
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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Number 1

The Wisconsin Foundry and Machine Company Collection

By Mary Clark

The Wisconsin Foundry & Machine Company was founded at 613-629 East Main Street in Madison on July 7, 1910. The family-owned company operated on the city's near east side throughout most of the twentieth century. It began as a general foundry and machine shop, also doing jobbing and repair. A foundry is a factory that produces metal castings. Metals are cast into shapes by melting them into a liquid, pouring the metal in a mold, and removing the mold material or casting after the metal has solidified as it cools.

The company went on to design, build and install crushing, elevating, screening, conveying and road building equipment. Over the years, other services included automobile repair, custom decorative metalwork and specialty foundry casting. From crushing gravel to moving vegetables on local canning companies' conveyor belts, Wisconsin Foundry and Machine's products were widely used in Dane County, as well as in many other places throughout

the country and overseas. The company operated at least until the late 1970s or early 1980s, but the exact dissolution date or circumstances are not detailed in the collection.

The Articles of Incorporation of the company list George Botham and E.L. Leasman as the signatories. A 1949 Capital Times article titled, "Old Foundry on E. Main St. Recalls Host of Memories for City's Old-Timers," lists the surnames of the company's founders as Botham, Littlewood, Buenzli, Eisele, MacDonald and Beckman. According to another magazine article titled, "Madison Industries in Defense," by Bob Short (*The Wisconsin Engineer*, Vol. 45:7, April 1941, pp. 12-13), the Wisconsin Foundry participated in the war effort in the 1940s.

"Another Madison industry doing defense work is the Wisconsin Foundry and Machine Company. Most of the work done here is in the nature of sub-contracts or parts to be used by larger industries. One of the orders is for parts to be used by the Highway Trailer Company in Edgerton. Parts being finished for this company will go to make up digging equipment for the removal of bombs. These machines, which will go to England, are the same as those used in this country to dig post holes for telephone and electric lines. The army signal corps also uses such equipment."



The Otto Schroeder Records Center has a large collection of archival papers and photographs from the Wisconsin Foundry & Machine Company. The materials were donated to the Dane County Historical Society by D. J. Botham in July 1995. D.J. Botham is a descendent of George W. Botham, who was an original founder and the president of the company.

The collection consists of company records, including
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correspondence, product information and catalogs, and over 550 photographs and print images spanning the 1920s-1970s. Also included is a 1919 blueprint map of the C & NW's central Madison railroad yard.

The collection arrived at the Dane County Historical Society in three large boxes, each filled with hundreds of loose photographs, catalogs, papers and some photos assembled into sales books. Most of the loose items appear to be in no particular order and, though extremely interesting, they offer only a few clues to their date or identification. Time and the work environment at the foundry have also taken their toll on the collection. Some of the photographs are in very fragile condition; some are curled and torn; and many are covered with soot or dirt.



The photo above shows the contents of just one of three large boxes of unprocessed material in the Foundry collection

In order to preserve this historically valuable collection and make it available to current and future generations, the Dane County Historical Society is working to put together a processing and conservation plan to be executed in multiple stages.

The first stage of the plan is Organization and Processing. This will involve going through the boxes to identify the various pieces in the best way possible; organizing them into groups of similar materials; weeding out duplicate items; creating an inventory of the collection; and by using the materials in the collection, writing a brief history of the organization. During this stage we will also attempt to identify those pieces in the collection that are most in need of cleaning, repair and flattening. Then the items will be placed in archival folders and boxes for their long-term safe storage. Also during this stage, if possible, we will

attempt to locate people who worked at the company and who might be available to help identify some of the people or equipment or locales in the photographs.

The next stage will consist of Conservation. For those photographs and paper documents that are identified as requiring additional cleaning or repair, we will pay special attention to working with them to ensure that they are properly addressed, most likely by con-

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What's the Difference between Preservation and Conservation?

The library and archival communities generally use "preservation" as a broad umbrella term for activities that reduce or prevent damage to extend the life expectancy of collections; while "conservation" generally refers more specifically to the physical treatment of individual damaged items.

The American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (AIC) Definitions of Conservation defines these terms as follows:

Preservation—The protection of cultural property through activities that minimize chemical and physical deterioration and damage and that prevent loss of informational content. The primary goal of preservation is to prolong the existence of cultural property.

Conservation—Conservation activities include examination, documentation, treatment, and preventive care, supported by research and education.

In the widest sense, preservation encompasses activities that prevent damage to paper-based and media collections, such as proper housing, environmental control, and disaster planning; and activities such as treatment, replacement, or reformatting that address existing damage.

