

DANE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER



The Dane County Historical Society Office and the Otto Schroeder Records Center are located on the lower level of the Lussier Family Heritage Center, 3101 Lake Farm Road just south of the Beltline near Lake Waubesa.

Volume 43

Winter 2024-2025

Number 1

History of Racial Covenants Traveling Exhibit

For the past year, the Dane County Historical Society has been diligently working to develop a traveling exhibit about the *History of Racial Covenants*, with some emphasis on Dane County and Madison.



"White Tenants in Our White Community"
Sign Directed at U.S. Federal Housing Project
in Detroit, Michigan, February 1942

Racial covenants were an insidious tool for racially restricting home sales and segregating residential neighborhoods. A single cleverly-worded sentence included in a land deed could invoke the full force of the government's police powers in enforcing racial segregation. In 1928, a Chicago Real Estate Board could say that restrictive covenants were "like a marvelous delicately woven chain of armor ... [excluding] any member of a race not Caucasian." By 1940, 40% of Chicago and Los Angeles homes were covered by a racial covenant.

Rick Bernstein, Executive Director, DCHS, is available to make a presentation in conjunction with the exhibit or elsewhere, where he could provide greater context and additional background about the history of racial covenants locally and beyond.

The exhibit consists of 14 pull-up banners and is scheduled to be displayed in 12 Dane County Libraries. The first will be the Monona Library, with an opening reception scheduled for 6 p.m. on **February 6, 2025**, to coincide with Black History Month. The rest are listed below:

Verona Public Library - March 2025
Waunakee Public Library - April 2025
Cross Plains Public Library - May 2025
Marshall Public Library - June 2025
Mt Horeb Public Library - July 2024
Bookmobile - August 2025
Belleville Public Library - September 2025
Sun Prairie Historical Museum and Library - November 2025
Oregon Public Library - December 2025
Middleton Public Library - January 2026

The Dane County Historical Society is a 501(c)3 private non-profit established in 1961. Its mission is to preserve and promote Dane County's history. To find out more, go to www.danecountyhistory.org.

Recent Acquisitions



- Tom Rich, a 1957 East High School graduate, took it upon himself to photograph the homes of fellow students and teachers. Tom attended UW-Madison and then taught social studies (aka history) at La Follette High School.

- The earliest photos are from 1945, the latest from 1970. In some cases, Tom photographed several different homes for the same individual. This could cover as many as four different homes for someone who moved several times during their tenure as a teacher.



- A signed print by the artist well-known Wisconsin Aaron Bohrod

- ***Remembering the Akamatsus*** by Margaret G. Leonard. This out-of-print book tells the story of the Akamatsu family. Robert and Toshi Akamatsu were only newlyweds when they were ordered to leave their homes in California and go to the Tanforan Racetrack in San Bruno, CA. They slept in stalls recently vacated by racehorses and spent the summer waiting to find out where they'd be sent next. Their new home would be in the middle of the Utah desert at Camp Topaz. This true story of their internment experience is based on Robert's memoirs written for their 60th wedding anniversary. In the Spring of 1945, Robert set out by bus to look for work. He found a job as a manager in Madison, Wisconsin, at Piggly Wiggly. Madison reminded Robert of Berkeley, "a university town, and people seemed friendly and fair-minded." That summer, his wife and 18-month-old Bobby joined them. Many of the Akamatsus papers relating to interment are held by the Wisconsin Historical Society.

- The Dane County Bar Association donated two large boxes of materials. They include 46 oral histories from 1970 until 2024. Also included is a series of obits and memorials of well over 200 members of the Bar, entitled "In Memoriam." They date from 1970 until August 2024.



From the Archives

Barbara Furstenberg, DCHS Archivist

Addition to the Henry Kanazawa Collection. While searching for information and materials regarding the architect Henry Kanazawa, I discovered that the firm he and Ronald Bowen (Bowen and Kanazawa) started in the 1970s had endured. Although Kanazawa left the firm in 1980, Ronald Bowen and two associates, Rolland Williamson and Fred Zimmerman, continued their partnership under BWZ Architects. All three original partners had retired by now, but Robert Shipley and Elizabeth Cwik carried it on.

Despite numerous moves, the firm retained many drawings, photographs, slides, awards, and bound project descriptions from the Bowen and Kanazawa period and the 1980s. Mr. Shipley and Ms. Cwik graciously donated 41 boxes of vellum and mylar drawings for projects, including the South Madison Day Care Center, Thoreau Elementary School, the Albany Housing for the Elderly, Madison Metro Maintenance and Administration Facility, and Stoughton's Own Rehabilitation Facility, among others.

Fred Zimmerman has retired but still lives in Madison. He provided significant reminiscences of these projects and working with Kanazawa. Mr. Shipley has likewise worked with Kanazawa and is gratified that his career record and the firm's accomplishments will be preserved and made available to future scholars. These materials provide an enduring record of Madison's transformation during the latter half of the 20th century.



*Principal William Marsh,
Central High School*

Central High School Collection. An Edgewood High School junior, Evan Breidel, volunteered over twenty hours over the summer. This enabled us to work on collections donated years ago but never cataloged. Two boxes came to us from Principal William Marsh when Madison Central High School closed in 1969. They contained programs from commencements (1878-1969), athletic banquets, photographs, a scrapbook, typescripts, and printed items. Especially interesting were memos written directly after the bombing of Pearl Harbor and throughout World War II and the school's documentation of Central students who served in the military, many of whom lost their lives. There is a complete record of National Honor Society members (1931 - 1969), student council minutes (1944-1959), and documents relating to the Central High Parent Teachers Association. A 25-page annual report of the Madison P. T. A. Council (1951-1952) reveals that Madison's parents and teachers were dealing with many of the same problems faced today.

