Rural historian and celebrated Wisconsin storyteller Jerry Apps has been writing about Wisconsin farm life, gardening, and the environment for more than forty years. He has published more than thirty nonfiction and fiction books and countless articles for adult and young readers.

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From the Top
Brief Transmissions from Tent Show Radio
Michael Perry

“Bottom line is, I’m the kind of guy who’s happy to attend the opera, but I should like to be allowed to wear steel-toed boots with my evening suit. I like to read Harper’s with a chaser of Varmint Hunter Magazine. Maybe that’s why I enjoy a good show under canvas. Here we sit, brain-deep in arts and culture, but we’re also just people hanging out in a tent, some of us wearing boots, a few of us wearing Birkenstocks, and best of all we’re breathing free fresh air filled with music.”

From Scandihoovian Spanglish to snickering chickens, New York Times bestselling author and humorist Michael Perry navigates a wide range of topics in this collection of brief essays drawn from his weekly appearances on the nationally syndicated Tent Show Radio program. Fatherhood, dumpster therapy, dangerous wedding rings, Christmas trees, used cars, why you should have bacon in your stock portfolio, loggers in clogs—whatever the subject, Perry has a rare ability to touch both the funny bone and the heart.

Michael Perry is the author of numerous books including Population: 485 and the New York Times bestseller Visiting Tom. His live humor recordings include Never Stand behind a Sneeze Cow and The Clodhopper Monologues. He lives in rural Wisconsin with his wife and daughters and is privileged to serve as a first responder with the local fire department. He can be found online at www.sneezingcow.com.
For Love and Money
Portraits of Wisconsin Family Business
Carl Corey
Foreword by Michael Perry
Introduction by Graeme Reid

In his follow-up to Tavern League: Portraits of Wisconsin Bars, Carl Corey turns his camera on Wisconsin family-owned businesses in existence fifty years or longer. The businesses portrayed here—bakeries and barbecue joints, funeral homes and furniture builders, cheesemakers, fishermen, ferry boat drivers—have survived against all the odds, weathering tough economic times and big-business competition. The owners are loyal to their employees, their families, and themselves. And they are integral to their local economies and social fabric. The services and goods they provide are usually for neighbors and friends. Generations serve generations, creating lasting relationships and strong, vibrant neighborhoods and rural communities.

In For Love and Money, Carl Corey provides indelible glimpses of an increasingly endangered way of life. The Museum of Wisconsin Art’s Graeme Reid has said, “As current and future generations come and go, these pictures will survive in the hands of the subjects, collectors, museums, and galleries. Will the businesses featured enjoy a similar longevity? Only time will tell, and we can only watch and hope, but Carl Corey has ensured that they will not be forgotten.”

Carl Corey has been interested in photography since he was a kid and majored in the subject during high school in Chicago. He has worked as an advertising still photographer and director and cameraman for advertising projects in Chicago and Los Angeles. He retired from the advertising business and moved back to Wisconsin after twenty-five years to focus on his roots: documentary photography. His work is exhibited in galleries and museums worldwide, as well in numerous private and public collections. He has won more than 100 photography awards from such groups and publications as the New York Art Directors Club, Communication Arts, Bessies, Addys, and Gold Lions. He is the author/photographer of Tavern League: Portraits of Wisconsin Bars.

June 2013
Hardcover: $29.95
128 pages, 75 color photos, 9¾ x 9¾
ISBN: 978-0-87020-646-7

Also by Carl Corey

Tavern League
Portraits of Wisconsin Bars
Carl Corey
Foreword by Vincent Virga
Introduction by Jim Draeger

Stunning images of Wisconsin bars that serve as gathering places for the communities they serve.

Hardcover: $29.95
136 pages, 60 color photos, 9¾ x 9¾
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The Bingo Queens of Oneida
How Two Moms Started Tribal Gaming in Wisconsin
Mike Hoeft

Before Indian casinos, a few enterprising tribes got their start in gambling by opening bingo parlors. A group of women on the Oneida Indian Reservation just outside Green Bay, Wisconsin, introduced bingo in 1976 simply to pay a few bills. Bingo not only paid the light bill at the struggling civic center but was soon financing vital health and housing services for tribal elderly and poor.

The Bingo Queens of Oneida: How Two Moms Started Tribal Gaming in Wisconsin tells the story through the eyes of Sandra Ninham and Alma Webster, the Oneida women who had the idea for a bingo operation run by the tribe. Bingo became the tribe’s first moneymaker on a reservation where about half the population was living in poverty.

