Roughneck Grace
Farmer Yoga, Creeping Codgerism, Apple Golf, and Other Brief Essays from On and Off the Back Forty

Humorist Michael Perry returns with a collection of bite-sized essays from his Sunday Wisconsin State Journal column, “Roughneck Grace.” Perry’s perspectives on everything from cleaning the chicken coop to sharing a New York City elevator with supermodels will have you snorting with laughter, blinking back tears, and — no matter your zip code — nodding in recognition throughout.

Paperback: $18.95
172 pages, 5½ x 8¼

From the Top
Brief Transmissions from Tent Show Radio

From Scandihooavain Spanglish to snickering chickens, 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.

Paperback: $15.95
160 pages, 5½ x 8¼
How to Be an Indian in the 21st Century
Louis V. Clark III

An American Indian life in prose and verse

I’m what you call Oneida, wearing white man’s clothes
But folks call me an Indian because of white man’s shows
I’ve withstood all the bigotry I’ve shouldered all the blows
I’m what you call Oneida from my head down to my toes.

—an excerpt from “White Man”

Take a life-long journey, in prose and verse, with Oneida author and poet Louis V. Clark III (Two Shoes), who chronicles his voyage schoolyard bullies to workplace barriers—and the loves and lives in between—to discover How to Be an Indian in the 21st Century.

Warm, plainspoken, and wryly funny, Clark shares his own American Indian story, talking frankly about a culture’s struggle to maintain its heritage. His deceptively simple, poetic storytelling matches the rhythm of the life he recounts – what he calls “the heartbeat of my nation,” – from childhood on the Rez, through school and into the working world, and ultimately to his life today as an elder, grandfather, and published poet.

Clark’s unique voice takes readers on a deeply personal and profound quest through a wide range of subjects—from workplace racism and school yard bullying to falling in love and the Green Bay Packers, to discover for himself what it means to be an American Indian.

Born and raised on the Oneida Reservation in northeastern Wisconsin, Louis V. Clark III turned to poetry to continue the oral tradition of his people, the People of the Standing Stone. A member of the Iroquois Confederacy, his family is of the Bear clan. His first chapbook, Two Shoes, was published in 2011. He and his wife live in Omro, Wisconsin, where their home is filled with love from six children and nine grandchildren.

Explore Native Voices, pg. 19
NEW TITLES

**Warriors, Saints, and Scoundrels**
Brief Portraits of Real People Who Shaped Wisconsin

Michael Edmonds
Samantha Snyder

Mayors, ministers, mystics, murderers, & more!

A governor who saw ghosts, an incorrigible horse thief, a husband and wife who each stood over seven feet tall, an American Indian chief who defied forced removal, and the first woman to practice law before the Supreme Court: these are just some of the remarkable characters whose lives influenced and defined the state of Wisconsin. Authors Michael Edmonds and Samantha Snyder plumbed the depths of the Wisconsin Historical Society’s collections to research and compose lively portraits of eighty of these notable individuals: mayors, ministers, mystics, murderers, and everything in between.

Each story is followed by recommended sources for readers’ continued exploration. Whether read on the fly or all in one sitting, these short, colorful narratives will intrigue and inform as you delve into Wisconsin's diverse and diverting history.

Between 2006 and 2015, **Michael Edmonds** wrote more than 500 “Odd Wisconsin” sketches for a syndicated weekly newspaper column. He is the author of two award-winning books from the Wisconsin Historical Society Press, *Out of the Northwoods: The Many Lives of Paul Bunyan* and *Risking Everything: A Freedom Summer Reader*, and has written several articles for the *Wisconsin Magazine of History* and other journals.

**Samantha Snyder** is a two-time graduate of the University of Wisconsin–Madison, most recently completing her Masters in Library and Information Studies from the UW School of Library and Information Studies in May 2015. She currently lives in Washington, DC and works as a reference librarian at the US Patent and Trademark Office. This is her first book.

**April 2017**

Paperback: $22.95
224 pages, 62 photos, 5½ x 8½
ISBN: 978-0-87020-792-1

E-book Edition Available
Never Curse the Rain
A Farm Boy’s Reflection on Water
Jerry Apps

Water: the touchstone of life on the farm and beyond

Growing up on the family farm, Jerry Apps learned from a young age that water was precious. The farm had no running water, a windmill pumped drinking water for the small herd of cattle, and Jerry and his brothers hauled bucket after bucket of water for the family’s use. A weekly bath was considered sufficient. And when it rained, it was cause for celebration. Indeed, if ever the Apps boys complained about a rainy day spoiling their plans, their father admonished, “Never curse the rain,” for the family’s very livelihood depended upon it.