Preservation involves keeping a balance between *collection-level* activities such as environmental control, which can be difficult and/or costly to manage but provide the greatest long-term benefit for the most materials, and *item-level* activities such as conservation treatments, which can have limited effect, especially if the items are returned to a damaging environment.

Excerpted from: *Preservation Basics for Paper and Media Collections*, presented by the Northeast Document Conservation Center (NEDCC). <http://unfacilitated.preservation101.org>.

DCHS to Place Two New Historical Markers

The Dane County Historical Society is placing two separate historical markers this fall. These markers will be our first to use the Society's new seal; and they will be the first Dane County historical markers to be placed in either Monona or Fitchburg.

Monona. In 2013, Monona is celebrating its 75th anniversary. To commemorate the founding of Monona, we are co-sponsoring an historical marker along with the Monona Landmarks Commission. This will be a two-sided post marker (36" x 24"), placed near the previous location of Ernie's Trading Post in Monona. Ernie's was the site where meetings first took place to discuss the creation of Monona in 1938.

One side of the marker will describe Monona's early history and path to becoming a city. The reverse side will chronicle the meeting that led up to Monona's founding.

The marker is to be placed adjacent to the "old" Ernie's Trading Post (now Monona Motors) at the intersection of Winnequah Road and Midmoor Road. A dedication ceremony for the marker will be held at noon on Sunday, September 1st to coordinate with the city's anniversary celebrations.

MONONA'S HISTORY

Lake Monona and the Yahara River were popular campsites for Monona's early inhabitants. Native Americans, especially the Ho-Chunk, settled near these clean clear waters for access to food, farming and transportation. At least ten effigy mounds from these early natives remain in Monona.

Incorporation as a village in 1938 changed the landscape from farms and lakeside cottages to include permanent homes and local businesses. The 1950s saw a surge in home building as the scattered landscape filled in and became a community. Eventually an increase in population led to a need for expanded facilities and services including police and fire protection, and street maintenance. As a result, Monona was chartered as a city in 1969.

With an idyllic lake setting and a civic-minded population, Monona from early days has met its responsibility as an emerging city.

Erected September 1, 2013
Dane County Historical Society
Monona Landmarks Commission

MONONA'S BIRTHPLACE

Dissatisfied with the services being provided by the Township of Blooming Grove, five residents of the area – Ernie Ferchland, Ray Owen, Ed Rothman, Walter Simon and Justin Waterman – met in Ernie's Trading Post to discuss secession from the Township. With a \$300 retainer, they secured legal service regarding the process. Community meetings were held over a span of five months and, in spite of some opposition, a referendum to secede was passed (241 to 171) on August 29, 1938.

Incorporation papers were signed on September 1, 1938. Monona Village comprised an area of 1.75 sq. miles with 350 families, a population of 1100, and an assessed evaluation of \$1.5 million. It also contained seven miles of waterfront, fourteen miles of local streets, 3.5 miles of state highway, five bridges, three school districts and eight park areas.

Justin Waterman was elected the first village president.

Erected September 1, 2013
Dane County Historical Society
Monona Landmarks Commission

Fitchburg. A new 36" x 24" double-sided post marker will also be placed in Fitchburg. It will display different text on each side. This marker will have a 5" x 7" photograph of the Fitchburg Depot, inserted right into the marker text. This is the first time that we have created a marker that includes a picture embedded within the text.

The Fitchburg marker is to be erected at the site of what was the small community of Fitchburg which was located on present day Wendt Road. This Township road connects County Highway M north to Township Adams Road. Wendt Road also runs parallel to the Badger State Bike Trail. The placement of the marker was planned so as to be readable from the Bike Trail.

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ILLINOIS CENTRAL DEPOT

On this site a two-story railroad depot stood from 1888 until 1939. The depot served the Illinois Central Railroad, which provided passenger and freight service to Fitchburg on its route from Freeport, Illinois to Madison. The depot had a ticket office, waiting room, freight room and living quarters for the agent's family.

By 1922, four passenger and four freight trains passed through here daily. A small platform stood nearby for the loading of milk. The last Illinois Central freight train passed through in 1981, but other railroads operated the line until the early 1990s when the track was abandoned and eventually removed. The rail bed is now part of the Badger State Bike Trail.

Dedicated 2013
Dane County Historical Society
Fitchburg Historical Society

FITCHBURG VILLAGE

Fitchburg Village developed at this site after the completion of the Illinois Central Line from Freeport to Madison in 1887.

