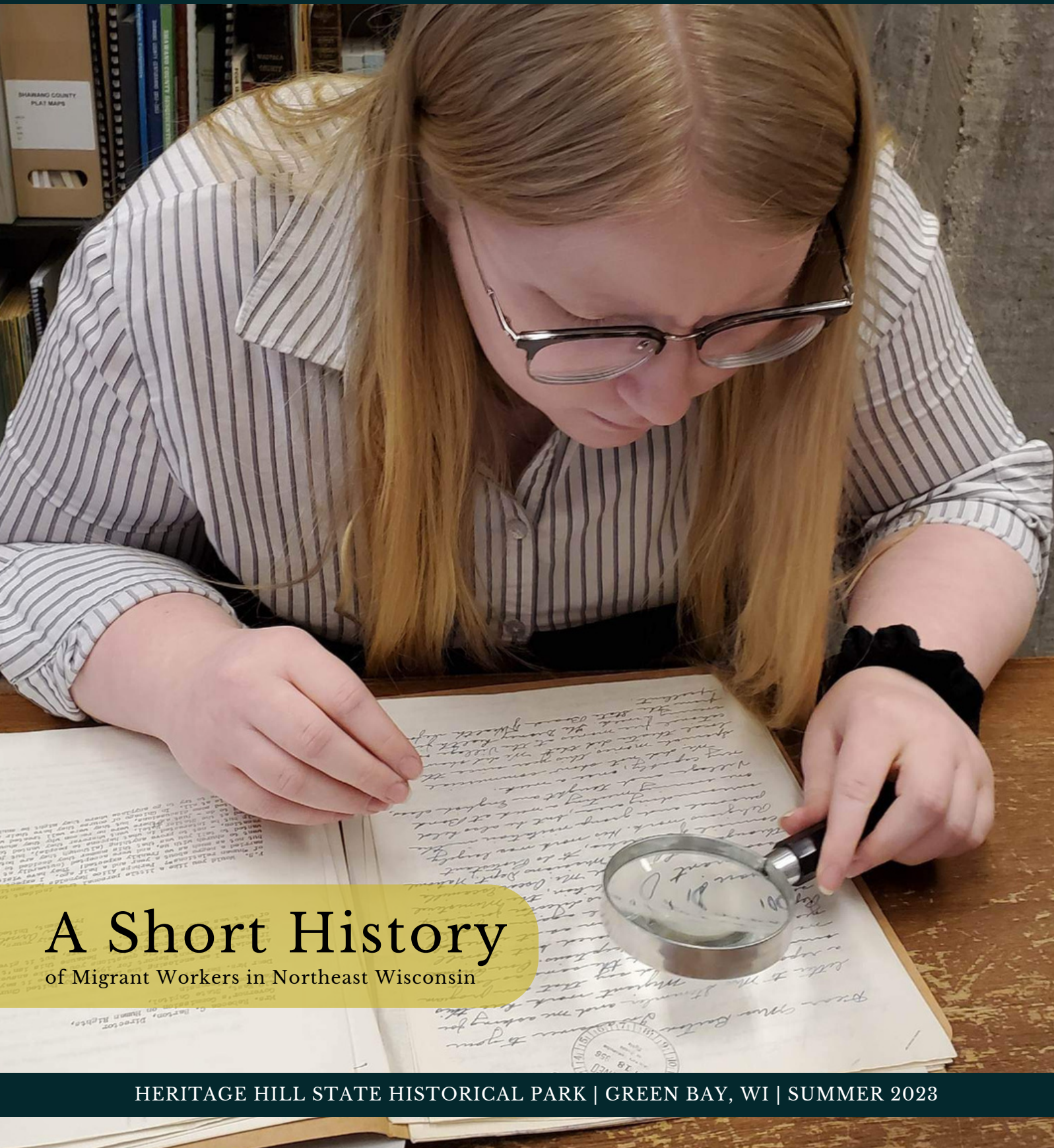


HILLTOP GAZETTE



A Short History of Migrant Workers in Northeast Wisconsin

HERITAGE HILL STATE HISTORICAL PARK | GREEN BAY, WI | SUMMER 2023



Historic Interpreter Rick during the Opening Weekend Encampment, May 2023

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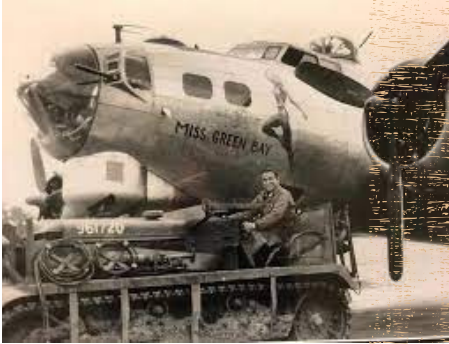
HERITAGE·HILL
STATE HISTORICAL PARK

The mission of Heritage Hill State Historical Park is to enrich the lives of others by sharing Northeast Wisconsin's diverse cultural and historic ties that bind our communities together.

WWW.HERITAGEHILLGB.ORG



FROM THE DIRECTOR



Save the Date!
Lecture & Dinner Series
Miss Green Bay
The Story of a World War II B-17
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5 | 5 - 9 P.M.
with Michael Telzrow

School groups account for the largest number of our visitors (exclusive of special events), and it's a healthy sign that history is still valued among our educators and that Heritage Hill is seen as a place to learn about the past.

Indeed, history remains a critical part of a well-rounded educational curriculum despite taking a beating over the last few years. Ensuring that young people see themselves as part of the story of human development and achievement is a worthy endeavor that helps develop better citizens as they mature. A large part of societal success depends upon understanding the contributions of the past and how we have an obligation to acknowledge the efforts of those who came before us. Our comfortable lives would not be possible without the ideas and advancements bequeathed to us by our ancestors. Few ideas are more damaging to the minds of the young than that of ignorance of the past.

They need to see themselves as part of a community bound together by shared experiences – and that includes recent arrivals. Anyone who doubts their interest in history has not spent a day at Heritage Hill during field trip season. Indeed, history remains a critical part of civic education. Students ask questions and listen intently. At the end of the day, they will have learned a little bit more about their country, its history, and its soul, and that is all that matters.

