

THE BUGLE

NEWSLETTER OF THE WISCONSIN VETERANS MUSEUM FOUNDATION

Frontline

TALKING SPIRITS VI HIGHLIGHTING WWII



Students enjoy a portrayal of Bill "Uncle Sam" Leppien at "Talking Spirits V."

Laura Kocum

INSIDE:

Gala Invitation

For You /

Travel Trunks /

Honoring

Volunteers /

Treasured

Letters / Iraq &

Afghanistan

Exhibit To

Open /

Family Day At

The Farmers'

Market /

and more...

On Sunday, October 3, 2004, the Wisconsin Veterans Museum will hold the sixth annual Forest Hill Cemetery Tour. "Talking Spirits VI" will highlight the lives of individuals who contributed to the United States' World War II effort. The individuals portrayed in this year's tour include civilians and servicemen alike, each with their own unique background and achievements.

Again this year, WVM enlisted the help of local playwright Callen Harty to craft vignettes from primary sources gathered from archives, libraries, and the families of those being portrayed. Harty will use Social Security Administration head Arthur Altmeyer's numerous radio speeches, as well as William Gray Ogden's war diaries, which take the reader from basic training at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, to Tunisia, Sicily, and eventually, D-Day.

Along with Altmeyer and Ogden, "Talking Spirits VI" features the lives of such notables as historian and Holocaust survivor, George Mosse, and physician William S. Middleton, for whom VA Hospital in Madison is named. Perhaps the most interesting character this year is William J. Bleckwenn, a colonel with Wisconsin's 135th Medical Regiment who served in the South Pacific under the command of General Douglas MacArthur. Bleckwenn received two Legion of Merit awards in the service, but is best known for his work before the war, including the invention of sodium amytal, or "truth serum."

Other vignettes include Helene Monod Cassidy, a post-World War II refugee relief worker, Gordon Sinykin, a member of General MacArthur's staff and witness to the Japanese surrender on the USS *Missouri*, and Villiers

The Bugle

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

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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WISCONSIN
VETERANS
MUSEUM
30 W. Mifflin St.,
Madison, WI 53703
- On the Capitol Square
HOURS
Mon. - Sat.
9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Sunday Noon - 4 p.m.
(April-September)

Director's Corner

MOVING AHEAD

Difficult times can make for unexpected opportunities, an old saying goes. And the Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation is working hard to prove that it is so. The Foundation is engaged in fundraising activities to enable the museum to meet the challenges posed by the budget crisis affecting the government of the State of Wisconsin. The Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA)—the agency that operates the museum—has announced a bold plan to improve its financial condition. Together, the department and its museum intend to continue the legacy of commemorating the role of Wisconsin's veterans.

As an educational institution attached to WDVA, Wisconsin's economic condition directly affects the Wisconsin Veterans Museum (WVM). Roughly 85% of the museum's funding currently comes through state appropriations, primarily from the State's Veterans Trust Fund. In response to the state's financial challenges, WVM reduced its already limited staff by 7% and cut \$163,000 from its budget in the last two years.

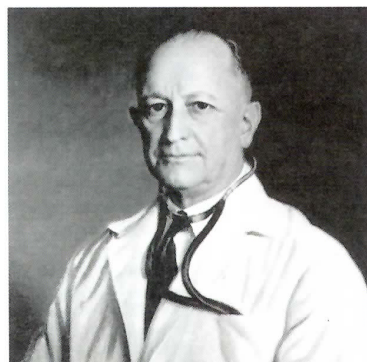
For WVM, changes will come in several ways. WDVA will

seek to acquire tax-based revenues or Indian Gaming funds through legislative action to use for space rental. In addition, and like all other units within the agency, WVM will cut 20% of its supplies and services budget.

WVM expects to move ahead despite the strained circumstances. We will develop exhibits in a portion of the Wisconsin National Guard Museum at Volk Field, for instance, starting in the fall. WVM will also mount two traveling exhibits that focus on Vietnam, as well as produce a series of educational presentations on the Vietnam War in light of recent historical research. The fall Cemetery Tour program is moving ahead. And, the plans for the fundraising dinner, as well as a golf outing are progressing nicely too. WVM is working to maintain its standing in the community, and its mission to "commemorate, acknowledge, and affirm the role of Wisconsin veterans in America's military past by means of instructive exhibits and other educational programs."

By **Richard H. Zeitlin**

Continued - Frontline



Dr. William S. Middleton

Courtesy Wisconsin State Historical Society Archives

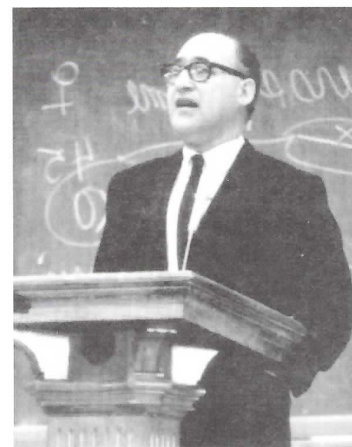
Meloche, a chemist who worked on the Manhattan Project.

