

## Fort Atkinson Remembers World War I

The United States entered World War I (at the time it was referred to as "The Great War") on April 2, 1917, when President Woodrow Wilson went before the joint session of Congress to request a declaration of war. Within days of Wilson's request, the House and Senate voted to support the declaration of war against Germany within days of Wilson's request.

The Great War was called "the war to end all wars," in part because of the severity of conditions, brutality, and carnage experienced by soldiers. Soldiers were not the only ones impacted by the war; indeed, its effects reverberated through each community in the United States, parents, siblings, and spouses, friends, and children. The community of Fort Atkinson honored those who served in the Great War twice – first with the "Spirit of the American Doughboy" in 1929 and with a white marble monument in 1939, both in McCoy Park. I hope you give the park a second look the next time you drive down Madison Avenue!

-Dana Bertelsen, Assistant Director

"The Spirit of the American Doughboy" was the best known work of Ernest Moore Viquesney (August 5, 1876 – October 4, 1946), an American sculpture from Indiana. In the original design, a World War I infantryman advances through the stumps and barbed wire of "No Man's Land" while holding a grenade in his raised right hand and a rifle in his left hand. The statue stands approximately seven feet tall and was made from pressed copper or bronze sheets welded together over an internal frame.

Nationally, the statue was a popular monument choice for communities to honor those who served during WWI. Indeed, there are more than 140 "Spirit of the American Doughboy" statues throughout the United States, with six in Wisconsin: Appleton, Fort Atkinson, Janesville, Markesan, Peshtigo, and West Bend.

The statue and plaque were dedicated May 19, 1929, in McCoy Memorial Park with Col. Roy Farcrand from



The statue as originally designed in McCoy Park.



"Statue of the American Doughboy" after repairs.

the St. John's Military Academy serving as the Master of Ceremonies. Mayor Fred Holstein and George Pounder spoke, and the high school band performed as well. Funds for the statue were raised by local school children donating their pennies, and with a larger donation from World War I veteran, Dr. Peter James Majerus from the Fort Atkinson General Hospital.

When first installed, the Fort Atkinson statue was identical to other "Spirit of the American Doughboy" statues around the country. The plaque on the Fort Atkinson "Spirit of the American Doughboy" reads,

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401 Whitewater Avenue  
 Fort Atkinson, WI 53538  
 920-563-7769  
 fax 920-568-3203

www.hoardmuseum.org  
 www.facebook.com/hoardmuseum  
 Hours: Tuesday – Saturday  
 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.  
 Closed Sundays & Mondays

### 2017 FAHS Board of Directors

Bob Cheek, President  
 Bonnie Geyer, Vice President  
 Loren Gray, Treasurer  
 Denice Jones, Secretary

### Elected Board Members

Jack Blodgett  
 Bob Cheek  
 Bonnie Geyer  
 Karen Gómez  
 Loren Gray  
 Don Henning  
 Sue Johnson  
 Denice Jones  
 Gerald McGowan  
 John Molinaro  
 Joel Winn

### Standing Members

Beth Gehred, City Council Rep.  
 Steve Larson, Nat'l Dairy Shrine Rep.  
 Merrilee Lee, Museum Director  
 Matt Trebatoski, City Manager

### Emeritus Member

Milo Jones

### Museum Staff Members

Merrilee Lee, Museum Director  
 Dana Bertelsen, Assistant Director  
 Tammy Doellstedt, Volunteer Coordinator  
 Linda Ager, Beverly Dahl & Dorothy  
 Harwell-James, Operations Assistants  
 Greg Misfeldt, Maintenance



## Merrilee's Musings

By Merrilee Lee, Museum Director



This year and next, we're commemorating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of World War I. Known as "The Great War" and "The War to End All Wars," it was certainly great, but unfortunately, not the last. The war was the first major conflict to utilize airplanes, tanks, machine guns, and poisonous gas put to large-scale use. It re-drew the European, African, and Asian maps, creating countries where there had been none and destroying others. The toll on populations is still hard to fathom. In the 1916 Battle of the Somme, more than 57,000 British casualties in one day helped make WWI one of the bloodiest wars in human history.