Thank you for supporting our mission, and remember to renew your membership!

Michael E. Telzrow
Executive Director

By the time you get this issue of the Gazette, summer will be upon us, but as I write this the sounds of school children outside my office window means that we are deep into field trip season. This year has seen an increase in attendees and that is an encouraging development.

A young history lover dresses in 1700's British Garrison garb!





HERITAGE HILL
STATE HISTORICAL PARK

INAUGURAL

Heritage Gala



Featuring speaker
Tommy Thompson, former
Governor of Wisconsin



SCAN TO
PURCHASE
TICKETS

\$100 / MEMBER
\$125 / NON-MEMBER
\$850 / TABLE OF EIGHT

THURSDAY | SEPTEMBER 14 | 5:30 PM

Join Heritage Hill for a locally curated dinner by **Heirloom Kitchen**, demonstrations by historic interpreters, and more! All proceeds support Heritage Hill's mission and educational programming.



LIMITED SPACE AVAILABLE, BUY YOUR TICKETS TODAY!

WWW.HERITAGEHILLGB.ORG

UPCOMING

MUSIC ON THE GREEN: SUMMER SOLSTICE Wednesday, June 21 | 5 - 8:30 p.m.

Celebrate the longest day of the year and experience a beautiful relaxing summer evening in the Growing Community Area of Heritage Hill. In addition to the bands, food, and beverage, all buildings and the playground will be open. Historic interpreters will be in the Blacksmith and Print shop. Book a tented picnic table and don't worry about seasing!

\$5 / member | \$7 / non-members | \$2 / child



FOURTH OF JULY

Tuesday, July 4 | 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Celebrate America's Independence Day by learning about America's past! Enjoy stepping back in time in Heritage Hill's four historic areas. Costumed historic interpreters will be available to help share stories of the past and help you get your hands on history with a variety of family-friendly activities, food and music.

FREE for Members | General admission applies

SUNSET SIPS: CAPTAIN'S WALK WINERY

Tuesday, July 11 | 5 - 9 p.m.

