contest in memory of her good friend, Marion Vannett Ridgway, a painter and teacher.

Park's simple stone lies next to her parents' in a stand of ancient oak trees at Forest Hill Cemetery. The epitaph reads: M. Elizabeth Park, Teacher, Writer, Musician.

If you would like to view the stone, contact Kathy Lange at Forest Hill Cemetery (608-266-4720), for directions.



Laura Kocum

Park's grave marker, along with photos and a rose honor her memory. By Katie Leedle

Upcoming Programs

Thursday, July 1
Noon and 7 p.m.
Marcel Rotter, PhD

The Functions of War Bond Posters during World War I

View propaganda posters, and discover their role in raising money to support the war effort during World War I. Each of the belligerent countries raised money by selling war bonds. University of Wisconsin professor Marcel Rotter presents how posters issued by the governments of Great Britain, the United States, Germany, and Austria portrayed war bonds to their respective peoples. Rotter argues that the methods of appeal in the open societies of Great Britain and the US differed significantly from the ones used in Germany and Austria.

From the Archives

Manuscript Exhibit

Gold Star Wives July 1 – 31, 2004

Gold star wives face the deep sorrow and tragedy of losing their husbands during their military service. An exhibit featuring letters, Western Union Telegrams, photographs, medals and additional artifacts will explore the wives' experiences, beginning with the Civil War. The exhibit will



Air Medal awarded to S/Sgt. Neuman A. Bodart on exhibit.

also feature the work of Gold Star Wives, Inc., highlighting their unique volunteerism and legislative activities in honor of their husbands, fellow widows, and dependents. It is available for viewing in the 3rd Floor Research Center.

Kristine Zickuhr

GOLD STAR WIVES CONVENTION TO VISIT WVM

The Wisconsin Veterans Museum (WVM) is proud to host the Gold Star Wives of America, Inc. from July 6 – 10, 2004, during their National Convention in Madison. Members will tour the WVM galleries and Research Center during their visit.

With a full agenda for their 59th National Convention, Midwest and North Central Regional Representative, Ellen Blissenbach, explained why it is important for their members to visit WVM. "Since we lost our husbands, and our organization is one that helps others understand and commemorate the veteran experience and sacrifice, this museum and research center is very helpful in that."

WVM is proud to host Gold Star Wives, and is already preparing to honor their rich history of sacrifice, dedication and hard work.

The organization started as the American Widows of World War II in 1945. Six months later, it grew into a national organization and changed its name to Gold Star Wives of America, Inc. Members are the wives of men who died in service or as a result of service related disabilities. Their logo and pin uses a Gold Star with a purple bar, symbolizing both being wounded in action and dying while serving in the Armed Forces.

Several other symbols were adopted to signify remembrance of their husband's military service and sacrifice for country. The pansy was adopted in 1956 at their annual convention in Boston. The colors of yellow and purple stand for "Remembrance." A yellow dress was chosen for Memorial Services as a tribute to their husbands, and at the 1984 convention, the official cap is the overseas style. Organizational purposes include:

-To assist in upholding the U.S. Constitution and laws, and to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the Community, State and Nation.

-To honor the memory of those who made the supreme sacrifice in the service of our country.

-To safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom, and democracy for which members of our armed services fought and died.

-To provide a happy, healthful, and wholesome life to minor children of those who died in the service of our country.

-To promote activities and interests that foster among members the proper mental attitude to face the future with courage.

-To aid when necessary the widows and children of persons who died in their service of our country.



Laura Koorn

Gold Star Mothers Flowerbed located on the State Capitol lawn.

Gold Star Wives of America, Inc. is known for generous donations of time and gifts to veteran related organizations and activities. On December 4, 1980, Congress granted the organization a Federal Charter. Since its inception in 1945, members have worked tirelessly to secure veteran benefits through legislation on behalf of all service widows and their children. Legislative goals and benefits include: increased death compensation for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) benefit, improved health benefits, enhanced educational assistance projects, and efforts for (DIC) reinstatements for remarried widows.

Gold Star Wives play an important role in WVM's mission to affirm, commemorate and acknowledge the achievements and sacrifices of Wisconsin veterans. A manuscript exhibit documenting their sacrifice, and service to veterans will be on display at WVM during the convention and throughout the month of July.

