

February 2010, #14

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News of the Day

South Wood County Historical Corporation Completes First Project



Lawrence Oliver, *On a Cow*,
ca. 1948-1952.

In December, the South Wood County Historical Corporation in Wisconsin Rapids became the first Wisconsin Heritage Online member to complete a digital project under our training grant from the Nicholas Family Foundation. 149 photographs by Lawrence Oliver of Vesper, Wisconsin depicting farm and family life in the 1940s and 50s are now online in a CONTENTdm collection hosted by the [Milwaukee Public Library](#).

PastPerfect Users Export Data for Easy Upload

Like many local historical societies in Wisconsin, the South Wood County Historical Corporation uses PastPerfect Museum Software, a popular content management system. To streamline their project, we developed some simple procedures to move existing data out of PastPerfect and onto the web. South Wood County staff member Lori Brost scanned the Oliver photographs and cataloged them in PastPerfect following WHO metadata recommendations. Then she exported the PastPerfect data into an Excel spreadsheet, which WHO Outreach Specialist Emily Pfothner imported into CONTENTdm along with the scanned images.

Emily is now working on a similar PastPerfect export process with the Charles Allis and Villa Terrace Museums in Milwaukee.

Featured Collections

Wisconsin Decorative Arts Database Uses Pachyderm to Highlight Research

The new digital exhibit "Behind the Brush: The Women of the Pauline Pottery" explores the stories of the women behind the success of the Pauline Pottery, an Edgerton, Wisconsin-based art pottery studio. Most of the works featured come from collections documented in the [Wisconsin Decorative Arts Database](#), including the Kenosha Public Museum, the Milwaukee Art Museum, the Neville Public Museum of Brown County, the Rock County Historical Society, the Wisconsin Historical Museum, and the Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum. Additional images were provided by Pauline Pottery authority Ori-Anne Pagel of the [Wisconsin Pottery Association](#).



Credit for much of the writing and research for the exhibit goes to Laura Houston, an undergraduate in the History Department at the University of Wisconsin-Madison who worked with me this summer on an internship sponsored by the Chipstone Foundation and the UW's Material Culture Program.

I created the exhibit in part as an experiment in the use of [Pachyderm](#), an open-source, web-based multimedia authoring tool developed by the New Media Consortium. It was a little tricky to use—there's no WYSIWYG ("what you see is what you get") interface, so it took a lot of back-and-forth between the web form and the preview pages to make sure things were turning out the way I wanted. I'm hoping our Content Providers will consider experimenting with Pachyderm (WHO members can access our subscription to the service) as a new way to interpret and present their digital content.

- Emily Pfothhauer

Project News

More New Members Sign on with WHO

Wisconsin Heritage Online continues to add new members who plan to make use of digitization training and support funded by our grant from the Nicholas Family Foundation. Recent additions to the WHO member rolls include the Greendale Historical

Society, the Langlade County Historical Society (Antigo), and Outagamie Waupaca Library Services (OWLS) a regional public library system based in Appleton.

Mineral Point Historical Society



Ice House on Fountain Street, ca. 1880-1897
(GPNC.01.432)

The Mineral Point Historical Society continues to build their digital collection of early photographs of the community.

Neville Public Museum of Brown County



Lester Allard, 1919 Brown County Soldiers

The Neville continues to work on the Brown County War History Committee project, funded by a "Saving Our History" grant. They've recently added records and photos for 45 World War I soldiers to their collection, which is hosted by the Wisconsin Historical Society.

WHO Resources Wiki and Guidelines

PBWorks Upgrade and New Wiki Features

The WHO Resources wiki is hosted by [PBWorks](#). Recently, we upgraded our license. The new version includes some easy-to-use enhancements, including a chat feature (log on and ask us a question in real time!) and project workspaces for individual Content Providers. Emily and I have both spent time reorganizing, cleaning, and learning about the new features. If you are a WHO member, you should have access to the wiki. Check

it out if you haven't visited lately. There's a lot of new and revised information available.

Controlled Vocabulary Lists

We've created a number of [generic controlled vocabulary lists](#) to plug into metadata fields. The lists include type and format information, Wisconsin counties and communities, and a list of standardized date ranges. These lists will help you maintain quality and consistency in your data entry as well as eliminate some tedious typing.

Quick Guides

Emily has created three new Quick Guides, shorter versions of the more extensive Metadata and Digital Imaging Guidelines. A Metadata Quick Guide is now posted on the Metadata page of the wiki. Scanning and Image Editing Quick Guides can be found on the Digital Imaging wiki page.

Digitization Standards

In November 2009, the Federal Agencies Digitization Guidelines Initiative issued [Digitization Activities: Project Planning and Management Outline](#). This is an overview of digitization planning and processes.

Project Management

We have used a project management software package called Basecamp for several years. The new PBWorks upgrade also offers a project management option, which we have begun to use for our most recent projects. It provides space to organize to-do lists, set deadlines, and share files.

Events to Note

PastPerfect workshop in Madison March 26th

An all-day introduction to PastPerfect, sponsored by the Wisconsin Historical Society, will take place March 26 at the Pyle Center. The workshop will also be available as a live webinar. Here's a link to some info: www.wisconsinhistory.org/localhistory.

Wisconsin Oral History Day in Milwaukee March 28-29th

Wisconsin Oral History Day 2010 is happening in Milwaukee on March 28 and 29. See www.slis.wisc.edu/continueed/oralhist for a complete schedule and registration form.

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