By the early 1900s the growing community consisted of the railroad depot, a general store, post office, blacksmith shop, two implement repair garages, an implement dealership, feed mill, lumber mill, lumber and coal yard, stockyards, and a milk stop. Along with businesses were several homes, a small church and a nearby one-room school.

Dedicated 2013
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tracting with a professional conservator.

Once the collection is physically controlled and conserved, plans call for digitizing selected images from the collection and assigning detailed identification metadata to them (such as approximate dates, names of people in the photos or types of equipment or machinery featured) to each photograph. This will enable us to make the most important and interesting parts of the collection available for viewing on the Internet via the DCHS web page or perhaps through another digital portal.

The ultimate goal is to share this material with researchers, local historians and other members of the community through such projects as an exhibit, a website or public programs.

Wisconsin Foundry and Machine Company represented an important era in American industrial history. It was a family-owned company that had its beginnings when the State of Wisconsin was only 60 years old. Its products made a wide variety of contributions to twentieth century society from the road building equipment that helped develop Wisconsin roadways to conveyors that carried bread at Gardner Bakery; from the coils for the wireless telegraph to stainless steel strainers for turbines manufactured for World War II defense contracts. As the face of American industrialization has changed, it is of critical importance to document this era of Dane County manufacturing. How will our younger

generations understand and appreciate this aspect of our history? The photographs in this collection can play a major role in capturing the size and complexity of the products and in conveying the skill and knowledge needed to create and repair a wide range of machinery. These photographs and other records can help bring to life for generations to come a sense of Dane County's industrial and manufacturing heritage.

The first stage of the preservation plan is beginning to take shape now; it will mostly be accomplished with volunteers and with our current active board members. However, the subsequent stages of the plan, professional conservation and digitization, will most likely require the society to seek outside help and additional funding.

In order to achieve our goals, the Society has created a special fund earmarked for the processing and conservation of this collection. One of our members, George Jacobs, has a special affinity for this particular collection. He had been instrumental in getting us thinking about completing the processing of this important collection; and he has specifically directed many of his generous donations over the past few years toward this fund.

If anyone else would like to contribute toward the conservation of this important collection, we would welcome donations specifically designated for the "Foundry Collection."

Recollection Wisconsin

Wisconsin Heritage Online (WHO), the statewide digital collaborative, has a new name—**Recollection Wisconsin**—and a new look. Their redesigned website (www.recollection-wisconsin.org) was launched earlier this year. It provides free access to a fast growing set of historical resources from the collections of libraries, archives, museums and historical societies across the state. Anyone can use the site to explore historic photographs, postcards, maps, letters, diaries, articles, books, artifacts, oral histories and other materials from dozens of Wisconsin communities.

Recollection Wisconsin is a collaborative effort to bring together digital versions of Wisconsin history materials from participating libraries, archives, museums and historical societies across the state. The site contains almost 130,000 historical resources from over 200 local collections all around Wisconsin.

History of the program

The Recollection Wisconsin program was first developed in 2005 as a collaborative effort of Wisconsin academic libraries, public libraries, archives, museums, and historical societies. From 2005-2012, the program was known as Wisconsin Heritage Online (WHO).

The founding mission of Wisconsin Heritage Online was “to inspire education and discovery by making Wisconsin’s cultural heritage available to the public via the World Wide Web.”

Discovering history

Visitors to the website can browse collections by category. A user-friendly browse interface lets visitors sort collections by topic such as cranberries, music or World War I, or by types of materials, such as plat maps or scrapbooks.

Sharing history

But the new site is for more than just viewing digital resources. Visitors are also invited to contribute their own memories, images, knowledge and thoughts through a variety of online social features. These new features, which incorporate social media tools including Tumblr, Pinterest and Flickr are central to the new updated vision for the program: “to create opportunities for people to discover personal connections to the past.”

The site is structured like a blog so program news, collection highlights and other updates can be easily shared with users on a regular basis; and visitors can contribute their own comments and memories.

Besides browsing the fascinating historical collections available on Recollection Wisconsin, a number of other features on the website facilitate the concept of sharing our history.

- *Share a story.* Recollection Wisconsin has partnered with



Wisconsin Life, an audio essay series on Wisconsin Public Radio that celebrates what makes Wisconsin unique, to collect and share stories contributed by visitors to the site.

- *Share a photo.* The photo-sharing website Flickr is being used to uncover local histories from across the state. Visitors are invited to join the Recollection Wisconsin Flickr group and share their own photos of historic Wisconsin people and places.
- *Stories from Wisconsin collections.* This ongoing series provides a closer look at small slices of state and local history, told through photographs and documents from participating organizations. Topics covered so far include deer hunting, grand hotels, home economics education, early bicycling culture and Welsh settlers in Wisconsin.