During the two-hour guided walking tour, visitors will view nine living history vignettes and discover the cemetery's rich history and gravestone art.

Public tours at Forest Hill Cemetery are available on Sunday, October 3, from 12 p.m. until 4 p.m. Adult tickets are \$6 and children's tickets are \$3, and available at the cemetery gate on the day of the event. Golf carts are provided for visitors who cannot take the entire tour on foot, and free parking is available at West High School.

School and group tours will be held on Thursday and Friday, September 30 and October 1, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The cost per group is \$40 and maximum group size is 30 people. Time slots are already filling up. For more information, call Jeff Kollath at 608.261.0541.

By **Jeff Kollath**



George Mosse

Courtesy University of Wisconsin Archives

Upcoming Events

YOU'RE INVITED!

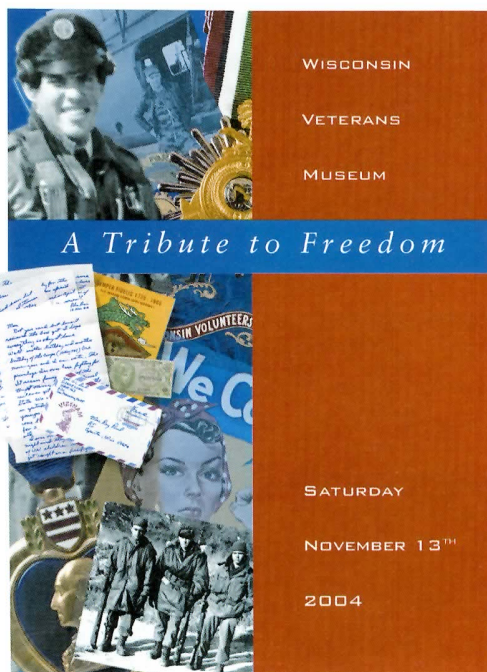
TRIBUTE TO FREEDOM GALA

November 13, 2004

It's that time once again, so mark your calendars! The third annual "Tribute to Freedom" gala is Saturday, November 13, 2004 at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum galleries. As always, the staff is leaving no stone unturned when it comes to planning the night's festivities, making this year's gala bigger and better than in years past.

Here's a taste of what you can expect: the evening begins at 6 p.m. with musical entertainment by Joy Dragland and Friends, cocktails and a silent auction where you can bid on items such as two round-trip tickets on Midwest Express, and gift certificates for some of Madison's fabulous restaurants. A formal dinner follows at 8 p.m. in the museum's award-winning galleries.

Tickets are \$100 per person and include cocktails, silent auction, entertainment, and dinner. To attend just the silent auction, the cost is \$50. Only 150 dinner tickets are available. All of the money raised from the gala will go to educational programs and exhibits. If you'd like to attend, please fill out the form below and mail it with your check payable to: WVM Foundation, P.O. Box 2657, Madison, WI 53701, by November 1st, or call Jennifer Dahl at 608.264.6086.



Don't forget, it's first come first serve. We hope to see you in November!

By Charlotte Deleste

We are delighted to attend "A Tribute to Freedom."

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-Mail: _____ Telephone: _____

- Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ for _____ persons at \$100 per person. Guest names and dinner selections are listed below.
- Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ for _____ persons at \$50 per person to attend the Silent Auction only.
- We are sorry that we are unable to attend, but enclosed is our contribution of \$ _____.

Menu Selection:

- #1 Beef Tenderloin with Salmon
- #2 Vegetarian

Please make checks payable to: **Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation.**
Kindly R.S.V.P. by Nov. 5, 2004. For more information call (608) 264-6086.

Museum Staff

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608.261.0540

Reference Archivist
Carrie Bohman
608.267.1790

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608.267.1799

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

Education Outreach

TAKING EDUCATION TO THE NEXT LEVEL

The Wisconsin Veterans Museum is excited about the new ideas our Educational Advisory Committee is bringing to the table. In March, we established a committee of educators from across the state.

The committee will assist museum educators in developing new curriculum-based programs that reach out to school-age children. Topics discussed include continuing the development of our travel trunk program, including Spanish translations in our scavenger hunt activity booklets and audio tours, learning to teach history in a way that interests young women, and creating a professional development program on-line.