The US stayed out of the conflict until 1917, but once we entered, we committed fully. It was the first major war in which the US had fought the larger European powers since the Revolutionary War. The war drew our country into international politics and broadened the horizons of thousands sent to war. As the old song says, "How Ya Gonna Keep 'em Down on the Farm (After They've Seen Patee)?"

One young Fort resident, Irving "Pike" Roberts, might not have lived on a farm, but after serving in the US Army and being stationed in France, he returned home to Fort Atkinson. Pike's family recently donated the entire collection of his letters home during his WWI service to the Museum. They are well-written, humorous, and full of life. The 80+ letters tell the story of a young man venturing out on his own into a new environment and full of tales of life in the camp, drill instructors, and fellow soldiers.

We are honored to add his letters to our collection and to share Pike's story during our World War I exhibit, opening Memorial Day Weekend. This exhibit will be one of ten WWI exhibits opening that weekend around the county as part of a joint effort by the Greater Jefferson County Historical Societies & Museums. Look on page 6 for more information!

We remember the service of Pike, as well as veterans from all of our nation's conflicts, through our exhibits and programs. We are also grateful for the service of our current service members and their families.

*Merrilee*



## Volunteer Spotlight: Fort Atkinson Historical Society Board of Directors

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The Museum has more than 200 volunteers who volunteer annually at the Hoard Historical Museum. They greet visitors, conduct archival research, make cookies, help with programs and events, guide visitors through the Foster House, and so much more. The 16 members of the board of Directors (elected, standing representatives, and emeritus) all volunteer their time and talent to the Museum. At the Fort Atkinson Historical Society Annual Dinner, two new board members were announced and approved. Below are brief profiles of our newest board members.



### Jack Blodgett

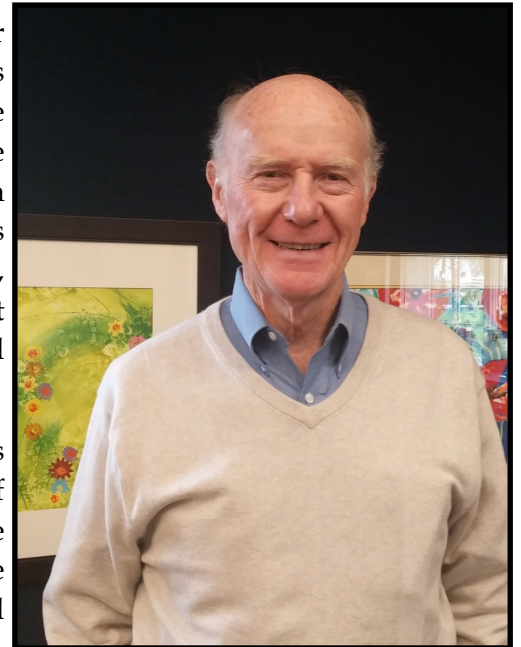
A near-lifelong resident of Fort Atkinson, Jack joined the FAHS Board in February of 2017. Jack attended the first Barrie Elementary School when it was on Robert Street, Fort Atkinson High School, and Milton College. His first job after college was as a salesman for an agricultural and pharmaceutical company. Jack's father managed the local feed mill, and Jack eventually went into the business himself. Eventually, he bought land off of Janesville Avenue to build a new feed mill. His business slowly transitioned to a lawn and garden store, now called Blodgett Garden Center.

In addition to being on the Board of Directors, Jack volunteers at the Museum as a greeter. He enjoys both the history of Fort Atkinson, and his own family. For example, his great-grandfather was in the same unit as W.D. Hoard (Wisconsin's 16<sup>th</sup> Governor and founder of the Daily Jefferson County Union) during the Civil War.

### Don Henning

Don was one of four children born on a Nebraska farm. After graduating from Crete High School, he joined the Air Force. He was stationed in Germany, and later Saudi Arabia, where he worked for the Air Force radio and television network. After his military career, he graduated from the University of Nebraska with a degree in Agriculture. From college, he worked in the communications department of DeKalb Seed Company. With his honed writing skills, he transitioned to working at Johnson Hill Press and moved to Fort Atkinson in 1972. He and his wife, Judy, have eight children and continue to live and participate with many organizations in town.

