
DANE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER



The Dane County Historical Society Office and the Otto Schroeder Records Center are located in the lower level of the Lussier Family Heritage Building on Lake Farm Road just south of the Beltline near Lake Waubesa.

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Dane County Historical Society Receives Grant of Preservation Books

By Mary Clark

"America's collections are for everyone. They are discovered billions of times a year in libraries and museums across the country. They enlighten and inspire all of us. Yet they are at risk." Institute of Museum and Library Services

Several years ago, the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) began a multi-year, multi-faceted national initiative to raise public awareness of the failing condition of historical collections held by our nation's museums and libraries. The initiative was grounded in the results of a 2005 report entitled, *A Public Trust at Risk: the Heritage Health Index Report on the State of America's Collections*. The report revealed that our nation's historical collections of objects, documents, digital material, and living collections, which are essential to America's cultural health, are imperiled and in need of swift protective action.

The study's findings were sobering.

- 190 million objects held by archives, historical societies, libraries, museums, and scientific organizations in the United States are in need of conservation treatment
- 65% of collecting institutions have experienced damage to collections due to improper storage
- 80% of collecting institutions do not have an emergency plan that includes collections, with staff trained to carry it out
- 40% of institutions have no funds allocated in their annual budgets for preservation or conservation.

As part of the initiative, the IMLS put together a set of resources called *Connecting to Collections Bookshelf*.

Complete sets of the Bookshelf resources have been provided to local historical organizations, as part of a grant program to help improve the care and preservation of collections in smaller museums and historical societies. Awards of the Bookshelf collection are made through a competitive application process.

Dane County Historical Society is honored to have been chosen for one of just fourteen Bookshelf awards made to Wisconsin institutions this year.

In June 2009 Dr. Anne-Imelda Radice, Director of the IMLS, announced the awards to Dane County Historical Society and the other museums, libraries, historical societies and archives that were selected to receive the *Bookshelf* resources in this third and final round of awards. The IMLS Bookshelf awards are made possible by a cooperative agreement with the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) with support from the Getty Foundation,

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the Henry Luce Foundation, and the Samuel H. Kress Foundation.

In announcing this year's awards, Dr. Radice said, "When IMLS and our partners began the journey to help save America's collections three years ago, we knew that money and appropriate resources would prove major barriers between many of our nation's collecting institutions and proper collections care. With the *Connecting to Collections Bookshelf* initiative, we were able to offer these institutions tools to help them preserve and conserve their treasures for future generations. We commend them for answering this call to action."

These words ring very true for the Dane County Historical Society. Our archive contains some wonderful publications, archival collections, maps, clippings, photographs and more. We strive to manage, preserve and store these materials in the best circumstances in a very small space and with limited funds.

The Bookshelf is intended as a permanent resource to help the receiving institutions improve the condition of their collections. These are important resources that the Dane County Historical Society simply would not have been able to afford separately on our own. As stated in our grant application, the Society's greatest need in seeking award of the Bookshelf collection is in the area of planning, disaster recovery, and determining the best and safest meth-

ods to utilize and organize our physical space. The Otto Schroeder Records Center, operated by DCHS, is located in a single small archive room which is on a lower building level and in which the air quality and physical environment is fairly static. In spring of 2008 the Society's archive sustained two separate incidents of water seepage into the physical building. With those incidents, we learned first hand (and very quickly) how to recover and preserve items; we had to make crucial decisions on repair, conservation and preservation. We had to learn about environmental concerns and health safety for our volunteers as well as for the collection. The reference materials to which we now have access through this Bookshelf collection will help us move forward with these types of decisions as we strive to manage the collection.

The Bookshelf includes books, DVDs, and other resources, as well as an extensive *Guide to Online Resources* and a *User's Guide* to the whole collection. The resources in the Bookshelf address such topics as the philosophy and ethics of collecting, collections management and planning, emergency preparedness, and culturally specific conservation issues. The collection is valued at over \$800. The titles in the Bookshelf were selected by experts on caring for and preserving special collections of various types.

Dane County Historical Society will use the

Bookshelf resources to provide guidance in dealing with our limited physical space in the best way possible to protect and preserve our collection. We want to come up with a comprehensive archive plan and incorporate that plan and procedures into everyday operations. We hope to use the resources in the Bookshelf collection to update our archives collection policy and to create a new disaster plan for the Otto Schroeder Records Center.