Our current committee members are: Amy Lund, LaFarge High School; Loren Rathert, Curriculum Coordinator, Madison Metropolitan School District; Beth Trotter, Special Education, Windsor Elementary School; Barb Bauer, Windsor Elementary School; Jeanette Shipley, Forest Glen Elementary

School in Green Bay; Diane Flynn, Madison Country Day School in Waunakee; Beth Palus, Madison Country Day School in Waunakee; Joanne Kyle, Gifted & Talented, Whitewater Middle School; Linda Henkel, District Coordinator, Watertown Home Schools; William McLouglin, Wisconsin Challenge Academy in Fort McCoy; Steve Gerber, Burlington High School; Pete Gabrielson, Oconto High School.

We want to thank these volunteer members for their interest in serving our museum and continuing to educate our future leaders. If you have any questions or would like to request more information on the Educational Advisory Committee, please contact Jennifer Dahl, Curator of Visitor & Education Services at (608) 264-6086.

By Jennifer Dahl

TRAVEL TRUNKS: INVESTING IN THE FUTURE BY REMEMBERING THE PAST

British statesman Edmund Burke once said, "People will not look forward to posterity who will not look backward to their ancestors." This quote rings as true today as it did in the 18th century, and is a prime example of why we must always strive to preserve and remember the past. It is with this goal in mind that the Wisconsin Veterans Museum (WVM) has undertaken the task of sending out historic information and materials for educational purposes to schools across the state. The collections, known as "Travel Trunks," contain valuable resources on the role of the United States in military conflicts.

WVM created travel trunks for the American Civil War, World War I, and World War II all of which have been highly successful and greatly praised by teachers around the state. Incorporating artifacts from the museum's archives such as military uniforms and equipment, letters and photographs



Items in a World War II Travel Trunk

from soldiers, maps, etc., the travel trunks give teachers new and inventive ways to interest students in American history. Each travel trunk also gives detailed descriptions of the conflicts, as well as interesting facts, study and focus questions,

Upcoming Programs

TALKING SPIRITS VI: FOREST HILL CEMETERY
Sunday, October 3
12 p.m. – 4 p.m.

This is the sixth year for Wisconsin Veterans Museum's annual living history program. WVM will host public tours at Forest Hill Cemetery from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. Tickets are \$6 for adults and \$3 for children, and can be purchased at the cemetery gate on the day of the event. For group or individual reservations, please call Jennifer Dahl at 608.261.0541.

THE REGULARS: THE AMERICAN ARMY, 1898-1941
Thursday, October 14
12 p.m.
Lecture and book signing

Discover the story of the U.S. Army's development from 1890 to 1917. Emeritus University of Wisconsin History Professor, Edward M. "Mac" Coffman will present "The Transformation of the American Army from Frontier Constabulary to a Modern Army."

(Continued on facing page)

Volunteer Corner

LET'S HEAR IT FOR OUR VOLUNTEERS!

Once a year, we gather to celebrate and recognize our dedicated volunteer staff. This year the dinner was held on June 27 at The Madison Concourse Hotel & Governor's Club. Everyone had a wonderful time meeting new volunteers and reuniting with old friends.

Lance Herdegen, the founder of the Civil War Institute at Carroll College, was our keynote speaker. He shared some of his own life experiences and added flavor with authentic Civil War storytelling.

One of the highlights of the evening was the presentation of our annual volunteer recognition award. This year we named it "The Fred G. Cook Legacy Award." Fred was a father, husband, grandfather, soldier, friend and one of our greatest volunteers. The two award recipients, Robert Clampitt and Dave Hoeveler, both retired Army veterans, were joined by Fred's children, Jim Cook and Rebecca Seglem, who presented them with awards. Both Clampitt

and Hoeveler have been with the museum for 10 years giving tours and educating our youth in veteran panel discussions.

Currently, we have 91 volunteers working in all areas of the museum. The majority of our volunteer staff are veterans who continue to set an example of service by volunteering their time to educate our youth.

A special thank you to Jim Cook, Rebecca Seglem, Professor Lance Herdegen, the Madison Concourse Hotel staff, and especially to all of our volunteers for your dedicated service to the Wisconsin Veterans Museum.

If you are interested in volunteering at WVM, please call Jennifer Dahl, Curator of Visitor & Education Services at (608)264-6086.

By Jennifer Dahl

Continued - Education Outreach

and important terms that students should know. Currently, two more travel trunks are in the process of development over the summer, for the Korean and Vietnam Wars. Each will contain much of the same materials for students and teachers as the other three, and will also include audio commentary from Wisconsin veterans, music and artwork from the era, and possibly video. WVM hopes to convey history using a variety of resources.



A salute to WVM's travel trunks

Jennifer Dahl

Elementary, middle school, and even high school teachers may now use travel trunks to introduce students to the trials and triumphs of our nation's history in conflicts around the globe. Hard work and dedication by staff



Students wear uniforms from WVM's travel trunks.