Join us once a month from June - September for wine on the Education Center balcony overlooking the Park and Green Bay. Each month, we will highlight a local winery with an activity such as winemaker seminars, yoga, painting, and more!

No Admission! Drinks and snacks available for purchase.



HOPS ON THE HILL

HERITAGE HILL
STATE HISTORICAL PARK

THURS | AUGUST 3 | 5:30 - 8 PM

Featuring music by: **Big Mouth**

- Craft beers, wine, and spirits and a BBQ buffet
- A silent auction full of curated unique experiences
- A 50/50 raffle for a chance to win big!



VIP \$65.00

Early entry, access to the VIP tent

Members \$40

Non-Members \$45

SUNSET SIPS: PARALLEL 44

Tuesday, August 8 | 5 - 9 p.m.

Join us once a month from June – September for wine on the Education Center balcony overlooking the Park and Green Bay. Each month, we will highlight a local winery with an activity such as winemaker seminars, yoga, painting, and more!

No Admission! Drinks and snacks available for purchase.



SPINNING SATURDAY

Saturday, August 12 | 9 a.m. - Noon

Join the Arachne Spinners Guild of Northeast Wisconsin as they spin, weave, crochet, and knit the morning away at Heritage Hill! Visitors will have the chance to view multiple models of spinning wheels, learn about different types of fiber arts, get hands-on with a variety of raw fibers, and ask questions of these textile experts.

FREE for Members | General admission applies

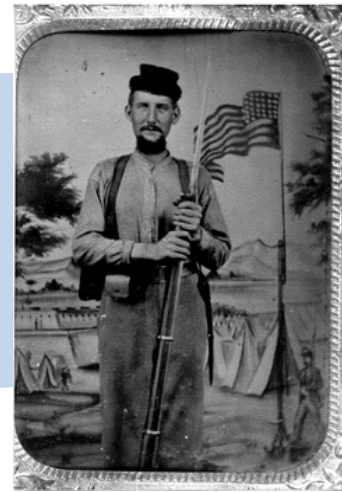
BADGERS FOR THE UNION:

Saturday, August 12 | 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Sunday, August 13 | Noon - 4 p.m.

Explore what life was like in Wisconsin during the Civil War with the 12th Wisconsin Civil War living history group. There will be no battle reenactments (as Wisconsin geographically did not see any combat) but you will learn about the 12th infantry which saw action at Kennesaw Mountain, Atlanta, Jonesboro, and also participated in Sherman's March to the Sea.

FREE for Members | General admission applies



FRENCH & INDIAN WAR

Saturday, September 2 | 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Sunday, September 3 | Noon - 4 p.m.

Join us at Heritage Hill State Historical Park for 1750s-1760s historical encampment! Learn about the daily life of French and British soldiers, the Manual of Arms, and enjoy musket firing demonstrations with the Redcoats in Green Bay. Then visit with reenactors who are bringing the 18th century trades of sewing, basketmaking, weaving, and woodworking to life. Get an introduction to Fraktur, the art of Pennsylvania German writing. And don't forget to try your skill at period games and dancing!

FREE for Members | General admission applies

SEASONAL HOURS

MAY 2 - OCT 31

Tuesday - Saturday

9 am - 4 pm

Sunday

Noon - 4 pm

*All buildings open,
historic interpreters in select buildings.*

FREE for Members

General admission applies

To purchase tickets or
learn more about any of
our events, please visit
www.heritagehillgb.org

A SHORT HISTORY OF MIGRANT WORKERS IN NORTHEAST WISCONSIN

By Kayla Erickson, Jacob Stuczynski, Jon O'Malley, Kim Krueger



Jon, Jacob, Kayla, and Kim at the UWGB archives with Deb Anderson, Coordinator of Archives, at UWGB.

Bond Pickle Co. was an important part of the Oconto County community and one of the largest manufacturing companies in the region. Bond Village was a collection of cabins, including the one recently acquired and restored by Heritage Hill, that housed the seasonal migrant workers at Bond. During the recent spring school semester, four interns from the University of Wisconsin Green Bay studied the history of the migrant cabin in collaboration with the UWGB Archives and Area Research Center. We researched the history of migrant workers and the industries they worked in throughout the United States, focusing primarily on Wisconsin to reveal more about

the lives of the people who lived in the migrant cabin.