Looking Into the Past: A Fun Flickr Project

By Stef Morrill

Flickr <<http://www.flickr.com>> is a photo sharing site that's fun to explore for historical photos.

An interesting new project on the site is called "Looking into the Past."

<<http://www.flickr.com/groups/lookingintothepast/pool/>> Photographers are taking pictures of places, using old pictures of the same locations within the new pictures, by holding up the old photo in the correct location, so it appears you are literally "looking into the past."

You can contribute to this fun project by joining the group pool and posting your own pictures! For more information about Flickr, see their "What is Flickr?" page at <http://www.flickr.com/tour/>.



Photo credit: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/brucesterling/3625657634/>

If anyone would like to try this for places within Dane County, the Dane County Historical Society would love to see your photos and will post your pictures on our website. Email a copy of your photo to dchshistory@danecountyhistory.org. We will post to the website as time and space allow. Please include your full name, so we can credit the photo to you. Also be sure to tell us exactly where and when you took the picture and include any information, history or stories about the site.

Places That Matter Photo Contest

By Mary Clark



Photo credit: <http://www.preservationnation.org/take-action/this-place-matters>

Dane County has hundreds of beautiful and historic places - government buildings, neighborhoods, barns, parks, churches, downtown districts and more. It's up to all of us to make sure our favorite landmarks are recognized, treasured and preserved. Too often, places that matter to us can be lost in a heartbeat - sometimes even before we realize they will be missed. The best way to save a place that matters is to call attention to it and to value it before it is endangered.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation helps people protect, enhance and enjoy the places that matter to them. The National Trust for Historic Preservation and Fireman's Fund Insurance are sponsoring a *Places that Matter* photo contest. Your photo could win! All you have to do is submit a photo of a place that matters to you, using the free upload tool at the website of the National Trust for Historic Preservation (<http://www.preservationnation.org/take-action/this-place-matters>). Your photo should include someone holding up a sign indicating that "this place matters." Your photo could win one of three fabulous prizes.

The grand prize winner will receive a Panasonic Lumix ZS3 digital camera. Two runners-up will each receive a Panasonic Lumix ZS1 digital camera as well.

You may enter as many digital photos as you wish between now and September 15, 2009. Ten photos will be selected as finalists by a jury, after which a public online vote will determine the final winners. Each photo you enter increases your chances of winning one of the three big prizes. The competition is open

to all photographers age 18 or older. Please read the full rules before entering.

Dane County has hundreds of places that matter to us. The Dane County Historical Society would love to see Dane County places recognized and included in this project. If you have a special place within our county, please consider submitting a picture of it as part of this project.

Sharing Dane County's story is easy:

1. Have a photo taken at your favorite place in Dane County. (Make sure you or someone in the photo holds the **This Place Matters** sign. Copies of the sign are available on the official website - or make your own sign)
2. Upload your photo and a brief description or story at www.preservationnation.org/thisplacematters
3. Tell your family and friends to view your special place online - and submit their own.

If you enter the This Place Matters photo contest, be sure to let Dane County Historical Society know that you have submitted an entry; drop us an email at dchshistory@danecountyhistory.org. We would love to include your photos on our DCHS website as well. We encourage everyone to submit a photo to the contest and/or vote for Dane County photos, to recognize the important and treasured places within our beautiful county.

Google Books: A Source for Historical Research

By Stef Morrill

If you haven't tried Google Books <<http://books.google.com>> for your historical research, it might be a really handy tool to add to your toolbox. The University of Wisconsin - Madison and the Wisconsin Historical Society have partnered with Google and are in the process of digitizing portions of their collections and making them available online through Google Books. Books, state government documents, genealogical resources, and other resources are being added on a daily basis from these two institutions and from others around the country.

Like other Google services, you can just type a search term in the box and see what you get. However, knowing a couple of tips will get you better results:

- Not all titles are available in full-text (called "full view"); Google will search the entire collection for your term, which means you may get a result that you can't instantly view online.
- For those books not available in full view, you will see either a snippet view (a portion of the

book) or no preview. Each entry in your results list will indicate the type of view available.

- It's easy to limit your search to things you can see in full view. Choose "Full view only" from the pull-down below the search box.
- You can also search for terms in specific fields, like author, title, or subject. Click "Advanced Book Search" by the search button at the top.
- Google Books includes more than just books! It also includes magazines; sometimes back to the beginning of the publication. Try an advanced search for "Harley Davidson" searching only in magazines, and you'll find some great examples going back to 1914!