Jennifer Dahl

and volunteers has gone into developing the travel trunk project, with progress moving ahead steadily. And recalling what Edmund Burke had to say on the subject, we know the returns of such a venture will indeed be priceless.

By Peter Kraemer

Upcoming Programs (cont.'d)

**PRELUDE TO WAR:
THE AMERICAN
ARMY IN THE 1920'S
AND 1930'S**
Evening lecture and
book signing
6:30p.m.

Further explore the history of the armed forces between the wars with "Mac" Coffman. The Madison History Roundtable will host the lecture at the West Side Club, located at 3706 Junction Road. Cash bar opens at 6:30, with dinner at 7:00, and Coffman's talk to follow at 8:00. The cost is \$15 per person. Coffman will also sign copies of The Regulars: The American Army, 1898-1941.

**THE AMERICAN
JAPANESE**
Thursday, October 28
7p.m.
Lecture and book
signing

Using the life stories of World War II veteran Akira and Mary Toki to discuss the patriotism of the Japanese during World War II, despite the racism that existed during the time, author Art Rathburn highlights vignettes from his new book, The American Japanese.

(Continued on
pg. 6)

From the Archives

TREASURED LETTERS

KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH FAMILY

Upcoming Programs

(cont.'d)

WIMMER-CHURCHILL LECTURE
 Featuring Sir Anthony Montague Browne
 Thursday, November 4
 12p.m.

Learn about the life of Winston Churchill from his private secretary. First serving as a pilot with the Royal Air Force from 1941-1945, Browne became Churchill's Private Secretary in 1952, serving him during his second Premiership and throughout his retirement. After Churchill's death, Browne served in the Royal Household, and later became Chairman of the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust.

BOOK FAIR AT BARNES & NOBLE EAST
 Saturday, November 6
 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Support the Wisconsin Veterans Museum by visiting Barnes & Noble Booksellers at East Towne Mall. See page 8 for more information.

(Continued on facing page)

Maintaining a strong bond with those at home has been important to military personnel throughout American military history. Letters to loved ones were highlights written during downtimes in between tense situations. Many wrote to their siblings, and that correspondence provides a different look at the military experience than letters to spouses or parents.

Siblings share a special bond. Growing up together, some brothers and sisters have particularly close relationships based on closeness in age, shared experiences, and a sense of togetherness not shared with parents. Service personnel tell their siblings things about war they would not share with parents and do not feel the same need to reassure as they do with parents.

But letters between brothers and sisters are uncommon. Many in the service wrote to their parents with the intention that letters be shared with the family. While it is likely that mail was received between siblings, much of this correspondence did not survive the war.

Civil War soldier James W. Skeels (WVM Mss 679) shared a special bond with his sister, Lucia Skeels Porter. He wrote frankly of his service with the 1st Wisconsin Cavalry telling her, "I did not spend a very pleasant Christmas...In fact, I felt homesick that night." Such open discussion of emotions is uncommon in Civil War letters, lending a clue to the bond between this brother and sister. James wrote to Lucia about camp life, weather, drilling, capturing a steamboat, and being under siege by Confederate troops. The last letter Lucia received from her brother was dated March 30, 1864 telling her of "dull"

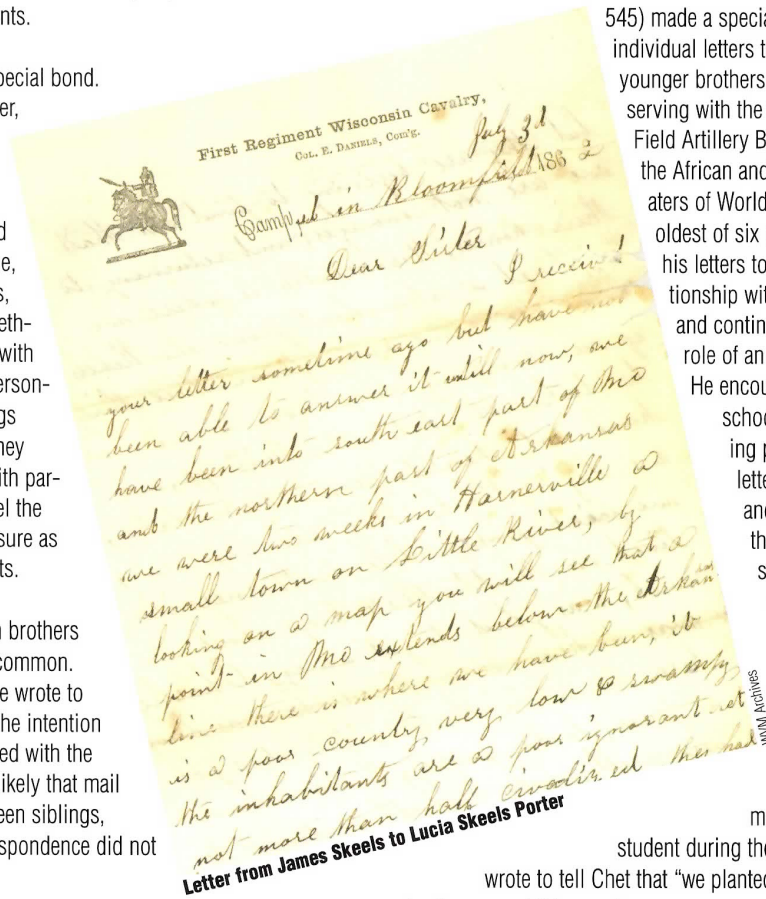
camp life. On May 9, 1864 James was taken prisoner at Varnell's Station (Georgia) and held at Florence (South Carolina). He was released from prison camp into a Union hospital and there is no record of him after that.