Don believes that the Museum is a treasure for our community. As a duck hunter, his favorite exhibit in the Museum is the "Legacy of Duck Hunting on Lake Koshkonong" exhibit that was installed in the Hoard House in 2015. He greatly appreciates the rich history that the Lake Koshkonong area has to offer, as well as many people and cultures who have made it their home throughout the centuries.



❧ Welcome Jack and Don! ❧

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1898 1917-1918 MCCOY PARK

Sponsored by American Legion and Spanish War Veterans. Dedicated to the Dead Soldiers

Nearly ten years after “The Spirit of the American Doughboy” was dedicated, the people of Fort Atkinson were gifted a second WWI monument in McCoy Park by the Service Star Legion. The Service Star Legion was a war mother’s organization.



The white marble monument reads:

In Memory of those who served in the World War  
1917-1918

Erected by Service Star Legion Inc  
Jefferson County Chapter, Fort Atkinson, Wisc 1939.

Unfortunately, the “Doughboy” statue has been significantly vandalized four times. Thankfully, local residents (James Baird, Gus Klatt, and others) have worked to repair the statue after each assault. The original rifle was stolen twice, as were the replacements. Because of this, both arms have been altered, with the right arm reattached at a slightly more forward angle and the left hand and rifle replaced with the soldier’s hand holding a pistol. Additionally, a barbed-wire fence was put in place to deter vandalism. Thankfully, barbed-wire is a historically appropriate choice for a “No Man’s Land” statue.

Currently, there is a restoration effort underway. This effort demonstrates both individuals and the community’s continued commitment to honor those who participated in the Great War. Stay tuned for more information about the restoration efforts!

## Historic Fort Atkinson Walking Tours

June 24, July 29, and September 9, 8 a.m. – 10 a.m.

Last summer, Museum Director Merrilee Lee took groups from the Fort Atkinson Farmers Market downtown and in the surrounding neighborhoods to explore the history of Fort Atkinson. Over the course of the summer, Merrilee shared local history of individuals and buildings.

The downtown tours will resume this summer! The walks begin on the hour at 8, 9, and 10 a.m., and last approximately 30-40 minutes. Participants should be prepared to walk approximately one mile over paved surfaces. Tours begin and end at the Fort Farmer’s Market information table. *No reservations are required; donations to the Museum are appreciated.*

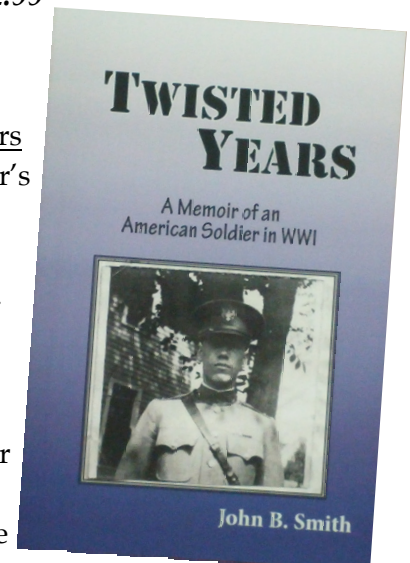


Museum Director Merrilee Lee and Assistant Director Dana Bertelsen are bringing history to the people! The walking tours start at the Farmers Market.

## Featured Museum Gift Shop Item

**Twisted Years \$12.99**

Ellen Bogner, a Fort Atkinson resident, created Twisted Years from her grandfather’s writings of his military experience during World War I. John Bernhardt Smith’s firsthand account of soldier conditions in the war give readers a real understanding of the horrors of war.





## From our Archives

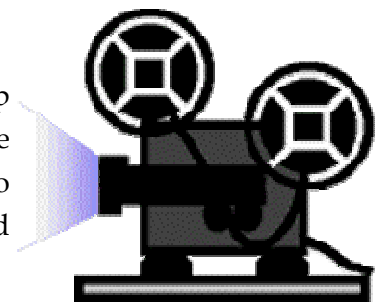
Jamesway Manufacturing (1905-1958) developed and made barn equipment, ranging from manufactured parts to the full barn. This photograph from our Jamesway archival collection caught the attention of our archive volunteer and staff. How could it not? The picture is labeled "Jessie Hollabush...Jamesway group who worked there when I had charge of the Filing Department." The following names are written in a different script: Ruth Simons, Helen Cullen, Mertle Ebner, \_\_\_ Kern, Verna Olson, Edna Lentz, and Hazel Lanzel. *If you know the missing first name of Ms. Kern, please let us know!!*