In the 1960s there were over 300 migrant labor camps in Wisconsin. This information puts into perspective just how many migrant workers there were in the state and the impact they had on economics in Wisconsin. Many companies had more than one camp to house these migrant workers who were primarily engaged in the harvesting of cherries and cucumbers.

Bond Pickle Co. purchased cucumbers from local farms and manufactured them into pickles using the labor of migrant workers. Although mechanization was coming to agricultural fields, machinery was not able to be used for cucumber

harvesting because cucumbers could be harvested multiple times per growing season. Because machines usually destroy a crop, preventing continued harvesting, local farmers relied on migrant labor for cucumber harvesting. To take advantage of as much migrant labor as possible, Bond Pickle Co. created "Bond Village," a group of cabins and facilities close to the farms so that migrant workers were able to have continued shelter and easy access to their worksites. These camps were not comfortable or safe locations to live in, with little access to simple amenities such as mattresses or fans for scorching summer weather. The cabins were as basic as the farmer or producer could make them because people would only live in the camps for a few

months of the year. If the migrant workers did not have access to these camps, they would instead live wherever they could find shelter including under large trees on the roadside or abandoned buildings in the countryside.

For this project, we researched the daily lives of migrant workers at Bond Village and the surrounding farms. Much of the information that is known about migrant workers in Wisconsin is from a state-wide view and not from a personal perspective. We wanted to learn more about the people that lived in the cabin itself. One prominent topic was education. Wisconsin had laws in place requiring migrant children's schooling over the summer, but for many years the Oconto Migrant Council supported youth education themselves. The Oconto Migrant Council was a collection of volunteers who worked to change the lives of migrant workers based on American cultural standards. This was important to the community as the reports from the council would be published in the *Oconto County Reporter*.

Another topic of interest was the health and dental services available to migrant workers. A wide variety of health issues were found in the camps that ranged from cuts, sprains, and punctures to more chronic diseases. One prevalent disease amongst migrant workers was tuberculosis and the Wisconsin healthcare system did their best to prevent the continual spread of infection. But while some health care providers came to the camps it was still difficult for many migrants to receive care. Barriers such as transportation, money, and fear of taking time off from work made adequate healthcare difficult.

When not working, migrant workers had a robust social life that centered mainly within the migrant community. They enjoyed movies, baseball, crafting, and a refreshing cold soda on a blistering day, much like other typical Wisconsinites of the period. Many of these recreational services were supplied either by Bond Village or local interest groups such as the Oconto Migrant Council or local churches, as religion was extremely



Interns Jon, Kayla, and Jacob began their internship with a visit to Heritage Hill to see the migrant cabin in the midst of its restoration and the snowy site where it will eventually stand.