Author Mike Hoeft traces the historic struggles of the Oneida from their alliance with America during the Revolutionary War to their journey to Wisconsin and details the lives of inspirational tribal members who worked alongside Ninham and Webster. The Bingo Queens of Oneida is the story of not only how one game helped revive the Oneida economy but also how one game strengthened the Oneida community.

After earning a bachelor’s degree in journalism from the University of New Mexico, Mike Hoeft worked as a reporter and copy editor for thirty years on daily newspapers. For twenty-three of those years he was on staff in the newsroom of the Green Bay Press-Gazette. He lives with his family in Oneida, Wisconsin, and currently works as a paralegal for the Oneida Tribe Child Support Agency. This is his first book.

April 2014
Paperback: $16.95
216 Pages, 31 b&w photos, 2 maps, 6 x 9
ISBN: 978-0-87020-652-8
E-book Edition Available
Banning DDT
How Citizen Activists in Wisconsin Led the Way
Bill Berry
Foreword by David Yarnold, National Audubon Society

On a December day in 1968, DDT went on trial in Madison, Wisconsin. In Banning DDT: How Citizen Activists in Wisconsin Led the Way, Bill Berry details how the citizens, scientists, reporters, and traditional conservationists drew attention to the harmful effects of “the miracle pesticide” DDT, which was being used to control Dutch elm disease.

Berry tells of the hunters and fishers, bird-watchers, and garden-club ladies like Lorrie Otto, who dropped off twenty-eight dead robins at the Bayside village offices. He tells of university professors and scientists like Joseph Hickey, a professor and researcher in the Department of Wildlife Management at the University of Wisconsin in Madison, who, years after the fact, wept about the suppression of some of his early DDT research. And he tells of activists like Senator Gaylord Nelson and members of the state’s Citizens Natural Resources Association who rallied others to the cause.

The six-month-long DDT hearing was one of the first chapters in citizen activism in the modern environmental era. Banning DDT is a compelling story of how citizen activism, science, and law merged in Wisconsin’s DDT battles to forge a new way to accomplish public policy. These citizen activists were motivated by the belief that we all deserve a voice on the health of the land and water that sustain us.

Bill Berry grew up in Green Bay and earned undergraduate degrees from the University of Wisconsin–River Falls. After more than twenty years as a reporter, columnist, and editor for several daily newspapers, he redirected his energy to communicate about conservation and agriculture. This work has taken him across the United States to learn and teach about private lands conservation. A columnist for the Capital Times of Madison, he lives in Stevens Point with his wife and is the father of two daughters.

April 2014
Paperback: $18.95
274 pages, 22 b&w photos, 1 map, 6 x 9
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800-621-2736 wisconsinhistory.org/whspress
Risking Everything
A Freedom Summer Reader
Edited by Michael Edmonds

Risking Everything: A Freedom Summer Reader documents the 1964 Mississippi Freedom Summer Project, when SNCC and CORE workers and volunteers arrived in the Deep South to register voters and teach non-violence, and more than 60,000 black Mississippians risked everything to overturn a system that had brutally exploited them.

In the 44 original documents in this anthology, you’ll read their letters, eavesdrop on their meetings, shudder at their suffering, and admire their courage. You’ll witness the final hours of three workers murdered on the project’s first day, hear testimony by black residents who bravely stood up to police torture and Klan firebombs, and watch the liberal establishment betray them.

These vivid primary sources, collected by the Wisconsin Historical Society, provide both firsthand accounts of this astounding grassroots struggle as well as a broader understanding of the civil rights movement.

Michael Edmonds is Deputy Director of the Library–Archives at the Wisconsin Historical Society and curator of its online collection of more than 25,000 pages documenting Freedom Summer. A 1976 graduate of Harvard University, he earned an MS degree at Simmons College in 1979 and taught part-time at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. The author of several articles and books, Edmonds has won national awards from the American Folklore Society and the American Association for State and Local History.

June 2014
Paperback: $18.95
256 pages, 19 b&w photos, 1 map, 6 x 9
ISBN: 978-0-87020-678-8

E-book Edition Available
Dear Dad,

I want to tell you about Mississippi and about the Freedom Movement here. It is not easy; my impressions are many and very strong. I have met the best and worst people here, the greatest courage and the greatest terror—sometimes in the same person. This Mississippi is a beautiful land of red earth and a thousand greens, made ugly by the squalor and hate which dominate the races who live here.