If you are interested in researching your family, house, or community history, call the Hoard Museum at (920) 563-7769 to schedule an appointment in the archive. *Member perk – there is no charge for members!*

## Mysteries of the Mounds Update

Thank you to all of the members who donated during our last membership drive to update the technology in the Mysteries of the Mounds theater! The updates are nearly finished and visitors are again able to watch the video production. If it's been a few years since you've checked it out, we recommend that you stop by and watch it again!



The high-quality and informative video production is the same but is now crisper, cleaner, and brighter due to being shown on a 79" (yes, *that's 79"*!) television. We are also now able to show other videos on our new TV, so look for more information in the future!

## Greater Jefferson County Historical Societies World War I Exhibit Opening

Saturday, May 13, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

2017 marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of United States involvement in World War I. Called the “war to end all wars” due to its violence and scale, World War I was the first major war in the 20<sup>th</sup> century involving multiple countries. Unfortunately it did not end wars. To commemorate the war and all those who fought in it, the Greater Jefferson County Historical Societies & Museums will be holding two special programs in May 2017. The first program will be at the Hoard Historical Museum on May 13, and the second program will be a countywide exhibit at each of the participating museums opening Memorial Day weekend.

The May 13<sup>th</sup> program, titled “World War I Gallery of Greater Jefferson County Historical Societies and Museums” and located at the Hoard Museum, will feature narratives and artifacts from many communities in the county. At 10:30 a.m. Russell Horton, Archivist at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum, will be speaking about the history of World War I and how to research your family’s military genealogy as part of our Saturday Morning Scholars program. A World War I documentary will be screened at 1 p.m.



Stereoscopic photograph, “A Happy Reunion for Homecoming Soldier Fathers” from the Museum Collection.

Be sure to stop by the Hoard Museum and the following area museums to learn about how the Great War affected their communities: Bark River Historical Society, *Hebron*; Cambridge Historic School, *Cambridge*; Jefferson Historical Society, *Jefferson*; Johnson Creek Historical Society, *Johnson Creek*; Lake Mills/Aztalan Historical Society, *Lake Mills & Aztalan*; Sullivan-Rome Historical Society, *Sullivan*; Waterloo Historical Society, *Waterloo*; Watertown Historical Society, *Watertown*; and Whitewater Historical Society, *Whitewater*.

**Hoard Historical Museum WWI Exhibit will be on display through Labor Day.**

### Fourth-Grade Oral History Celebration

On May 10, the Hoard Museum will host select Fort Atkinson fourth graders and their families in a celebration of their oral history projects. A selection of essays from each class will be on display in the Jones Family Gallery along with pictures of the students and their interviewees. All essays will be available for community members and museum guests to read throughout the summer.

The annual celebration is the culmination of the oral history project. Each year, volunteers from the Museum go to the student’s classrooms to talk with the students about how to conduct an oral history. They practice asking the volunteer questions, and are later tasked with contacting an older individual, either friend or relation, to interview with a list of questions. After the interview, the students must write a report of what they discovered. Stop by the Museum to learn about those in our community from the perspective of area fourth-graders!





## "Everyone Has a Story to Tell" Memoir-Writing Workshop

Tuesday, May 16; Wednesday, May 17; and Friday, May 19

**FREE for Hoard Museum Members, \$35 for non-members**

The Hoard Historical Museum will be hosting a memoir-writing workshop. Taught by Sue Zimmerman, a retired writing instructor, the workshop series will be held Tuesday, May 16, Wednesday, May 17, and Friday, May 19. The afternoon session from 12:30-2:30 p.m. is still open. Call the Museum to reserve your spot!

Zimmerman has written her own memoirs and has taught other memoir-writing classes. She will guide workshop attendees through the three sessions to help them discover how to write their own personal memoirs. "Anyone can write and everyone has a story to tell," said Zimmerman. "This workshop series is designed to help participants get started and headed in a positive direction."