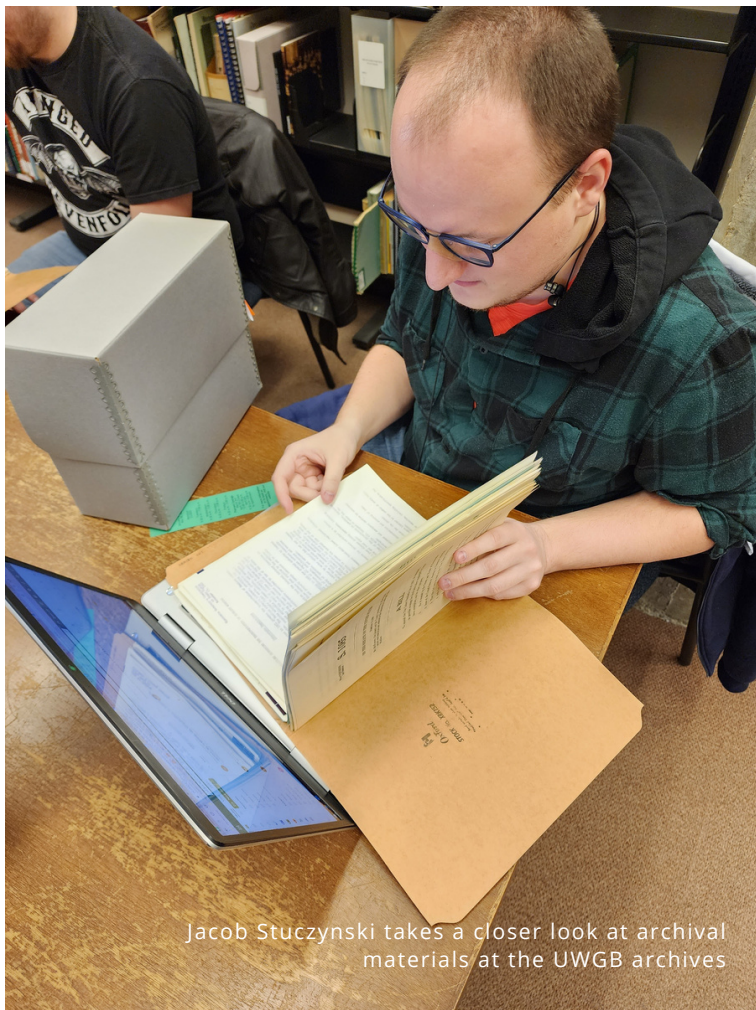
important to the migrant community. The nearby Chapel of Our Lady Guadalupe was central to the migrant workers for their faith and religious education while in the unfamiliar landscape of Oconto.

Finally, one of the most important things that should be noted in any discussion of migrant workers in Wisconsin is the bias against them. In the *Oconto County Reporter*, there was a series of articles published titled "The Migrant Story." The series details the struggles of migrant workers in Oconto because of how they were viewed as outsiders by the local population. They were viewed as a group of people who needed to be taught how to conform to American societal standards, despite most of them being American citizens themselves. While there are numerous examples of the local community reaching out to the migrant workers to offer support or friendship, there are just as many examples of the local community seeking to exclude or assimilate them. What we have learned through this research is that the story of migrant workers is often overlooked throughout the history of Wisconsin and it deserves more attention from historians, students and the general public.

The history of migrant workers in Wisconsin and the United States is an often overlooked story. However, their history is integral to that of communities in Northeast Wisconsin and their stories enrich those of everyone in the region. The addition of the migrant cabin to Heritage Hill will help highlight this community and share their stories with a larger audience.



Bond Pickle Label, courtesy of Oconto Historical Society.



Jacob Stuczynski takes a closer look at archival materials at the UWGB archives

MIGRANT WORKERS UNITED

We also did research regarding laws affecting migrant workers and migrant worker unions in Wisconsin. Bond Pickle Co. originally was against the inclusion of unions but later was forced to accept Local 75 as their workers' exclusive bargaining partner. However, this representation did not include the migrant workers who were working at Bond Pickle Co., only the permanent staff. One of the most important things that appeared repeatedly through our research was Jesus Salas and the union he formed, Obreros Unidos (Workers United). Prior to their efforts, migrant workers in Wisconsin had received no representation from unions. The group was responsible for leading the first migrant worker strike in the history of Wisconsin which took place in Almond at a potato processing plant where the employee relations board held the plant's management responsible for unfair business practices. From their march to the capitol in Madison to their contributions in the United Migrant Opportunity Service, Salas and Obreros Unidos were major contributors in bringing awareness to the problems that faced migrant workers in Wisconsin and were a stepping stone for migrant workers to achieve a better working environment and better pay.



WILDLIFE AROUND THE PARK

If you've visited, you've probably noticed Heritage Hill's two deer families in the prairie in front of the Cotton House or munching on the mulberry trees by the playground. However, the Park is home to so many more creatures than that! Geese have taken residence by the Gazebo, ducks and snapping turtles can be found by the pond. This friendly guy (or gal) lives in the runoff stream on the way to the Fur Trade Cabin. Next time you visit, snap a picture of any wildlife you encounter and share it with us on social media or by emailing info@heritagehillgb.org.