I work in voter registration. Three of us work together; one is a Negro. In as many cases as possible the Negro is made the project director, and such is the case here. The policy is a wise and effective one. On a normal day we roll out of bed early in the morning. We may have slept in the Freedom House, or in the home of some generous and brave farmer (two essential requirements for anyone to offer us hospitality). We study the map of the county, decide where we will work for the day. We scramble for breakfast and hit the road.

The work is long and hot. We drive from farmhouse to farmhouse. I have averaged almost 200 miles a day on the car. The roads are in despicable condition. We know where the colored people are by those roads: where the pavement stops the Negro sections are likely to begin. And if there is not even gravel on the roads, we can be reasonably sure that we are in a safe neighborhood. Such is not always the case, though, and more than once we have been cursed and threatened by someone for knocking on a white man’s door.

When we walk up to a house there are always children out front. They look up and see white men in the car, and fear and caution cover their expressions. Those terrified eyes are never quite out of my mind; they drive me as little else could...
Studying Wisconsin
The Life of Increase Lapham, early chronicler of plants, rocks, rivers, mounds and all things Wisconsin
Martha Bergland and Paul G. Hayes

In this long overdue tribute to Wisconsin’s first scientist, authors Martha Bergland and Paul G. Hayes explore the remarkable life and achievements of Increase Lapham (1811–1875). Lapham’s ability to observe, understand, and meticulously catalog the natural world marked all of his work, from his days as a teenage surveyor on the Erie Canal to his last great contribution as state geologist.

Self-taught, Lapham mastered botany, geology, archaeology, limnology, mineralogy, engineering, meteorology, and cartography. A prolific writer, his 1844 guide to the territory was the first book published in Wisconsin. Asked late in life which field of science was his specialty, he replied simply, “I am studying Wisconsin.”

Lapham identified and preserved thousands of botanical specimens. He surveyed and mapped Wisconsin’s effigy mounds. He was a force behind the creation of the National Weather Service, lobbying for a storm warning system to protect Great Lakes sailors. Told in compelling detail through Lapham’s letters, journals, books, and articles, Studying Wisconsin chronicles the life and times of Wisconsin’s pioneer citizen-scientist.

After her retirement from teaching English at Milwaukee Area Technical College, Martha Bergland took a break to write an article on Lapham for Milwaukee Magazine. This break became five years of studying Increase Lapham. She has written two novels, A Farm Under a Lake and Idle Curiosity, both published by Graywolf, and is the recipient of a Pushcart Prize. She lives in Glendale, Wisconsin.

During 33 years at The Milwaukee Journal, science reporter Paul G. Hayes often relied on the work of Increase Lapham, whose home had been three blocks north of the newspaper office. After retiring in 1995, Hayes continued to write, often referring to Lapham and his contributions. This biography is a fitting finale to a fifty-year acquaintance. Paul and his wife live in Cedarburg, Wisconsin, where they raised two sons.

June 2014
Hardcover: $26.95
424 pages, 75 b&w photos and illus., 4 maps, 6 x 9
ISBN: 978-0-87020-648-1
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Return to Wake Robin
One Cabin in the Heyday of Northwoods Resorts
Marnie O. Mamminga

A Chapter A Day selection from Wisconsin Public Radio read by Susan Sweeney

Listen as Wisconsin Public Radio’s Susan Sweeney shares Marnie O. Mamminga’s story of Northwoods vacations, from the book Return to Wake Robin. In a series of evocative remembrances, Mamminga takes readers to Wake Robin, the cabin her grandparents built in 1929 on Big Spider Lake near Hayward—on land adjacent to Moody’s Camp—the cabin five generations of Mamminga’s family have returned to every summer since.

Bookended by the close of the logging era and the 1970s shift to modern lake homes, condos, and Jet Skis, the decades of the 1920s to the 1960s covered in these essays represents the golden age of Northwoods camps and cabins, a time when retreats such as Wake Robin were the essence of simplicity. Return to Wake Robin describes the familiar cadre of fishing guides casting their charm, the camaraderie and friendships among resort workers and vacationers, the call of the weekly square dance, the splash announcing a perfectly executed cannonball, the lodge as gathering place. Tracing the history of one resort and cabin, it recalls a time and experience that will resonate with anyone who spent their summers Up North—or wishes they had.