Chester "Chet" Budish (WVM Mss 545) made a special point to write individual letters to each of his younger brothers and sisters while serving with the 62nd Armored Field Artillery Battalion in both the African and European theaters of World War II. As the oldest of six children, he used his letters to further his relationship with his siblings and continue the guiding role of an older brother.

He encouraged good schoolwork, improving penmanship and letter writing skills, and congratulated them on school successes. His letters also encouraged his family to undertake patriotic works. Little brother Richard, an elementary school

student during the war, proudly wrote to tell Chet that "we planted a victory garden in our yard this year."

Some siblings have an especially close bond. Betty Whitney Prieve (Mss 2004.2) and her brother Clarence Whitney are a perfect example. Betty joined the Navy in January of 1944 because her brother was already in the Navy and they "always did things together" (oral history interview, March 11, 2004). They remained close during World War II, stationed at the same Naval base, even managing to eat together. After being transferred to different bases, they exchanged weekly letters and Clarence also wrote Betty before each bombing mission he flew. Clarence was killed



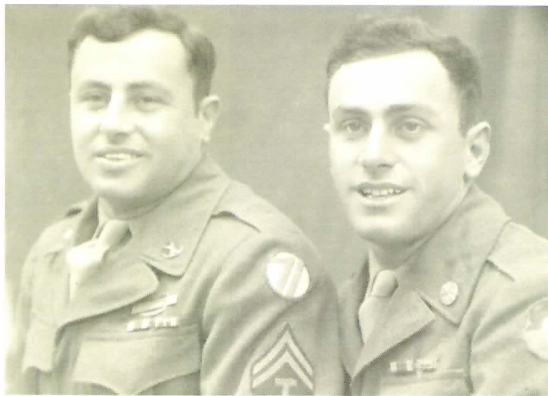
Letter from James Skeels to Lucia Skeels Porter

Continued - From the Archives

in action in the spring of 1944.

Continuing a family relationship was more difficult for members of the Aronson family (Mss 2003.172 and Mss 2004.16). The

six Aronson brothers faced a difficult challenge keeping in touch during World War II. Leonard, Sam, George, and Maurice all served in Europe and wrote letters home to older brother Harry



Leonard and Sam Aronson on leave in Burgan, Germany

and his wife, Mary. It was difficult for soldiers in Europe to receive mail from one another, so family communication was maintained through Harry, who did not serve. With the death of their mother (Emilia Aronson) in 1938, Mary became a mother figure for the boys. The brothers wrote home about a range of topics including sight-seeing in various European cities, weather, training activities, long wait for mail, and information about other soldiers from Oconto, Wis. The youngest brother, Arthur, wrote to Harry and Mary while serving in the Korean War.

Brothers Stephen and Alan Piotrowski (WVM Mss 12) forged a unique bond over their service in the Vietnam War. Older brother Alan wrote home during his military service to his younger brothers and sisters Stephen, Tony, and Rita. These letters are very open about the realities of war including the conditions and the high casualty rate of his unit. Writing freely about his military experiences, Alan's letters offer just a glimpse of the difficulties in Vietnam and contrast these with other letters which he states he will return unscathed and ready to drive the new car his brother



Betty Whitney Prieve and Clarence Whitney

Stephen helped him find. Younger brother Stephen was drafted in June of 1968. The letters he sent to Alan illustrate Stephen's appreciation that he has someone who understands what he is going through. These extremely candid letters portray military life and the situation in Vietnam in a matter-of-fact

way. He is able to fully demonstrate the mentality of a combat soldier interspersing the horrific injuries of his friends with requests for money and tales of the previous day's recreation.