For more information on advanced search, check out this video from Google:

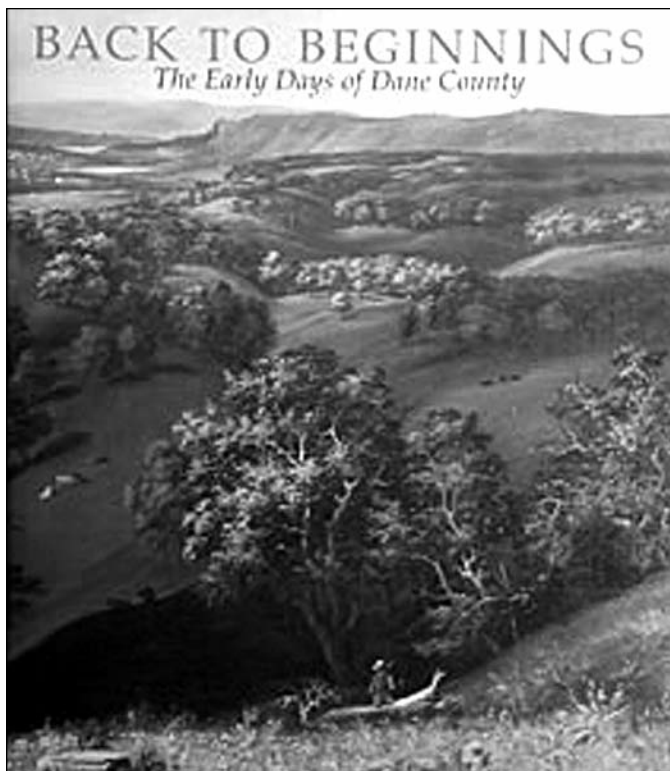
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nAJ8x3JrD1Y>

There's also a great testimonial from a genealogist on YouTube, featuring a dancing bear!:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UwnbCmVrISQ>

The screenshot shows the Google Books search interface. The search bar contains the text "dane wisconsin history". Below the search bar, there are buttons for "Search Books" and "Advanced Book Search". The results are displayed in a list format, showing the first 10 of 616 books. Each result includes a small thumbnail image of the book cover, the title, the page number, the author, and the publication year. The first result is "The history of agriculture in Dane County, Wisconsin - Page 213" by Benjamin Horace Hibbard, published in 1905. The second result is "Wisconsin magazine of history - Page 105" by the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, published in 1921. The third result is "A history of agriculture in Wisconsin - Page 109" by Joseph Schafer, published in 1922. The fourth result is "Bulletin of the University of Wisconsin - Page 67" by the University of Wisconsin, published in 1904. The fifth result is "A history of Norwegian immigration to the United States from the earliest ... - Page 164" by George Tobias Flom, published in 1909.

Back to Beginnings: The Early Days of Dane County



This beautiful 60 page soft-bound volume is richly illustrated with color and B&W illustrations. It was published by the Dane County Cultural Affairs Commission for the Wisconsin Sesquicentennial in 1998. Featuring early maps, photographs, drawings, engravings, and artifacts, the book highlights major developments in county history, from pre-settlement days through the Civil War.

\$9.00 for DCHS members!!

\$12.00 for non-members

Order from the Dane County Historical Society website
<http://www.danecountyhistory.org/publications/orderdcca.pdf>

or use the order form below

I would like to order _____ copies of *Back to Beginnings: the Early Days of Dane County*

Dane Co. Historical Society **MEMBERS** @ \$9.00 each \$ _____

OR

NON-MEMBERS @ \$12.00 each \$ _____

Shipping & Handling: Add \$3.00 per copy \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Make checks payable to: Dane County Historical Society

Mail to: Dane County Historical Society
3101 Lake Farm Road
Madison, WI 53711

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Wisconsin County Histories Now Online

The Wisconsin Historical Society announces its newest online collection, Wisconsin County Histories, at <http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/wch/>. You will want to check out this new tool for local history and genealogy research.

This site gives free full text access to more than 80 standard histories of Wisconsin counties - including Dane County. Most of these volumes are several hundred pages long and include detailed accounts of nearly 500 individual cities, townships and villages, as well as biographical sketches of prominent residents. Most were published between 1850 and 1920.