In Never Curse the Rain, Jerry shares his memories of water, from its importance to his family’s crops and cattle to its many recreational uses—fishing trips, canoe journeys, and the simple pleasures of an afternoon spent dreaming in the haymow as rain patters on the barn roof. Water is still a touchstone in Jerry’s life, and he explores the ways he’s found it helpful in soothing a troubled mind or releasing creativity. He also discusses his concerns about the future of water and ensuring we always have enough. For, as Jerry writes, “Water is one of the most precious things on this planet, necessary for all life, and we must do everything we can to protect it.”

Jerry Apps is professor emeritus at the University of Wisconsin–Madison and the author of many books on rural history, country life, and the environment. He has co-created four documentaries with Wisconsin Public Television and has won several awards for his writing and a regional Emmy Award for the program A Farm Winter. His books for the Wisconsin Historical Society Press include The Quiet Season: Remembering Country Winters and Whispers and Shadows: A Naturalist’s Memoir. Jerry and his wife, Ruth, have three children, seven grandchildren, and two great-grandsons. They divide their time between their home in Madison and their farm, Roshara, in Waushara County.

Discover more Jerry Apps, pgs. 14–15
On a Clear Night
Essays from the Heartland
Marnie O. Mamminga

Essays on the extraordinarily ordinary rhythms of the Midwest

In this dazzling collection, best-selling author Marnie O. Mamminga details the common experiences that unite those of us who live, love, and work in the heart of the country. With insight and humor, Mamminga chronicles a wide range of small but significant everyday moments: the anxiety of taking a teenager out for driving lessons, the nostalgic pleasure of watching the Cubs at Wrigley Field, the heartache of moving an aging parent into a nursing home, and the quiet bliss of sitting on a cabin’s porch, listening for loons and wolves under the Northwoods’ starry sky.

Combining elements of the personal and the universal, these essays chart the passage of time from childhood to adulthood, sickness to health, working life to retirement, parenthood to grandparenthood, and everything in between. These sharply observed vignettes highlight the importance of taking time to appreciate the ordinary occurrences that profoundly shape our lives and the places we call home.

Marnie Mamminga has been a professional essayist and features writer for more than twenty years. Her work has appeared in the Chicago Tribune, Reader’s Digest, and numerous Chicken Soup for the Soul books. She is a frequent presenter at writers’ workshops, including the UW’s Wisconsin Writers’ Institute. Her first book with the Wisconsin Historical Society Press, Return to Wake Robin: One Cabin in the Heyday of Northwoods Resorts, received a starred review from Publisher’s Weekly, was chosen by Parade Magazine as one of the best reads of summer 2012, and was featured on Wisconsin Public Radio’s “Chapter A Day” series.

May 2017
Paperback: $20.00
192 pages, 1 b&w photo, 5½ x 8½

E-book Edition Available

Also from Marnie O. Mamminga
Return to Wake Robin
One Cabin in the Heyday of Northwoods Resorts
Hardcover: $22.95
184 pages, 85 b&w photos, 5½ x 8½

Adapted for audio: $34.95
Thousand-Miler
Adventures Hiking the Ice Age Trail
Melanie Radzicki McManus

An “into the wild” thru-hiking experience

In thirty-six thrilling days, Melanie Radzicki McManus hiked 1,100 miles around Wisconsin, landing her in the elite group of Ice Age Trail thru-hikers known as the Thousand-Milers. In prose that’s alternately harrowing and humorous, Thousand-Miler takes you with her through Wisconsin’s forests, prairies, wetlands, and farms, past the geologic wonders carved by long-ago glaciers, and into the neighborhood bars and gathering places of far-flung small towns. Follow along as she worries about wildlife encounters, wonders if her injured feet will ever recover, and searches for an elusive fellow hiker known as Papa Bear. Woven throughout her account are details of the history of the still-developing Ice Age Trail—one of just eleven National Scenic Trails—and helpful insight and strategies for undertaking a successful thru-hike.