These are just a few of the collections at the WVM Research Center that illustrate the communication between siblings during military service. While these collections have been housed at the Museum for several years, their rich content was recently made available for public use through the funding of a two-year National Historic Publications and Records Commission grant. The grant was received in July 2003 and, with its help, many invaluable collections are being readied for public access.

The above collections and many others like them are available for public use from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. weekdays, and by appointment.

By Abigail Miller

MANUSCRIPT EXHIBITS

The Research Center features a manuscript display case that highlights the papers and photographs of Wisconsin veterans. Visitors to the museum are encouraged to view the manuscript exhibits on the 3rd floor of the building. Here is a list of some upcoming exhibits:

August-September: Soldier Art

Complimenting the temporary exhibit of Santos Zingale's art in the main gallery, this manuscript exhibit will feature the drawings and sketches, both serious and humorous, that soldiers included in letters home to better relate their experiences to their loved ones.

September-October: POWs and MIAs

To commemorate National POW/MIA Day on Sept. 14, this exhibit will contain materials documenting the experiences of soldiers who were held prisoner as well as the families of those who remain missing in action.

October-November: Elections in the Military

The theme of this year's state Archives Week is "electoral politics." This exhibit will highlight the significant role that military personnel have played in past elections, including campaigning directed at them.

Exhibit Schedule

FALL 2004

TWO WARS EXHIBITS: IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN

This exhibit highlights recent donations from two Wisconsin soliders. For more information, see *Curator's Chronicles* on page 8.

Upcoming Programs

(cont.'d)

POWDER, PEOPLE, AND PLACE
Thursday, November 18
7 p.m.
Lecture

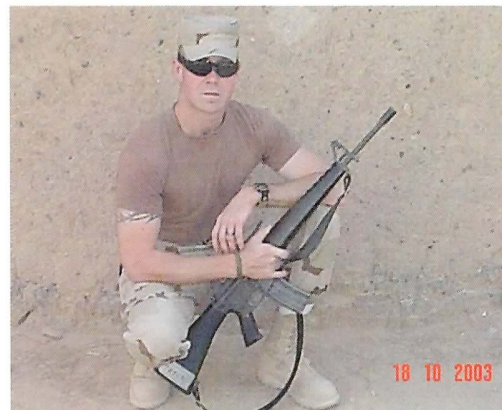
Explore the history of the Badger Ordnance Works with Michael J. Goc, the recent winner of the Wisconsin Historical Society's 2004 Book Award of Merit for excellent scholarship in documenting and interpreting Wisconsin history. Located between Sauk City and Baraboo, the plant produced ammunition from WWII through Vietnam. Badger was vital to the U.S. effort in Southeast Asia, acting as the largest producer of rounds for the M-16 rifle.

Curator's Chronicles

TWO WARS EXHIBIT: IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN

In mid-September, the Wisconsin Veterans Museum (WVM) will open a new temporary exhibit featuring Wisconsin's contributions to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. *Two Wars* will highlight recent donations from Jeff Carnes of Jefferson and Frank Kaiser of Mauston. Staff Sergeant Carnes, an Arabic linguist, served with the 2nd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division. Airman First Class Kaiser served the Wisconsin Air National Guard's 128th Air Control Squadron. Airman Kaiser's squadron was deployed to Afghanistan while Staff Sergeant Carnes participated in the ground invasion of Iraq and occupation activities. During the initial stages of combat south of Baghdad, Staff Sergeant Carnes worked with Iraqi civilians locating mine-

they worked with the local Kurdish population. Staff Sergeant Carnes is currently on duty training linguists stateside.



Airman First Class Kaiser in Afghanistan

WVM Archives



Staff Sergeant Jeff Carnes in Kuwait

WVM Archives

In the fall of 2003, Frank Kaiser and the 128th Air Control Squadron participated in Operation Enduring Freedom. Operating from Kandahar International Airport, the 128th ACS provided ground control; monitoring and direction of air weapons and ground-to-air communications for missions directed at Taliban and Al-Qaida targets. Kaiser's Squadron worked closely with Air Force and Air National Guard units. Romanian troops from the coalition forces provided airfield security.

These collections represent the first material from the current conflicts given to WVM. Both contain objects, photographs and documents that will lead to a better understanding of our military's activities abroad. We are all indebted to these veterans for their service and support.

By William Brewster

WVM Outreach

BOOK FAIR FUNDRAISER

On Saturday, November 6, Barnes & Noble East Towne (1 East Towne Mall) will host a book fair with proceeds going to the Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation (WVMF). By using the voucher on page 9, a portion of each purchase of books, music, or movies will go to the WVMF, further aiding the development of public programs and exhibits. Plus, the more you purchase, the more the WVMF receives, so stock up! In 2002, the book fair held with

Barnes & Noble West Towne raised nearly \$10,000, and this year's event hopes to exceed that. In conjunction with the book fair, there will be children's arts and crafts, lectures by local military history authors, and World War II re-enactors available for questions and discussion. Please call Jeff Kollath at 261.0541 with any questions.