The county history included in the collection for Dane County is *Biographical Review of Dane County*,

Wisconsin: Containing Biographical Sketches of Pioneers and Leading Citizens. Chicago: Biographical Review Publishing Co., 1893.

There are over 56,000 pages of these county histories; and every word is searchable, so you can find specific descriptions of people, places, and events; you can also find descriptions of a village, township, city or other community.

Every volume can be downloaded to your own computer as a PDF file. Because many of these original books are very large, you may have to be patient when opening or downloading them. If you need help, use the link at the bottom of every page.

DANE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Please renew your membership if you have not already done so. Your continued interest and support enables the Society to carry out its goal preserving Dane County's heritage for tomorrow's generation.

(Circle your choice.)

Individual - \$15.00

Family - \$20.00

Contributing - \$45.00

Sustaining - \$65.00

Business/Professional - \$40.00

Student- \$10.00

Make your check payable to:
Dane County Historical Society.

Mail to:
Dane County Historical Society
3101 Lake Farm Rd. • Madison WI 53711

The Dane County Historical Society has an office and archive room in the lower level of the Lussier Family Heritage Center, Lake Farm County Park at 3101 Lake Farm Road.

Phone: 608-224-3605
e-mail: dchs@danecountyhistory.org

Makes A Great Gift!

Dane County Historical Society Presents **FORWARD! A History of Dane: the Capital County**



FORWARD traces the history of Dane County through the twentieth century. As home to state government, Dane County history provides background and insight into the development of Wisconsin throughout this period. The book was researched and written by Allen Ruff and Tracy Will. Tracy Will is well known to many Wisconsinites as one of the hosts of the popular television series, *Wisconsin Stories*, developed cooperatively by Wisconsin Public Television and the Wisconsin Historical Society. The first published history of Dane County in nearly 100 years is replete with fascinating details and rich graphics. It has over 400 pages of text, hundreds of pictures, complete index, maps, photos, and graphics enliven the text.

I would like to order _____ number of copies:

Dane Historical Society Members @ \$26.95 each \$ _____

OR Non-Members @ \$29.95 each \$ _____

Shipping and Handling: Add \$3.00 per copy \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Mail to: DCHS, 3101 Lake Farm Rd., Madison, WI 53711
If you wish to pick up the book in person to save shipping and handling charge, please call DCHS (608-224-3605)

Dane County Historical Society
3101 Lake Farm Rd.
Madison, WI 53711

Return Service Requested

Please check your mailing label. If it says 2008, then you have not yet renewed your subscription in DCHS. Please renew now!! If it says COUR, you are receiving this Courtesy Copy of the newsletter as a friend of the Society

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President's Message from Mary Clark



Mary Clark

Do you have an hour a month to volunteer with the Dane County Historical Society? DCHS is primarily a volunteer-run organization. DCHS relies completely on volunteers to conduct the business of the organization. Fortunately, we have some very dedicated long-time volunteers and board members. Unfortunately, our current volunteers (including our volunteer Board) cannot keep up with the work needed to keep our Society moving forward while collecting the past (and present) of our county.

We're looking for your help! To keep DCHS in a position to continue its work, we are asking our members to seriously consider volunteering one hour per month. Volunteer opportunities are available in many different areas:

- Indexing and/or filing at the Otto Schroeder Records Center
- Assisting with programs
- Making website updates
- Writing newsletter articles
- Taking pictures of DCHS markers around the county
- Digitizing materials
- Completing other special projects

Whatever your skill set, however you like to work, there are ways you can help!! If you'd like to work at home or at the Otto Schroeder Records Center; if you'd like to work alone or in a group; if you have computing skills or not, we can find some way for you to help!

Leave a message at (608) 224-3605 or send us an email at dchs@danecountyhistory.org, and let us know you'd like to help. We'll work with you to create a volunteer program that works for you and helps DCHS.

Mary Clark

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| The Dane County Historical Society Newsletter is published quarterly (Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter), by the Dane County Historical Society and printed by The Printing Place. Submissions are due 15 days prior to publication. Reader reviews, testimonials, flak and flattery, are also welcome. Send to: DCHS Newsletter, 3101 Lake Farm Rd. Madison, WI 53711. E-mail: dchs@danecountyhistory.org Mary Clark, President, Howard Sherpe, Editor, Dane County Historical Society |
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