Don't forget to renew your membership to keep receiving *The Hilltop Gazette!*



Michael E. Telzrow
Executive Director

FROM THE COLLECTION

MILITIA COATEE CONSERVATION

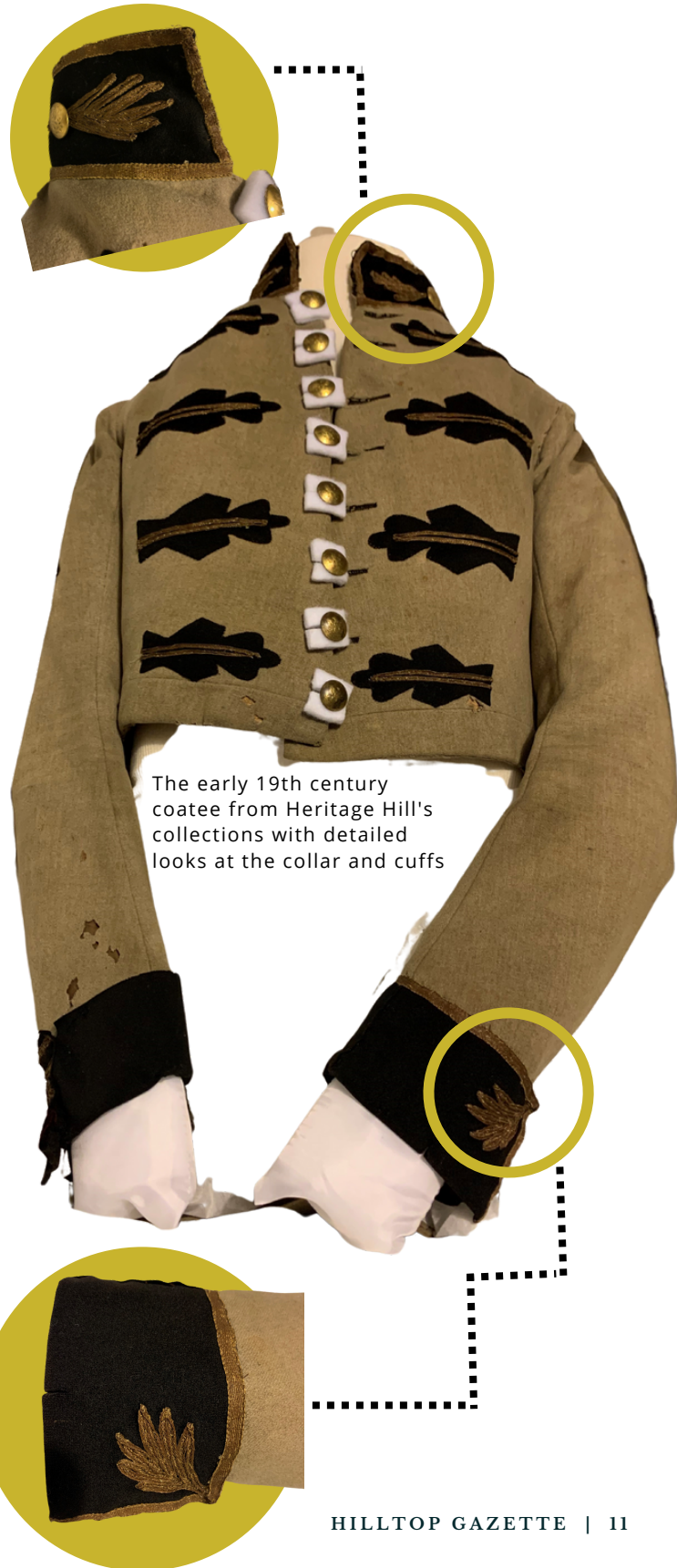
Typical of Early Republic militia uniforms, this coatee conforms to the military style of the period with features such as a slim fit, long tails, and a standing collar. Hand-stitched throughout, it features metallic thread passementerie (beaded trim), black wool appliques and gilt-brass buttons. The buttons indicate an artillery affiliation featuring a low-relief federal eagle with a letter A centered on a shield.