Blissenbach, a Gold Star wife, reiterated, "The museum, archives and educational programs are imperative for school children, veterans and their family to experience."

WVM welcomes Gold Star Wives, Inc. to Madison!

By Carrie Bohman

From the Archives

COGNAC BOTTLE SAVED STORY FROM LEWIS COLLECTION

A video showing a group of five 80-year-old men drinking an equally old bottle of cognac was recently made available to researchers at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum Research Center. The video, part of the Reuben B. Lewis papers, documents the final reunion of "Company C," an organization of Waupaca-area World War I veterans. The arrangement of the Lewis papers was made possible by a two-year processing grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC).

Lewis, who enlisted into the Wisconsin National Guard at age 17, served in France and Germany during World War I. He returned home, married, and became involved with real estate appraisal. He served as the County Veterans Service Officer (CVSO) for Portage County. He was involved in many different veterans' organizations, but his main interest was with the group called "Company C."

Prior to World War I, Company C of the 4th Wisconsin Infantry was made up of men from the Waupaca area. When the Wisconsin National Guard was federalized at the start of the war, Company C was made part of the 32nd "Red Arrow" Division. While some of the men were split into different units, they remained close. Upon returning home in 1919, they decided to hold an annual reunion for the men of the old company.

Meeting each year in Waupaca, the veterans of Company C discovered that one of their members had brought a bottle of cognac back from France. The group decided to save the bottle, unopened, until only five members remained living.

Those final five men from Company C could then pop the cork and enjoy the aged cognac. This is a prime example of the "last man's pact," which was especially popular among veterans' organizations in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.



1964 reunion: The men of Company C (kneeling man on the left holds the cognac bottle).

The cognac bottle became a fixture at all of the reunions, and photographs in the Lewis collection show various members holding the bottle at events throughout the 1960's and 1970's. Finally in 1986, with seven members remaining, the bottle was opened and a portion of the contents consumed. Local newspapers and television stations covered the historic event, which only five of the remaining seven could attend.

The Lewis collection contains correspondence, membership files, rosters, and photographs relating to Company C and its annual reunions. It also includes a video showing Lewis and his four friends opening the bottle and having a sip of the cognac. Equally impressive, the actual bottle is preserved in the WVM



1986 Reunion: The final five members of Company C enjoy the cognac (Reuben Lewis: center).

In addition to the Reuben Lewis materials, the WVM holds the records of many other veterans organizations and the papers and photographs of hundreds of individual veterans, as well as an extensive book, map, and video library. Anyone interested in Wisconsin's military history should visit the Research Center to view our holdings. The Research Center is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., and by appointment.

By Russ Horton

Personalized Dog Tags

Now Available at WVM Gift Shop

Order authentic dog tags, engraved by the Wisconsin Veterans Museum. You choose what the engraving says (Name, address, past battalion, favorite sports team). **Cost is \$5.00**

each plus 5.5% tax and

\$2.00 shipping. To

order, mail payment and request to:

Wisconsin Veterans

Museum Gift Shop

30 West Mifflin Street

Madison, WI 53703

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip: _____



From the Archives

OPEN FOR RESEARCH

PAPERS OF THE WISCONSIN VETERANS HOME

Wanted: Library Books

The WVM Research Center currently has a military history library of more than 10,000 books. The collection includes scholarly works covering everything from the American Revolution through the Persian Gulf War, military field manuals from the Civil War to the present, and newsletters from military units and veterans organizations. We are always looking to add to our holdings, especially with books that relate specifically to Wisconsin veterans. Because we rely almost exclusively upon donations, we encourage Bugle readers to donate any military history books currently collecting dust on their bookshelves.

(See list on opposite page)

Many visitors to the Wisconsin Veterans Museum Research Center are seeking information about their family's history. To assist in that effort, the Research Center focuses its library collection on books related to the military service of Wisconsin men and women and the history of Wisconsin towns in war-time. The manuscript collections held by the Research Center can also provide valuable genealogical information in addition to historical context for family history research. One recently processed collection rich in both genealogical and historical information is the records of the Wisconsin Veterans Home.

Records and photographs related to the Wisconsin Veterans Home have been housed at the Museum for several years. Their valuable content was recently made available for public use through the funding of a two-year National Historic Publication and Records Commission grant. The grant was received in 2003 and, with its help, many invaluable collections are being readied for public access.