By Jeff Kollath

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 _____



WVM Outreach

FAMILY DAY: A VICTORY!

On Saturday, August 14, the Wisconsin Veterans Museum (WVM) hosted its second Family Day program of the season by commemorating the planting of Victory Gardens on the home front during World War II.



The table at Farmers' Market

Charlotte Deleste

for the first time, while others recalled their own experiences growing and canning vegetables during the war years.

Americans planted Victory Gardens during World War I and World War II in response to food shortages, skyrocketing prices, and the rationing of canned goods. By 1943, 54% of American families had gardens, with twenty million new gardens started that year alone. Gardening became a "mental tonic" for Americans concerned about the war, serving not only as a way to exercise their mind and body, but also a patriotic contribution to the war effort.



Jeff Kollath, Curator of Programs, being interviewed by 27 News.

Charlotte Deleste

Held on the Capitol Square during the Farmers' Market, WVM staff and volunteers passed out nearly 100 indoor herb gardens containing basil, oregano, thyme, and chives to children and adults. Some learned about Victory Gardens



Volunteers explain the Victory Garden basics.

Charlotte Deleste

Each garden not only came with growing directions, but also a letter detailing the history of Victory Gardens and a vocabulary exercise. The promotion and recognition the museum gets at each of these events pays dividends in our visitor numbers.

By Jeff Kollath

Do You Know?

Are the trees real? What about the cornstalks in the Antietam diorama?

The Wisconsin Veterans Museum galleries feature several plants along with three different types of trees. In the camp scene is an oak tree, in the Battle of the Bulge, pine trees and in the Buna Diorama, coconut trees. In the Antietam diorama there are cornstalks. All of the plants are artificial! There are two reasons for this. One is that everything has to be fireproof or fire-resistant. The other reason is to avoid attracting insects to the galleries.

Is that real water?

The water looks real but it's not. After the groundwork is done and has dried, the ground is painted a darker color, giving the impression of wetness. After the paint has dried, clear resin is put down layer after layer until the desired height is reached. Coloring is added to the resin to give it a dirty appearance. The resin is allowed to cure until hard. You will notice the areas that look like water in the World War I trench display and in the Buna display.

By M. Mortimer

BARNES & NOBLE
BOOKSELLERS
BOOKFAIR VOUCHER

WISCONSIN VETERANS
MUSEUM

Location: Barnes & Noble, East
Towne Mall, Madison
Date/Time: Saturday, November 6,
2004; 1:00 – 5:00p.m.

Present this voucher at the cash registers at the time of purchase. A percent of the net sale will be donated to the organization.

For Office Use Only:
Register #: _____ Transaction #: _____

Amount of sale before tax less purchase of Gift Cards, Membership Cards and café consumables: \$ _____

The following transactions are not included in Bookfair totals: The purchase of Gift Cards, Membership cards, and café consumables.

From the Archives

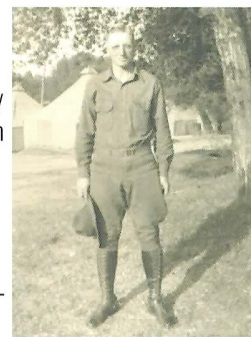
TO BE PUBLISHED

VAN ELLS TO EDIT PAPERS OF WWII VET WILBUR BERGET

As long-time Bugle readers will recall, I worked for many years in the Wisconsin Veterans Museum (WVM) archives collecting manuscripts and interviewing veterans. I left the museum in 1998 to finish my Ph.D. and resume teaching. I taught at UW-Platteville for several years, and eventually landed at Queensborough Community College, a division of the City University of New York (CUNY).

Funded by a grant from the CUNY Research Foundation, I had the pleasure of returning to the Research Center this past summer to conduct historical research. I came to Madison to work with the papers of Wilbur C. Berget, a World War II veteran from Gratiot. WVM curator Bill Brewster and I are editing the numerous letters and photographs in the Berget collection with the goal of publishing them in book form.

Drafted in February 1941, Berget was in the first group of men from Lafayette County to leave for the war. He began the war as a private riding horses in the cavalry, and ended it as a supply officer with the 12th Armored Division in Europe. After having survived the entire war, Berget died in a traffic accident in Germany on Christmas Eve 1945. Throughout his nearly five years in the army, Berget remained closely connected to his family through hundreds of lively and descriptive letters. His correspondence provides an unusually revealing glimpse into the world of World War II GIs — what they saw, felt, and how the war changed them.