In the first session, Zimmerman will explore how writers generate and organize ideas. She will also discuss how to recall memories in preparation for writing personal memoirs. The second session will discuss different types of memoir genres and how to include characterization details as well as including dialogue. The third session will focus on the revising, proofreading, and editing aspects of writing. Participants are required to attend the first session on Tuesday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, and are strongly encouraged to attend both the second (Wednesday, May 17) and third (Friday, May 19) sessions.

**The workshop series is \$35 per person. Members of the Fort Atkinson Historical Society & Hoard Historical Museum are free, but please register.**

**Call or email the Hoard Historical Museum to register today!**



Share your history with your family! Join Sue Zimmerman, retired writing instructor, as she leads a memoir-writing workshop series at the Hoard Historical Museum. Call the Museum to register, 563-7769.

## Fort Koshkonong Rendezvous

**Memorial Day weekend, May 27-28, all day**

The Hoard Museum will be the sponsoring organization of the Fort Koshkonong Rendezvous at Rock River Park. The theme of the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Rendezvous is the Heritage of Steel and Wool. Come see how spinning and metalwork shaped the frontier experience of Wisconsin. Meet with interpreters who will discuss and demonstrate blacksmith techniques and spinners who will turn raw materials into yarn. After talking with costumed demonstrators, you will have a newfound appreciation of ready-made clothes and metal supplies.



Other activities include black powder shooting and competition, pioneer demonstrations, interactive old-time chores, horse-drawn carriage rides, and more! Come experience an authentic reenactment of life as demonstrators show what life was like in the 1800s.

Thank you to Festival Foods and Jones Dairy Farm for their sponsorship!



Admission:

Children 4 & under:  
FREE

Children under 12: \$2

Adults: \$4

*Free admission if you  
attend in period dress!*

## Upcoming Events at the Hoard Museum

### **Saturday Morning Scholars**

**Saturday, May 13, 10:30 a.m. *Military Genealogy 101***

Russell Horton, Reference Archivist from the Wisconsin Veterans Museum, will be at the Hoard Museum to retrace Wisconsin's involvement in WWI and will discuss ways to research your family's military involvement!

Saturday Morning Scholars programs are family-friendly and all ages are welcome to attend. Saturday Morning Scholars is a FREE program.



### **Garden Education Seminar**

**Saturday, May 13, 2 p.m. *Native Plants Part II***

The Jefferson County Master Gardener Volunteers at the Hoard Historical Museum are planning five new Garden Education Programs for 2017. **Garden Education Programs start at 2 p.m. on scheduled days and are free to attend.**

Native Plants, Part 2 will be presented Saturday, May 13. This program will be a continuation on Native Plants, Part 1 from the January program and introduce specific herbaceous native plants and their characteristics. It will also include suggestions on how to start your own native garden.



Ironweed plant

### **Concert on the Lawn**

**Saturday, May 20, 3 p.m. — *free event, donations accepted!***



The Radio Wranglers are a local band that is heavily influenced by country, Western Swing, Hillbilly, Country Boogie and Honky Tonk sounds of the 1930s, 40s, and 50s. Bring your lawn chairs or blankets and enjoy the music on the Museum lawn. Popcorn and lemonade will be available by donation.

Thank you to our event sponsors: Bungalow Pros, Fort Community Credit Union, and Tall Guy Productions, and to our Business Patrons for sponsoring this event: Ball Corporation, Behling, Jasper & Selberg, LLC, Bungalow Pros, Fort Real Estate Company, Johnson Bank, Jones Dairy Farm, Havill Dealership, Maas Brothers Construction, Tall Guy Productions, and W&A Distribution Services.

### **History on State: Churning up Dairy Pride**

**Monday, June 19, 5 – 6:30 p.m., Madison**

The Museum is partnering with Old World Wisconsin and Sassy Cow Creamery to celebrate Wisconsin's rich dairying tradition and National Dairy Month. Churn butter alongside costumed interpreters, learn about early Dairy Co-ops, make cow crafts to take home, and pose for a photo with our animal friends! Enjoy a taste of Wisconsin-made milk and ice cream and discover how Wisconsin continues its tradition of dairying today.