Civil War veterans at the Wisconsin Veterans Home, 1906

One of the first state veterans homes in the country, the Wisconsin Veterans Home allowed both veterans and their wives to live independently in small cottages and receive care and assistance as needed. This was a sharp contrast to the National Veterans Home in Milwaukee which only admitted veterans. The Wisconsin Veterans Home in King, Wis., opened in 1887 and is situated along the Chain-O-Lakes. The home offers veterans a scenic setting to enjoy their "twilight years" as Board member Dr. Frederick Marden termed.



Constructed in 1891, Fairchild Hall functioned as both a dining hall and a veteran's living quarters. It was torn down to make room for modern care facilities.

Originally named the Grand Army Home for Veterans, the Home provided care only for Civil War veterans. Today it is open to any Wisconsin veteran who served at least two years on active duty, the full period of their service obligation, or served on active duty for 90 or more days with one day in a wartime period. Spouses of eligible veterans may also reside at the Home.

Records available in the Research Center span the years 1866 to 1986 and provide a wealth of information about the administration of the Home, its residents, and the buildings and grounds. Administrative records are particularly strong from the 1900s to 1930 and document the change of control of the Home from a private board to the Adjutant General of the State of Wisconsin. Buildings and grounds information includes dedication materials for buildings constructed in the 1960s. There are also beautiful images of early Home buildings and the surrounding area.

The highlight of this collection, both for the genealogical information it offers and the personal face it gives to the Wisconsin Veterans Home, are the applications of both soldiers, wives, and widows to reside at the Home. Only veterans of the Civil War are represented in the applications. Soldier applications span 1887 until 1914 and include information about military service, disability, occupation, literacy, family members and addresses, and marriage dates. Wife or widow applications (1899-1911) provide information about the veteran status of their spouse, birth and marriage information, property, and health.

Curator's Chronicles

BATTLE FLAG MYSTERY

DETERMINING THE AGE

Welcome to another addition of the Curator's Chronicles. Although the Wisconsin Veterans Museum is the repository for the battle flags of all state military units, a few remain unaccounted for. When regiments retire the colors they traditionally return them to the state, but a small number stay with officers or get misplaced. Unless someone in the line of possession decides to turn these flags over to the state, they become lost or are destroyed. Luckily, there are folks out there who are attentive to the historical significance of these flags.

During the 1950s, John Wallschlaeger located what he believed was the Civil War flag of the 4th Wisconsin Infantry in the basement of a Milwaukee building awaiting demolition. Wallschlaeger brought the flag home and it accompanied the family through various moves. This spring as Mrs. Wallschlaeger prepared to sell her home and enter a condominium, she decided it was time to place the old silk color in the care of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum.

As it turns out the flag postdates the 1860s. The design of the state seal is different from that seen during the Civil War. The bigger problem is determining the exact date of the flag. The 4th Wisconsin went through several organiza-

tional transformations during its history. Starting as an infantry regiment in 1862, it was reorganized as cavalry in 1863. Following the end of the war, the regiment was disbanded. In 1892 the 4th was reformed as infantry, then disbanded again in 1899. Coming into existence one last time in 1917, the 4th Infantry was absorbed in 1918 into what became the 32nd Division.



The Wallschlaeger's donation of this 1917 battle flag is added to WVM's collection.

So we are left with two possibilities: the 1890s or 1917. The Veterans Museum already possesses the 1890s regimental flag from the 1917 period, that of the 3rd Infantry. The state seal of the 3rd Infantry flag is embroidered

while the 4th state seal is painted. There is, however, one distinctive feature that links the flags. Both state seals are executed with two cornucopias at the base of the shield. The state seal correctly includes only one cornucopia. It seems likely the two flags date from the same time based on this detail. Although not as old as first believed, the Wallschlaeger's flag is one of a very few flags dating to the 1917 time period. Our thanks to the Wallschlaeger family for their attentiveness and generosity.

By William Brewster

The Records and Photographs of the Wisconsin Veterans Home is just one collection rich in genealogical information at the WVM Research Center. This and other collections are available for public use from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. weekdays and by appointment.

By Abigail Miller

Wanted: Library Books

WVM Research Center staff has compiled a list of books that are particularly desired.

Below are a few selections from that list, which is available in full upon request.

Please contact Gayle Martinson at 608.261.0536 for more information.

