The Mining & Rollo Jamison Museums
PLATTEVILLE
WISCONSIN

Newsletter

Winter 2018

Clockwise from upper-left: Martin Luther King Jr, David HB Drake, Christy Clark-Pujuara, and Evan Larson.

Winter Lyceums Line-Up

The Museums are proud to announce the 2018 Winter Lyceum Line-up. This year's presenters are sure to cure your cabin fever and spark your interest. This year the lyceum series will take place at the Municipal Auditorium at 75 North Bonson Street in Platteville.

The Enduring Significance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with Dr. Frank King
Monday, January 15, 2018, 7:00 pm
Dr. Frank King, Professor of Ethnic Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville will speak to the importance of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on a national stage as well as here in Wisconsin.

Early Black Suffrage in Wisconsin with Christy Clark- Pujuara
Sunday, February 25, 2018: 3:00 pm
On October 31, 1865 Ezekiel Gillespie, a black Milwaukee resident, went to "the place of registration on the flats in the Seventh ward" and

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Museum staff aids mystery novel research

By Dave Ralph, Friends of the Mining & Rollo Jamison Museum Board Member

A friendship between Museum Education Coordinator Mary Huck and bestselling author Kathleen Ernst that began at Old World Wisconsin in the early 1980s led to their recent reunion with research at the Mining and Rollo Jamison Museums for Ernst's latest novel.

Ernst treated about 50 guests to a presentation at the Jamison Museum Association and Friends of the Mining and Rollo Jamison Museums annual meeting November 16, 2017, describing the processes she uses to write her fictional history mystery series that revolves around the central character, Chloe Ellefson. Ernst promoted and signed copies of her latest book, *Mining for Justice*, which is set in Mineral Point during the lead mining boom in the Wisconsin Territory prior to statehood.

Ernst said that her passion for Wisconsin began after college while visiting Old World Wisconsin on vacation. The outdoor historical site near Eagle preserves customs and an environment typical of those experienced by immigrants who settled in rural Wisconsin. She became an Old World Wisconsin employee in 1982 and worked there 12 years.

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Upcoming Events

Lyceum Continued from Page 1

asked that his name be added to the list of eligible voters; he was refused. The next day he went to the polls to vote. He was turned away and subsequently filed suit. A referendum for black male suffrage had been part of the failed 1846 Wisconsin Constitution and the approved 1848 constitution explicitly denied black men the right to vote. In many ways the state of Wisconsin was progressive, yet that progressivism was tempered by a virulent racism which is evident in the contest over black male suffrage—a political battle which began in 1846 and ended when the state supreme court took up Gillespie's suit twenty years later.

Driftless Dendrochronology: Stories of the Region Told through the Rings of Trees
Sunday, March 11, 2018, 7:00 pm
Dr. Evan Larson, Associate Professor of Geography and director of the Tree-Ring, Earth, and Environmental Sciences Laboratory (TREES Lab) at UW-Platteville, will share insights on the past climate, ecology, and human history of the Driftless Area gained through eight years of collaborative projects with his students and colleagues. Stories of fire, drought, and pioneers will be illustrated through photographs and data, with emerging lessons on how we might choose to live on this land into the future.

David HB Drake: Wiscon-SING
Sunday, March 18, 2018, 7:00 pm
Wisconsin's vibrant past comes to life in Wiscon-Sing, a multi-media performance of music and images featuring educator and folksinger David HB Drake. David engages audiences of all ages in an authentic immersion into history, performing on handmade and historic instruments including: mountain banjo, dulcimer, concertina, Native American flute, and guitar.

Alison Staudinger: Women's Work During Prohibition
Sunday, March 25, 2018, 6:00 pm
Prohibition was a nationwide constitutional ban on the sale, production, importation, and transportation of alcoholic beverages, mandated under the Eighteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution in 1920. Over the course of thirteen 'dry' years, some women's work, and attitudes, changed to match the times. This talk will focus on the stories of real Wisconsin women and consider how the value of work in the home changed during Prohibition and how it is valued today.

Investigative Learning with Maps and Surveys

Saturday, January 27, 2018
1:00 - 3:00 pm

Join us for a fun, interactive workshop about mapping and surveying. Participants will first learn about the first land surveys done of the Lead Mine District. Then, acting as historians, they will engage in an activity of investigating maps, surveyors' notes, and original documents. This activity is designed for teens and adults.

Cost: $5/person or free for museum members
Registration: Call (608) 348-3301

Mini Workshops

Stationery Set
Marble paper, and create ink from walnuts and berries to use in a quill pen.
Saturday, January 20, 2018, 1:00 – 3:00 pm
COST: $20/person or $15/members

Victorian Valentines
Create Victorian Valentines for your friends and family.
Saturday, February 10, 2018, 1:00 – 3:00 pm
COST: $15/person or $12/members

These workshops are designed for kids 8-12 years of age. Call (608) 348-3301 to register.