Madison High School, founded in 1859, was the city's only secondary school until the 1920s. After a contentious taxpayer's suit, a new building designed by Cass Gilbert (designer of the Minnesota State Capitol and the Woolworth Building in New York City) opened in 1908. When East High School opened in 1922, the school was renamed Central High School. Later, when the University of Wisconsin high school closed, Central was renamed Central-University High School. Parents and alumni fought off several attempts to close the school but were finally defeated when the school closed in 1969. For many years, the arched entrance to the school on Wisconsin Avenue was preserved as a tribute to the elegant design of Cass Gilbert. That arch was featured on the covers of the commencement programs in the 1930s and '40s. There is an active alumni group of Central High School graduates.

The Otto Schroeder Archives and Records Center of DCHS is an important repository of Central High School materials, including a complete run of the school's newspaper, [The Madison Mirror](#), and its yearbook, [Tychoberan](#).

Hi everyone! My name is Zoey Colglazier, and I am joining the Dane County Historical Society as a Digital Specialist! I am currently in my final year in the Master's of Library and Information Science program at UW-Madison, and work full-time and Epic Systems. In my free time, I enjoy reading, doing crosswords, and I've recently begun making a quilt.

As I've neared graduation, I was looking for a way to get more hands-on experience with topics covered in my coursework. I reached out to WiLS, as they were looking for a student to do some digitization work, but they specifically wanted a student completing their practicum (a requirement of the program). They directed me to reach out to Dane County Historical Society about assisting with digitizing materials, so I emailed Rick Bernstein and we set up a phone call to talk about how I can get involved. The main project I'll be working on is with the newly acquired architectural drawings from Henry Kanazawa from the 1970s. I haven't worked with architectural drawings before, so I'm super excited to learn more and work on getting these up and available to the public with Recollection Wisconsin.



On October 11, 2024, the Deerfield Historical Society held an open house following renovations to the old Village Hall. The event coincided with Deerfield's homecoming celebration and was well attended. The Society's first location was a room in the newly built Deerfield Public Library. In 2009, the society moved to the upper level of the Village Hall.



Today, the historical society occupies both floors and contains many wonderful exhibits and rooms of archival materials. Richard Matheson, Member at Large, wrote a new book, Deerfield Then and Now, now for sale. The Society is also actively posting a lot of material online. It's great to see the group so active in their community and making their local history available to everyone near and far.

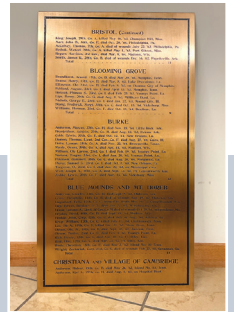


Dane County Historical Society

2024 Annual Report

CIVIL WAR MEMORIAL TABLETS

- Five of the 20 tablets have been restored, with two more at the restorers.
- \$8400 of the \$10,000 has been raised.
- Donors include private individuals (8), local governments (2), fraternal (1), veterans (1), and patriotic organizations (2).



COOPERATION WITH COUNTY AGENCIES

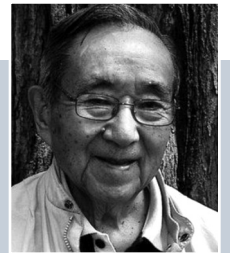
On November 26, the Dane County Heritage Preservation Commission held its first meeting. Rick Bernstein, Executive Director of the Dane County Historical Society, was elected as the commission's chair. The commission's first job will be to review the 42 crowd-sourced nominations for historical markers. This new series of markers will raise the profile of many of the county's underrepresented communities. Dane County has approved \$25,000 to erect as many as six historical markers. The Dane County Historical Society submitted four nominations.

The Dane County Historical Society, in cooperation with the Dane County Library Service, has scheduled 12 libraries across the county to host the Racial Covenants traveling exhibit. The first stop on the tour will be Monona's Public Library in February to coincide with Black History Month. An opening reception, open to the public, will take place on Thursday, February 6, at 6 p.m.



DIGITIZATION

The Dane County Historical Society has hired a new Digital Specialist. Zoey Colgazier works full-time at Epic and attends UW-Madison's School of Library and Information Sciences at night. Once she joins the team in January 2025, her first assignment will be to inventory the Henry Kanazawa architectural collection. After the collection is inventoried, we can look forward to digitizing and posting it online with **Recollection Wisconsin**.



OUTREACH

On September 22, we attended the Central High School reunion for the last three years - 1967, 1968, and 1969. We had much of our Central High School material on display.

COOPERATION WITH OTHER LOCAL HISTORICAL SOCIETIES IN DANE COUNTY

We attended the open house of the Deerfield Area Historical Society. The group has made significant progress since almost disbanding two years ago.

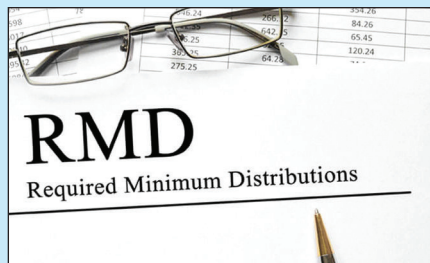
An Oregon Area Historical Society contingent visited the Dane County Historical Society offices and archives. We shared a lot of information about our collections and discussed how we'd like to work jointly with other sister societies in Dane County to develop collection management policies.



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

Address Service Requested

Required Minimum Distributions



A great way to save taxes and support the Dane County Historical Society is by donating your Required Minimum Distributions to us. Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) are minimum amounts that IRA, Inherited IRA, and retirement plan account owners must generally withdraw annually starting with the year they reach age 73.

You avoid paying taxes on the withdrawal by donating your RMD directly to a 501(c)3, such as the Dane County Historical Society. If you want to learn more, please contact us at danecountyhistory@gmail.com.