Since our colonial period, militia units carried on a tradition that began in England with the “trained band” system. These men, generally between the ages of 16 and 64, were privately armed and provided for local defense, but were eventually replaced by professional armies on the European continent due to their unwillingness to leave their home locales for foreign lands. Nevertheless, the almost universal distrust of standing armies inherited from England kept the militia system alive in the United States where citizens closely guarded their Second Amendment right to bear arms.

Militia units augmented the Continental Army during the War of Independence and continued the tradition of local defense well into the 19th century. In the broadest sense, the term militia came to refer to the entire able-bodied manpower of a state on paper. During the 19th century, this largely imaginary category was often referred to as the “enrolled militia.” The term “volunteer militia” refers to companies of men (usually geographically organized) who actually provided their own uniforms, drilled frequently (or at least occasionally) and endeavored to become a disciplined military unit. In practice, however, this was not often the case, and in larger cities militia units functioned more as guardians of 19th century ideals of masculinity and civic duty rather than as battle-ready military units. Still, state militia units provided large numbers of volunteers during the Mexican and Civil Wars.

Although it is without provenance, this coat is typical of the privately purchased militia uniforms of the 1820s. In general, they followed the military cut of the times but were not guided by U.S. Army regulations – creating an almost endless variety of styles.

Funds provided by the Green Bay-De Pere Antiquarian Society made possible the recent conservation treatment of this uniform that included cleaning, consolidation of loose braid/thread, and a custom support form.



The early 19th century coatee from Heritage Hill's collections with detailed looks at the collar and cuffs

'TIS A GIFT TO BE SIMPLE

Meet the new Visitor Services Manager & learn about the new offerings of the revitalized gift shop!



Kate Bennett
Visitor Services Manager



Our on-site blacksmiths forge pieces that will last generations – and you can find your next functional, quality, locally-made piece of smithing right here at La Baye Coffee House and Gifts. Some of our current highlights include heavy-duty iron tent stakes (coated so they won't rust, of course!) to keep you sheltered even in the sandiest of tenting spots, over-the-door hangers (great for your seasonal wreaths!), keychains, and, always, our courting candlestick holders. We're feeling inspired and have big ideas "cooking" up (hint, hint!) on the Hill and our stock rotation will grow with the season – so stop in soon and often.

Just in, and absolutely worth shouting about, are heirloom seed kits inspired by Heritage Hill's beloved Belgian Farmhouse garden. The kit includes most of what you'll need to start a garden right now: viable, seasonally appropriate and historically-inspired seeds, stake markers, a growing guide, and recipes. This kit is made locally with you in mind!





Not only is our signature Guardhouse Blend coffee craft roasted locally especially for Heritage Hill State Historical Park, but it passes the taste test of even our pickiest staff! It pairs best with a stroll in the Park or with the rolling view from our Education Center veranda and a sweet treat. Stop in for a cup of drip or a house-made cold brew during regular park operations.



We're also pleased to announce that Northeast Wisconsin is now home to expert signal whistlers, cup-and-ball catchers, and Grace players! School field trip visits have been a big focus this spring, but our folk toy and musical instrument selection has a little something for everyone – from fifes to Jacob's Ladders, to signal whistles, to colonial looms, to Hoops and Graces, we bet you'll find something special to remind you of your visit to Heritage Hill! You, too, can become a fifer!

Looking for a place to hold a family reunion?
Have out-of-town guests?



WEYERS HOUSE AIR BNB

Next door to Heritage Hill!

SCAN ME



To learn more &
book your stay!



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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COMMENTS & SUBMISSIONS

We welcome your comments and
editorial submissions concerning *The
Hilltop Gazette*. Please send any to
**Elizabeth Jolly, Senior Marketing
Specialist** at liz@heritagehillgb.org



Heritage Hill State Historical Park
2640 S Webster Ave
Green Bay, WI 54301



Thank you to our new Members!

New members as of 5-1-2023

FAMILY

Jessica Alldredge
Hilary Baker
Janet Barkley
Joseph Bero
Andy Betz
Kate Bobber
James Bond
Ann Booth
Elena Borghi-Pagliai
Hope Brunette
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