Museum Collections

Above: World War One helmet and trench knife from the Mining and Rollo Jamison Museums collections. Below: gas mask bag and detail of trench whistles from the collection of Jeff Schave.

Collections Spotlight

By Jeff Schave, Friends of the Mining & Rollo Jamison Museum Board Secretary

" The Great War", " The War for Democracy", "The War to End All Wars" are all names for the first great calamity of the 20th Century we all know today as World War I. April 6th, 2017 marked the 100 year anniversary of the United States entering this global conflict. Over 4 million American soldiers were mobilized. Of these, 116,708 never returned, over 204,000 were physically wounded and countless more returned with unseen wounds. Pictured here are some World War I artifacts from the museum's collection. The American helmet is practically identical to the British WWI and WWII design. Next we find a nasty item known as a "trench knife". These types of weapons were designed for close quarter, "hand to hand" fighting. This specimen is marked" L.F. &C 1917" The Company that made it was "Landers, Frary and Clark" from New Britain Connecticut. The gas mask was a very essential and potentially lifesaving item that never left the chest of the on duty soldier, day or night. At a moment's notice there could be a mustard, tear, and chlorine or phosgene gas attack. These nerve agents were so horrible that they were eventually banned as a weapon internationally through the Geneva Conventions. Finally, there are two styles of "trench whistles". The dreaded sound of one of these sent many a Doughboy "over the top" into "no man's land" to face withering machine gun fire. More than 122,000 Wisconsin soldiers served in World War I. Nearly 4,000 of them gave their lives for their country.

Annual Meeting

Friends of the Mining and Rollo Jamison Museum President Dee Woolf (left) recognized long-time curator Stephanie Saager-Bourret (right), who retired this October after 32 years of service.

Progress Noted at Annual Meeting

A wide range of progress occurred during 2017 for the Mining and Rollo Jamison Museums, according to reports presented at the annual meeting November 16. A few of the projects highlighted include:

- Completion of the Museum Assessment Program, an evaluation of the Museums strengths and areas for improvements.
- Installation of a temporary exhibit about the Big Badger Fair.
- Moving the Mining exhibits to the Hanmer Robbins Building.
- Installation of the African American Lead Miners in Wisconsin exhibit, researched by University of Wisconsin-Platteville students and Dr. Eugene Tesdahl.
- Grant awards in support of collections preservation and management.
- A cleanup day by staff, volunteers and UW-P students to produce more storage space.
- Upgrading the landscape on East Main Street and Virgin Avenue with the help of the City Parks Department.
- Coordination of the Platteville Art, Trails and History Project, a two-year project that will survey community cultural interests.

Mystery Novel Continued from Page 1

In an interview, Huck said that Ernst paid careful attention to details and enjoyed learning old-time skills. One of their assignments as Old World Wisconsin colleagues involved baking rye bread.

"You can really get to know someone when you spend a summer sweating together over weeding gardens or keeping a brisk fire going in a room where the temperature already is in the high eighties," Huck said.

She added, "You do a lot of talking as an interpreter. I think we both found we liked sharing what we knew about the past with anyone who would listen."

To assist Ernst with developing a sense of Mineral Point miners and their surroundings, Huck gave Ernst a tour of the 1845 Bevans Lead Mine at the Mining Museum in Platteville. Former Museum Curator Stephanie Saager-Bouret showed Ernst samples of household artifacts such as broken china and a piece of a pipe discovered at a miner's house in Mineral Point.

Ernst told the audience that she chooses the settings for novels to educate readers, facilitate the plot, and examine the legacy of the sites."Weaving elements and details to create a book's plot involves putting together pieces of factual history then adding fiction when necessary to complete the story," Ernst explained. She thanked the Museums' staff for their assistance in giving her a better understanding of the Wisconsin Territory era and the mining industry.

Ernst said that she recommends the Mining and Rollo Jamison Museums to her readers because "there's nothing like seeing the real thing."

"I hope this new book introduces readers and people from around Wisconsin to the rich history of this Driftless region," she said.

For more about the author and her novels go online to www.kathleenernst.com/chloe and follow her at facebook.com/kathleenernst.author.

Volunteers

The student crew with Don Francis (right)

Cleanup effort creates more storage space

By Dave Ralph, Friends of the Mining & Rollo Jamison Museum Board Member

Ten students from the University of Wisconsin-Platteville gained firsthand community service experience and the Mining & Rollo Jamison Museums gained additional storage space during a Cleanup Day on Saturday, October 7.

Museum staff and volunteers joined students from the Introduction to College Life course led by Don Francis, who's a professor and the Platteville City Council alderman for District 1. More than 60 students from UW-P College Life courses split up for work at the Museums, Platteville Family Aquatic Center, the Southwest Wisconsin Community Action Program-Neighborhood Health Partners, and Wisconsin Badger Camp.