Recollection Wisconsin is sponsored by Wisconsin Library Services (WiLS) in partnership with the Milwaukee Public Library, the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and the Wisconsin Historical Society. Financial support is provided by a grant from the Nicholas Family Foundation and annual membership dues from contributing partners.

National History Day in Dane County –The Teachers

By Barbara Furstenberg

Middle and high school students around the state polished their papers, exhibits, websites, documentaries, and performances for the 2013 National History Day event held on May 4, 2013 on the UW—Madison campus. Congratulations to Dane County schools that sent projects to the state competition: EAGLE School (Madison), Velma Hamilton Middle School (Madison), Madison West High School, Wisconsin Heights High School and the Wisconsin Virtual Academy.

National History Day is an exciting academic enrichment program that helps students learn about historical issues, ideas, people and events through primary research, critical analysis and public presentation of their interpretations. Working individually or collaboratively in groups of two to five, students may choose to participate by presenting their research at a competitive series of local, regional, state and national events, where their work is evaluated by historians, educators and professionals in related fields. The award-winning entries at the Wisconsin state event become eligible to participate in the National History Day contest at the University of Maryland—College Park.

The teachers who promote this love of historical research and who lead their students in participation in National History Day deserve special thanks.

At EAGLE School, the project is required for all sixth and seventh graders. The school's competition fills the gym and several classrooms with presentation of all the exhibits, websites, performances, and other projects. All the students in the school and many parents, spend the afternoon browsing the projects. Teachers Janice Lacock and Charles Price run the exciting NHD program at EAGLE. Janice also volunteers her time to help with the regional and state competitions. EAGLE School has consistently produced projects that proceed to the Nationals. In 2013, three EAGLE projects competed in the Nationals at College Park. Three other projects received honorable mentions at the Wisconsin state competition. One EAGLE project was a finalist at the national level.

At Wisconsin Heights High School, teacher Kathy Haig brings NHD into her advanced research class, Advanced Research in the Sciences and Humanities. Kathy says,

"It's not really a history class per se; but the National History Day competition is such a good research opportunity—and the kids enjoy going to the regional competition so much—that it has become a very valuable part of my curriculum."
Kathy talks vividly in praising the hard work of her

students. This year, six very diverse Wisconsin Heights exhibits were submitted to the regional competition. Kathy wrote that one of them, "Eyes in the Sky," about the turning points from airplanes to balloons to satellites in reconnaissance,

"... is near and dear to my heart because my father ran the balloon program for the Air Force and then also developed the weather satellites which made the first spy satellites effective by finding the areas not covered by clouds. The boys who did that one interviewed my father and I videotaped it—two solid hours of footage!"

For another exhibit, "Twin Teutonic Turning Points: the Rise and Fall of Germanic Influence in Wisconsin," the student got in touch with her great-aunt and received a lengthy letter about her family's history (they were Germans living in Russia who fled the Russian Revolution and came to America) as well as a whole packet of family photographs from the early 1900's. The girl learned so much about her family's history!

At Madison West High School, NHD is part of a new US 9 Honors class that Jan Tuccinardi teaches. The following is from an article Jan wrote for the school's newsletter:

"Twenty-five students will compete at the State National History Day Competition on May 4, 2013. Students research a topic of their choice that relates to the NHD theme for the year, choose the type of entry to create in which to present their research. In addition, they write a process paper and complete an annotated bibliography. Many of the students also conducted interviews for their research. They learn to refine their analysis and synthesis skills through examining the context of their topic, creating an argument, and a sustainable conclusion. All students enrolled in the class complete an entry, though students are not required to compete. If they choose to, they practice the reflective process and presentation skills as they prepare for their judging process."

West High School also has a National History Day Club that created three projects this year. Jan also shepherded NHD projects previously when she taught at Velma Hamilton Middle School. In 2013 West High School sent two projects to nationals and had five honorable mentions. Two projects won special statewide recognition awards and one project was a national finalist this year.

Wisconsin Virtual Academy (WIVA), a charter school authorized by the McFarland School District, is
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National History Day in Dane County –The Teachers (Continued from page 6)

represented this year by Tiffany Mankowski, who won an honorable mention at regional for her project, “The Cries of a Revolutionary: Susan B. Anthony and the Struggle for Equality.” Sandra Alvarado, Social Studies Teacher, writes,

“We at WIVA are very proud of Tiffany and her self-motivation to undertake NHD participation. Tiffany is an amazing, highly motivated student. She enjoyed NHD so much in her past experience, she wanted to compete again. Her paper wasn't for class - she did this strictly as an extra-curricular project. That's what makes Tiffany and her paper so special.”