- Service Record Book of the Men and Women of Highland, Wisconsin. (1956)
- Honor Roll, Lafayette County, World War Two (1950)
- Appleton in World War II by Evelyn Edythe Nelson (1946)
- Let your needles carry on!: A resume of the three years' effort by American Society for Russian Relief, Inc. (1946)
- War narratives: by students in La Crosse State Teachers College (1946)

Continued- From the Archives

These applications, when combined with other aspects related to the Home residents provides a sketch of life at the Home and residents' activities. Invaluable to understanding life at the Home is an oral history interview with Gen Remmel who lived there as a child, worked as a nurse, and retired to the Home. Her interview tells of the changes she observed at the Home between the mid-1900s and the early 1980s. There is also information about holiday celebrations at the Home and some information about specific residents.

From the Galleries

23RD WISCONSIN FLAG

The Wisconsin regimental and national battle flags from the Civil War are among the most cherished and admired artifacts at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum. When the Civil War ended, these flags were brought to the State Capitol for public display. When the Capitol burned down in 1904, citizens rushed in and saved the flags. Today, these flags are among remnants of the original museum collection. Ongoing efforts continue to conserve these tattered relics, and about half of the 200 flags have been successfully conserved to date.

The museum rotates a new flag into the galleries quarterly for public viewing. In July, a regimental flag of the 23rd Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry is scheduled for display. This unit's history dates back to August 30, 1862, when the regiment was officially mustered in at Camp Randall in Madison. Assigned to Gen. Ulysses S. Grant's western army, the 23rd was initially under the command of Col. Joshua J. Guppey, and later, Lt. Col. William F. Vilas, a future U.S. Senator. The regiment took part in 17 battles during its three years of service. One such engagement, the battle of Carrion Crow Bayou, Louisiana, is notable not for its significance in the war, but for what happened in the 23rd's history on that day. According to *The Battle Flags and Wisconsin Troops in the Civil War and War With Spain*, during the battle, the regimental colors were nearly lost to the enemy when the color bearer, George W. Johnson, was severely wounded in

both legs. To save the colors, Johnson hid the flag beside a log and covered it with leaves, hiding it from the enemy and enabling his fellow soldiers to recover it safely the following day. This story is told very differently in the *History of the Eighty-Third Ohio Volunteer Infantry*, which states that both the national and regimental flags of the 23rd Wisconsin were saved by men of the 83rd Ohio, who, upon seeing the Wisconsin color bearers go down, picked up the Wisconsin flags and kept them until they were able to be returned to the Wisconsin regiment after the battle.



23rd Wisconsin Flag, WVM Collections

The 23rd Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry flag was designed by Gilbert Hubbard & Co. of Chicago. Patterned after the Wisconsin State Flag of 1863, this flag is six feet by six feet-six inches and is made of silk. Its design consists of a blue background on which a version of the State Seal is hand-painted. Below the seal, a red banner identifies the unit. A golden fringe on the flag's borders completes the design. This flag was delivered to the regiment on January 16, 1865. An earlier regimental flag of the 23rd Wisconsin also exists at the Museum, but it continues to await conservation funds.

The regimental flag of the 23rd Wisconsin will be on display in the museum through September. Please take a few moments to view this amazing piece of history.

By Jake Hubbard

GALLERY TRIVIA

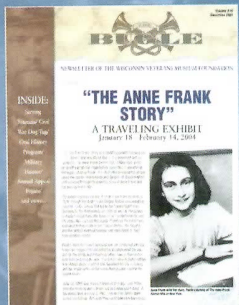
Are the guns real?

The following weapons are authentic: the firearms under the plexiglass cases, the M1 Garand rifle, the quad .50 caliber mount, and the 40 mm Bofors anti-aircraft gun. All of these weapons have been demilitarized, meaning they cannot be fired. Other authentic weapons include the two machine guns in the World War I display and the two mortars in the Korean War display. The remaining weapons on display are replica models, including those carried by the troops in the Antietam display, the 37 mm Cannon and machine guns on the tank, and the .50 Cal machine gun in the Gulf War display.

How do you change the lights way up there?