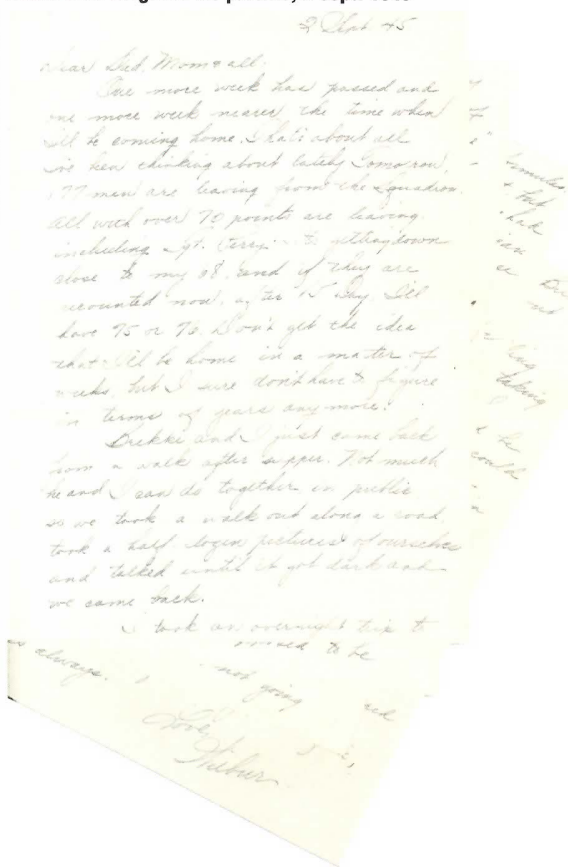


Wilbur C. Berget, ca.1942

Wilbur C. Berget Papers (WVM Miss 64)

Letter from Berget to his parents, 2 Sept. 1945

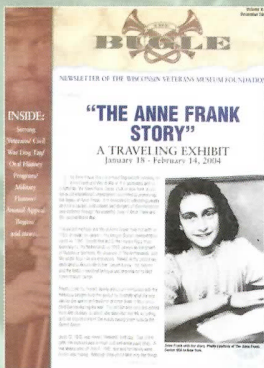
Wilbur C. Berget Papers (WVM Miss 64)



Berget was an unusually articulate soldier who recorded what he saw and thought faithfully and regularly. He described his war experiences to his family in remarkable detail, almost as if he were a newspaper reporter, yet his writing retains the personal intimacy of a conversation over the kitchen table. Reading the letters, one gets a clear sense of the war's sights, sounds, and smells. He comments extensively on numerous topics related to military life, such as camp life, the food, bureaucracy, recreational activities, and the tragic realities of war. Berget's letters vividly depict the way the American GI saw World War II.

The Berget letters are one of the many historical treasures in the WVM archives. The museum's manuscript collections contain thousands of documents, recordings, and other items that are invaluable to historians. These materials are made available to researchers by a highly professional and friendly staff. In my view, the WVM archives are one of the richest repositories of military history in the Midwest, and perhaps in the nation. I plan to use the Research Center's collections many more times in future research projects.

By Mark D. Van Ells



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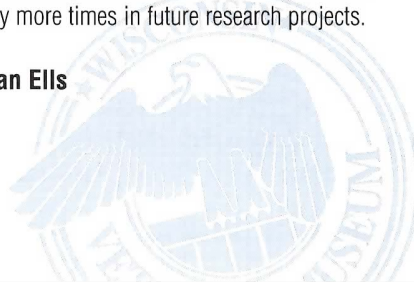
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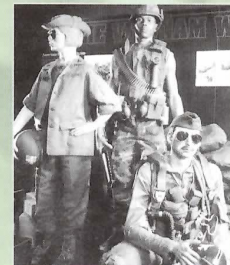
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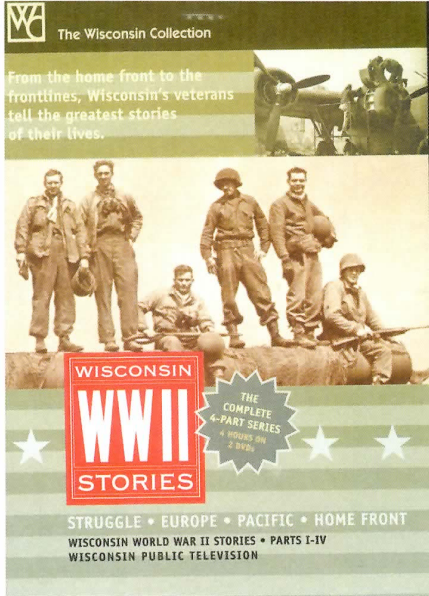
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