St. James School (Madison) and Mount Horeb High School both sent projects to nationals in 2012. Mount Horeb High School received two honorable

mentions. La Follette High School received an honorable mention, while another project received the Women in History Award.

Statewide Leadership. For many years, Sarah Ashbrenner served as the capable state coordinator of the National History Day event, but she moved with her husband to Washington D. C. after last year's competition. Sarah Klentz took over as the new state coordinator in February 2013. She has worked with National History Day since 2008 as assistant state coordinator. She has a history degree from UW-Madison and is originally from Illinois, but currently resides in Madison. She looks forward to working with the over 10,000 NHD students in Wisconsin in the coming years!

National History Day – Finalists

In 2013 10,000 students across the state of Wisconsin participated in National History Day projects. By the day of the state event, 500 remained. Sixty students were selected to represent our state as Team Wisconsin at the National Event in College Park, Maryland, June 10-14, 2013.

The 2013 theme was “Turning Points in History: People, Ideas, Events.” Our Dane County students had good representation on Team Wisconsin this year.

Dane County Historical Society congratulates all of the State winners and Honorable Mentions at Wisconsin's NHD 2013, held on May 4, 2013. These finalists represented Wisconsin well at the national contest on June 9-13, 2013.

The following Dane County projects received recognition as qualifying National Finalists or Honorable Mentions at the Wisconsin History Day State Event; and two went on to become National Finalists.

Finalists in the National Competition

- Kristin Kiley (Junior Individual Documentary), *“How 200 Ounces of Blood Changed History: The Turning Points to Safe Transfusion,”* EAGLE School (Madison)
- Sara Triggs and Madeline Brighthouse-Glueck (Senior Group Website), *“The Father of Social Security,”* Madison West High School

Projects that Competed at Nationals

- Manlu Liu (Senior Individual Website—National

Finalist), *“Phoenix Rising from the Ashes: The 1871 Chicago Fire and the Great Rebuilding,”* Madison West High School

- Sydney Higgans and Susan Malony (Senior Group Exhibit – 1st honorable mention), *“Titanic's Impact on Maritime Regulations,”* Madison West High School
- Suzanne O'Meara and Kate Scholz (Senior Group Performance – 1st honorable mention), *“Shocking the System: How Tesla Electrified America,”* Madison West High School
- Fiona Adams (Senior Individual Website – 1st honorable mention), *“Operation Magic: How Cryptanalysis Turned the Tide,”* Madison West High School
- Tabea Vohmann (Senior Individual Documentary – 2nd honorable mention), *“Die Mauer: The Dramatic Series of Events that Led Up to the Building of the Berlin Wall,”* Madison West High School
- Amanda Zhang and Max Golden (Senior Group Exhibit—4th honorable mention), *“The Stock Market Crash of 1929,”* Madison West High School
- Eliza Scholl (Junior Individual Performance – National finalist), *“The Truth and Reconciliation Commission,”* Velma Hamilton Middle School (Madison)
- Ameya Sanyal, Sanjaya Kumar and Anna Stoneman (Junior Group Documentary—National Finalist), *“The Battle of Britain: The Turning Point of the Second*

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National History Day – Finalists (Continued from page 7)

- World War,* EAGLE School (Madison)
- Lucas Voichick (Junior Individual Website – National Finalist), *“Pearl Harbor: The Attack that Changed the World,”* EAGLE School (Madison)
 - Colleen Scerpella (Junior Individual Documentary—1st honorable mention), *“The Women’s Suffrage Parade of March 3, 1913,”* EAGLE School (Madison)
 - Jamie Gray and Noel Tautges (Junior Group Website—1st honorable mention), *“The Silicon Transistor: The Power Behind our Technology,”* EAGLE School (Madison)
 - Cayden Kirkpatrick (Junior Individual Documentary – 3rd honorable mention), *“The Bessemer Process and Its Effects on Architecture,”* EAGLE School (Madison)

Kurtzman Environmental History Award

- Connor Wood (Senior Division), *“For Resort or Recreation: The Origins and Creation of Yosemite National Park and the Conservation Movement,”* Madison West High School

American Labor History Award

- Tess McAllister and Grace Montgomery (Senior Division), *“The Bay View Tragedy,”* Madison West High School

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