In addition to chronicling McManus’s hike, Thousand-Miler also includes the little-told story of the Ice Age Trail’s first-ever thru-hiker Jim Staudacher, an account of the record-breaking thru-run of ultrarunner Jason Dorgan, the experiences of a young combat veteran who embarked on her thru-hike as a way to ease back into civilian life, and other fascinating tales from the trail. Their collective experiences shed light on the motivations of thru-hikers and the different ways hikers accomplish this impressive feat, providing an entertaining and informative read for outdoors enthusiasts of all levels.

Melanie Radzicki McManus has been a news reporter at a Green Bay radio station, a press secretary at the Wisconsin State Capitol, and editor of two local publications. Since 1994, McManus has worked as a freelance writer and editor, specializing in travel and fitness. She has won numerous awards for her writing, most notably the prestigious Lowell Thomas Gold and Grand Awards for travel journalism.

April 2017
Paperback: $20.00
240 pages, 2 maps, 5½ x 8½

E-book Edition Available
The Chippewa
Biography of a Wisconsin Waterway
Richard D. Cornell

Wander the waters and legends of a northern river

Inspired by August Derleth’s seminal book *The Wisconsin*, Richard D. Cornell traveled the Chippewa River from its two sources south of Ashland to where it joins the Mississippi. Over several decades he returned time and again in his red canoe to immerse himself in the stories of the Chippewa River and document its valley, from the Ojibwe and early fur traders and lumbermen to the varied and hopeful communities of today.

Cornell shares tales of such historical figures as legendary Ojibwe leader Chief Buffalo, world famous wrestler Charlie Fisher, and supercomputer innovator Seymour Cray, along with the lesser-known stories of local luminaries such as Dr. John “Little Bird” Anderson. Cornell gathered firsthand stories from diners and dives, local museums and landmarks, quaint small-town newspaper offices, and the homes of old-timers and local historians. Through his conversations with ordinary people, he gets at the heart of the Chippewa and shares a history of the river that is both one of a kind and deeply personal.

Richard D. Cornell wrote the 2006 *Wisconsin Magazine* article “Knights of the Spike-soled Shoe: Lumbering on the Chippewa,” and co-wrote with Jerry Poling the news feature “Greats of the Gridiron,” about the undefeated 1906 Eau Claire High School football team. He also self-published the memoir *Finding My Father*, about his quest to learn about his father, who was killed in World War II when Rich was thirteen months old.

June 2017
Paperback: $20.00
200 pages, 50 b&w photos, 1 map, 5½ x 8½
ISBN: 978-0-87020-780-8

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Explore another river, with

The Bark River Chronicles
Stories from a Wisconsin Watershed
Paperback: $18.95
304 pages, 41 b&w photos, 5½ x 8
**This Storied River**  
Legend & Lore of the Upper Mississippi  
Dennis McCann

Mighty tales from the “Big Muddy”, its people, and places

In *This Storied River*, longtime journalist Dennis McCann takes us on an intimate tour of the Upper Mississippi—from Dubuque, Iowa, to the Minnesota headwaters, and dozens of places in between. Far more than a travel guide, *This Storied River* celebrates the Upper Mississippi’s colorful history and the unique role the river has played in shaping the Midwest.

McCann explores the stories of people and places linked by the Mighty Mississippi’s past, informed by newspaper accounts, local historical society documents, and the shoe-leather research of an experienced reporter with a deep love for his subject. Each chapter includes a short list of must-see sites for the modern-day explorer.

Dennis McCann has written often about Mississippi River events in his twenty-five years at the *Milwaukee Journal* and *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*. In 1994, he spent four days on paddleboats slowly making their way from the Quad Cities to La Crosse as part of the re-creation of the 1854 Grand Excursion, the first government-led effort to get the Upper Mississippi opened for commerce, farming, and other uses. He is the author of the WHS Press books *This Superior Place* and *Badger Boneyards*.

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Also from Dennis McCann

**This Superior Place**  
Stories of Bayfield and the Apostle Islands  
Paperback: $19.95  
168 pages, 140 b&w photos, 8 x 9  

**Badger Boneyards**  
The Eternal Rest of the Story  
Paperback: $16.95  
176 pages, 6 x 9  

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George Washington
A Man of Action

John P. Kaminski

A word portrait of the Father of America

Perhaps no other person could ever achieve the preeminent position in American history and culture occupied by George Washington. Born in 1732, Washington’s life–long commitment to self-improvement and discipline helped him become a legend in his own lifetime. Whether as a statesman, military man, or America’s first president, Washington created a legacy that has scarcely diminished in over two centuries.