Whenever a light in one of the tall exhibit fixtures burns out, it presents a challenge. The museum has a hydraulic lift that is used to change burned out lamps. The lift is positioned under the burned out light. For safety reasons, there are always two people involved. One person gets into the lift, goes up to the fixture, changes the lamp, then lowers the lift to the floor level. The second person remains on the floor to act as back up in the event something should go wrong, such as the lowering button malfunctioning. That person can then lower the lift by using an emergency lever.

By M. Mortimer To submit your questions, please write:
The Bugle, 30 West Mifflin Street, Madison, WI 53703



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Preserving History

A WORK IN PROGRESS

WI NATIONAL GUARD MUSEUM

The Wisconsin National Guard Museum opened in 1984 at historic Volk Field near Camp Douglas. The Museum contains 2,800 square feet of exhibits featuring artifacts dating back to the 1st and 2nd Regiments of Civil War Volunteers and through to the National Guard's involvement in Operation Desert Storm. The Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs took over the management of the National Guard Museum in October 1999. It is now a satellite of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum.

After 20 years of operation, the Wisconsin National Guard Museum is in need of a major renovation. Progress is already being made. \$78,000 in funding so far has enabled us to dramatically improve the Museum's entryway – it is much more welcoming with new lighting and signage and it is now ADA compliant. An additional \$200,000 will be needed to completely redevelop the facility.

Presently, the badly outdated exhibits and exhibit space – the heart of the museum – are being redesigned. To modernize the displays, the Wisconsin Veterans Museum plans to engage the same exhibit team that built its Madison facility. Open dioramas, high quality graphics, and evocative lighting will help improve the educational value of museum visits. Visitors to the redeveloped Wisconsin National Guard Museum will include tourists, school groups, and the thousands of guard personnel who make use of the site.

\$200,000 is needed to complete the transformation. If you would like to help with a donation, please send your gift to: Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation, P.O. Box 2657, Madison, WI, 53701-2657.

By David Malone and Richard H. Zeitlin

From the Galleries

LOOK UP FOR "HUEY"

The largest object on display at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum (WVM) is the Bell UH-1M Iroquois helicopter that patrols the east end of the 20th Century Gallery. Nicknamed the "Huey," the UH-1 serves as one of the greatest symbols of American involvement in the Vietnam conflict.

The Huey defined the nature of the Vietnam War. It could do it all: move troops, attack the enemy, and evacuate the wounded. It became the backbone of the U.S. Army's Air Mobile doctrine, which called for large numbers of Hueys dropping Army soldiers on the battlefield. Because of its versatility, it quickly gained the favor of those who flew it. Dozens of countries around the world still use the Huey today, a testament to its design and proven capabilities.

WVM's Huey is a UH-1M, built in 1964. The Wisconsin Army National Guard assisted in finding and transporting it to Madison from its previous location in Iowa, where it served with the Iowa National Guard. Mechanics from Madison's 147th Aviation Battalion reassembled and installed the helicopter inside the museum. Since the intention was to display a "gunship" Huey, the U.S. Army provided XM-21 weapons system, and WVM purchased a repro-

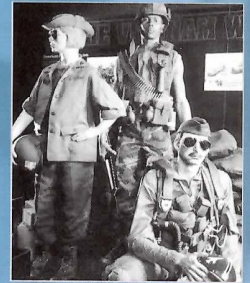


The Huey helicopter patrols WVM's other exhibits

duction M-60 machine gun for the door gunner. Next, a local artist re-painted the Huey in the scheme of Company D of the 229th Battalion of the U.S. 1st Cavalry. Brigadier General Kerry Denson, who flew "slicks" with B Company of the 229th in Vietnam in 1968, provided the unit markings. Designed by the Walt Disney Co., these markings show the 229th's mascot, the "Smiling Tiger." Denson also donated flight suits and helmets from his two Vietnam tours, which outfitted the crew of the WVM's Huey.

Next time you are in the galleries, do not forget to take a look at the Huey, one of the many top-notch exhibits on display at WVM.

By Jake Hubbard



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.

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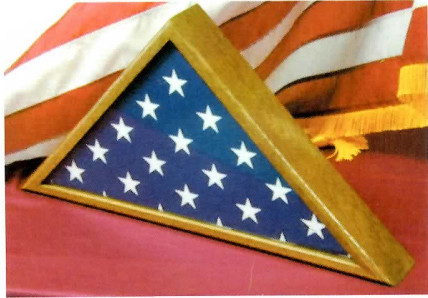
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