Francis said the one-day service project gives first-year UW-P students an opportunity to go beyond classrooms and into the community to engage with partners. The university calls it eMbrace Citizenship Day which is voluntary for students in the one-credit course.

"Students understand quickly that they are welcome to the community that is off-campus," he added.

Heidi Lininger of Genoa City, Wis., a sustainable and renewable energy systems major, hauled out items from the Rock School basement. She had a special interest in the Museums. "I chose to volunteer at the Museums because I really love museums," she explained. "So, this gave me a chance to go behind the scenes."

Jordan Schultz, a criminal justice major from Oregon, Wis., helped remove railroad ties used for flower beds at the corner of East Main Street and Virgin Avenue. "Once we started work the time flew by and we had fun. It was nice to do something for the community," he said.

The eMbrace Citizenship Day for UW-P began during fall semester 2015. It's a collaboration between the Pioneer Academic Center for Community Engagement office, Val Wetzel in the Pioneer Involvement Center and the Academic Support Programs.

Interested in Volunteering?

We are planning more clean up days for 2018 and are looking for volunteers to help. If you are interested please call (608) 348-3301 or email museums@platteville.org.

Members & Donors

Ringing in the New Year

By Diana Bolander, Museum Director

This circa 1940s pocket watch was one of the 2,839 objects cataloged in 2017.

2017 was an interesting year full of challenges, triumphs, and growth. Thanks to your support, the Friends of the Museums met our 2017 fundraising goal of $50,000. Over 200 individuals and families generously gave in support of our public and K-12 educational tour programs for 2018.

Other 2017 achievements include:

- Revamping our membership and donor programs in response to your feedback.
- Reaching over 12,000 people through exhibits, programs, and outreach.
- Being awarded two nationally competitive grants.
- Completing the American Alliance of Museums professional assessment program.
- Volunteers and staff photographed and cataloged 2,839 items from our collection.

2018 leads us into a new direction with more opportunities for us to fulfill our mission to preserve and interpret the history of Southwest Wisconsin and the mining heritage of the Upper Mississippi River Zinc and Lead District. We will focus on cleaning collections storage areas, photographing and cataloging our collection, and programs focusing on the Bevans Lead Mine in the new year.

We hope that you will consider making a donation again in 2018 in support of the Museums and please include the Museums in your estate plans.

We thank you for all of your support as we undergo changes to our staffing and programming!

Thank you 2017 Donors

This list reflects all dues and donations received between 1/1/2017 and 12/31/2017.

Pickard's Prospectors ($5,000 or more)

Brodbeck Foundation
Thomas Hickey

Hanmer Robbins' Legacy ($1,000 - $2,999)

Anonymous
Nancy Daniels
Duane DeYoung
Loren & Arlene Farrey
Kay Kingeter, in memory of Jim Kingeter
Dwight & Sharon Klaassen
Deb & Larry Jenny
Cecile Hoffman
Peggy Rice
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Rollo's Friends ($500-999)

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Mac A McKichan, Jr.
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Herb Reichelt
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Bevans' Band ($250-499)

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Platteville Optimists Club 09-137
Stephanie Saager-Bourret & Ralph Bourret
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Caroline Woodward
Terry & Delores Woolf
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Rountree's Circle ($150 – 249)

Zack & Amelia Armstrong
Greg & Brenda Banfield
Gerald & Helen Bierstedt
Dr. Michael Black
Diana Bolander & Bill Yazbec
Bruce & Karla Flesch
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Alliant Energy
Marshall Anderson
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Ben Ballweg
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Katherine Westaby
Kathleen Wilcox
Bill Willis
Mr. Barry Zalben

Please consider making a donation to support our operations and programming.

- Gifts are tax deductible to the limits of the law.
- Give online: mining.jamison.museum/donate
- EFT Available
- Please consider the Museums in your estate plans.

Please return form and make checks payable to:

The Mining & Rollo Jamison Museums
P.O. Box 780
Platteville, WI 53818

Contact Diana at (608) 348-3301 or museums@platteville.org with questions.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

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Bats at the Museums!

Sunday, April 8, 2018, 3:00 pm

Did you know that bats account for 20% of earth's mammal diversity?! The only thing scary about bats is the threat of white-nose syndrome, a deadly disease killing off the most common bats in North America. Worldwide, these superheroes of the night sky are responsible for worldwide pest control, seed dispersal, and pollination among other benefits. Jennifer Redell, WDNR bat biologist, will teach all ages about the importance of these amazing animals and unearth the mysteries of Wisconsin's bats. Jennifer will be accompanied by live bat ambassadors, including a fruit bat native to Africa!

Museum Admission Applies, free for members

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Visit us on the web at
mining.jamison.museum

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