Yet the passage of time and the superlatives reserved for Washington have knit together and made it difficult to find the real man. Historian and editor John P. Kaminski has amassed an extraordinary body of quotations by and about George Washington that brings us closer to the essence of this great leader. This collection paints an intricate picture of the man eulogized by Henry Knox as: “First in war, first in peace, first in the hearts of his countrymen.”

John P. Kaminski is the founder and director of The Center for the Study of the American Constitution in the History Department at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. He is director and co-editor of The Documentary History of the Ratification of the Constitution series, of which twenty-eight volumes have been published by the Wisconsin Historical Press. A leading scholar on Constitutional history, Kaminski has published widely on a variety of topics in the American Founding Era.

March 2017
Hardcover: $22.95
240 pages, 5½ x 8½
ISBN: 978-0-87020-826-3

E-book Edition Available

The 2nd in our Word Portraits Series! See Alexander Hamilton on pg. 12
Borchert Field
Stories from Milwaukee’s Legendary Ballpark
Bob Buege

Play ball with the stars of Milwaukee’s home diamond

Someone lucky enough to live on Milwaukee’s near north side between 1888 and 1952 could experience the world without ever leaving the neighborhood. Nestled between North Seventh and Eighth Streets and West Chambers and Burleigh, Borchert Field was Milwaukee’s major sports venue for 64 years. In this rickety wooden stadium (originally called Athletic Park), Wisconsin residents had a close-up view of sports history in the making, along with rodeos, thrill shows, and even multiple eruptions of Mount Vesuvius.

In Borchert Field, baseball historian Bob Buege introduces the famous and fascinating athletes who dazzled audiences in Milwaukee’s venerable ballpark. All the legendary baseball figures—the Bambino, Satchel Paige, Ty Cobb, Joltin’ Joe, Jackie Robinson, the Say Hey Kid—played there. Olympic heroes Jim Thorpe, Babe Didrikson, and Jesse Owens displayed their amazing talents in Borchert. Knute Rockne’s Fighting Irish competed there, and Curly Lambeau’s Green Bay Packers took the field 10 times. Buege tells stories of other monumental moments at Borchert as well, including a presidential visit, women ballplayers, the arrival of television broadcasting, the 1922 national balloon race, and an appearance by scat-singing bandleader Cab Calloway. Borchert Field is long gone, but every page of this book takes readers back to the sights, sounds, and spectacle of its heyday.

Bob Buege is the author of The Milwaukee Braves: A Baseball Eulogy and Eddie Mathews and the National Pastime. He is president of the Milwaukee Braves Historical Association, director of the Wisconsin Old Time Ballplayers Association, and a member of the Society for American Baseball Research.

April 2017
Paperback: $26.95
392 pages, 72 b&w photos, 5½ x 8½
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William Povletich
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Foreword by Mark E. Lefebvre
With his distinctive wit and an infectious affection for his town and its people, Freeland Dexter reported all the news from Lone Rock, Wisconsin—from the significant to the trivial, the tragic to the comical. This collection of Dexter’s most fascinating, amusing, and poignant stories and observations brings back to life the colorful characters of his time.

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Thomas Pecore Weso
For Menominee Indians, the “Good Seeds” of life are the “manoomin” or wild rice that also gives the tribe its name. Menominee author Thomas Pecore Weso connects his food — beaver, trout, blackberry, wild rice, maple sugar, partridge — to the colorful individuals who taught him Indigenous values.

Hardcover: $19.95
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Going for Wisconsin Gold
Stories of Our State Olympians
Jessie Garcia
Discover the lives of athletes who grew up or spent time in Wisconsin on their journey to the Olympic Games. Author Jessie Garcia shares some of our competitors’ most captivating tales—from those who became legends, like speedskater Eric Heiden, to those with unlikely brushes with glory. The book features the athletes’ personal stories, many told here in detail for the first time, plus pictures from their private collections.

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Mary Elise Antoine
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In this beautiful cloth-bound book, Jerry Apps recalls the struggles, majesty, and excitement of the harsh northern winters he experienced while growing up on a farm in central Wisconsin.

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Discover Jerry’s newest memoir, pg. 5
Never Curse the Rain

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Jerry Apps
Photographs by Steve Apps

Father and son Jerry and Steve Apps team up to share the family’s farm in central Wisconsin. Steve’s stunning photos combine with fifty years of Jerry’s journal entries to capture the changes—both from month to month and over the decades—on the landscape and farmstead.

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**Discover a Native Food Memoir, pg. 12**
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