Marnie O. Mamminga, born and raised in the Chicago area, attended the University of Illinois at Urbana–Champaign, where she earned undergraduate and master’s degrees in English. She has worked as a freelance writer and columnist. Her publishing credits include the Chicago Tribune, Reader’s Digest, the Christian Science Monitor, Lake Superior Magazine, and several Chicken Soup for the Soul books.

Susan Sweeney is an actress and voice consultant based in Madison, Wisconsin. Her credits include major roles for, among others, the Great Lakes Shakespeare Festival, Milwaukee Chamber Theatre, Utah Shakespeare Festival, and American Players Theatre. Her voice is heard as “The Story Lady” in Philadelphia’s Enchantment Theatre national touring productions, and she is a regular reader on Wisconsin Public Radio’s Chapter A Day. She is professor emerita at the University of Wisconsin–Madison.

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Cris Plata
From Fields to Stage
Del Campo al Escenario
Maia A. Surdam

Raised among Mexican American farmworkers, singer-songwriter Cris Plata spoke Spanish, ate Mexican food, and heard Mexican music played by family and friends. He also spoke English, went to school with mostly white children for at least half the year, and grew familiar with mainstream American culture. Until he was seven, he and his family lived and worked on a ranch near Poteet, Texas. The family became migrant farmworkers, moving from Indiana to Arkansas and Florida before finally settling in Wisconsin in 1966 to work at an Astico farm.

This dual language book shares the Platas’ family story of migrant farming, music, and family amid the constant change and uncertainty of migrant life. While hardships—from poor working conditions and low wages to racial prejudice—were constant in Cris Plata’s upbringing, so too was the music that bonded and uplifted his family. After long days in the fields, Cris’s family spent their small amount of free time playing and singing songs from Mexico and South Texas. Cris learned to play the guitar, accordion, and mandolin, beginning to strum when he was just five years old. Today, he writes his own music, performs songs in English and Spanish, and records albums with his band, Cris Plata with Extra Hot.

Following Cris Plata’s journey from farm fields to musical stages, the story explores how a migrant, and the son of an immigrant, decided to make Wisconsin his home.

Maia A. Surdam is an educator who has a PhD in history from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Her research explores farming, family, and community in the rural Midwest. Born and raised in a small Michigan town and educated in Ann Arbor and Madison, she is a Midwesterner at heart who currently lives in Asheville, North Carolina.

May 2014
Paperback: $12.95
160 pages, 45 b&w photos, 2 maps, 7 x 9
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Text in Spanish and English
Electa Quinney loved to learn. Growing up in the early 1800s in New York, she went to some of the best boarding schools. There she learned how to read, write, and solve tough math problems—she even learned how to do needlework. Electa decided early on that she wanted to become a teacher so she could pass her knowledge on to others.

But life wasn’t simple. Electa was a Stockbridge Indian, and her tribe was being pressured by the government and white settlers to move out of the state. So in 1828, Electa and others in her tribe moved to Wisconsin. Almost as soon as she arrived, Electa got to work again, teaching in a log building that also served as the local church. In that small school in the woods, Electa became Wisconsin’s very first public school teacher, educating the children of the Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohican Indians as well as the sons and daughters of nearby white settlers and missionaries.

Electa’s life provides a detailed window onto pioneer Wisconsin and discusses the challenges and issues faced by American Indians in the nineteenth century. Through it all, Electa’s love of learning stands out, and her legacy as Wisconsin’s first public school teacher makes her an inspiration to students of today.

Karyn Saemann is a former newspaper reporter and editor who works as a freelance writer, editor, and reviewer. She and her husband, whose family are enrolled members of the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin, live in Deerfield, Wisconsin, with their two children.

March 2013
Paperback: $12.95
128 pages, 45 b&w photos and illus., 1 map, 7 x 9
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SPRING HIGHLIGHTS

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Stories of Bayfield and the Apostle Islands
Dennis McCann

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How Wisconsin Became a Great Bicycling State
Jesse J. Gant and Nicholas J. Hoffman
Foreword by David Herlihy

Tracing the story of Wisconsin’s first bicycling boom, from “boneshakers” to high-wheels and racing bikes to tricycles, the authors weave their way through bicycling history beginning with the velocipede craze of 1869 and pedaling through the “wheel fever” of the 1890s. This lushly illustrated book features images of early bicycles and the people who rode them: bloomer girls, bicycle jockeys, young urbanites, and unionized workers. Wheel Fever also details the often-impassioned debates over who should be allowed to ride, where they could ride, and even what they should wear.

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