*This program will take place outside on the stage next to the Wisconsin Veterans Museum on the Capitol Square in Madison.*





## Return of Annual Summer Programs

### œ Dairy Day at the MOOseum œ

Saturday, June 3, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

2017 is the third year of our annual Dairy Day at the MOOseum! Come to the Museum to admire and interact with all seven milking breeds. Farmers, dairy industry representatives, and cow enthusiasts will be on site to share dairy samples, information, and activities that are fun for all ages. Special dairy exhibits will be on exhibit, including John Klettke's, 20-foot diorama that shows the history of farming through the decades. Visitors also can see the diorama of the dairyman farm built by Klettke and his wife, Pat – a permanent exhibit in the National Dairy Shrine Museum.



Children can have their faces painted like a cow or have their pictures taken with a calf. Both adults and children may participate in dairy-related games, including trivia, races, and back by popular demand, "Day in the Life of a Farmer" relay race.

Are you known for your dairy desserts? Participate in the second annual Dairy Baking Cook-off Contest! To be eligible for this free contest, the dessert must have three or more dairy ingredients. Pick up rules and registration forms at the Museum office or download from our website, [www.hoardmuseum.org](http://www.hoardmuseum.org).

The event will conclude with the cow parade in the Museum's back yard, with an emcee sharing fun facts about each breed. This year's event is sponsored by Vita Plus, Foremost Farms, Jefferson County Farm Bureau, and the Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board and the following Business Patrons of the Museum: Badger Bank; Beauty and the Bean; Fireside Theatre; Fort Community Credit Union; Johnson Bank; Jones Dairy Farm; W&A Distribution; and W.D. Hoard and Sons.

### œ Foster House Open œ

The Foster House will be open for tours this summer! Stop by on the first Saturday of the month from May through October from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. to tour and talk with a trained museum volunteer about the 1841 Foster House, the family that built it, and the early days of Fort Atkinson. You can also make an appointment to visit the Foster House by contacting the Museum office at (920) 563-7769.

### œ Ice Cream Social œ

Tuesday, July 4, 1–3 p.m.

The Museum is celebrating Independence Day with our 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Fourth of July Ice Cream Social! Come for the ice cream, stay for the fun! This year's event will feature games, crafts, face painting, and of course, ice cream! "Bill Camplin and Friends" will be playing live music in the back yard throughout the ice cream social. The Fort Atkinson Piecemakers Quilting group will present handmade quilts to veterans and select other members of the community. Bring your family and enjoy an afternoon with us!



Thank you very much to our event sponsors: Abendroth Water Conditioning, Daily Jefferson County Union, First Baptist Church, Brianne Brandenburg & Tari Smith of Frostie Freeze, Mr. Martin Lemke & friends, and PremierBank. Additional thanks to our Business Patrons for sponsoring this event: Abendroth Water Conditioning; Ball Corporation; Beauty and the Bean; Behling, Jasper, and Selburg, LLC; Bungalow Pros; Day Insurance; Fireside Theatre; Fort Community Credit Union; Jones Dairy Farm; Café Carpe; Tall Guy Productions; and W&A Distribution.



401 Whitewater Avenue  
Fort Atkinson, WI 53538

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

### Upcoming Events at the Hoard Museum:

- May 13
  - ♦ WWI Genealogy 101, Saturday Morning Scholars, 10:30 a.m.
  - ♦ Greater Jefferson County WWI Exhibit Opening Reception, Hoard Museum, 10 a.m.- 4 p.m.
  - ♦ Native Plants Part II, Garden Education Program, 2 p.m.
- May 16, 17, 19: ♦ Memoir-Writing Workshop, 12:30-2:30 p.m., *call the office to register!*
- May 20: ♦ Radio Wranglers perform, Concert on the Lawn, 3 p.m.
- May 27-28: ♦ Fort Koshkonong Rendezvous in Rock River Park, *ALL DAY*
- June 3:
  - ♦ Foster House Open for Tours, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
  - ♦ Dairy Day at the MOOseum, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- June 10-24: ♦ Visionary Artists Art Show
- June 19: ♦ History on State: Churning up Dairy Pride, 5-6:30 p.m., Madison, WI
- July 1: ♦ Foster House Open for Tours, 10 a.m.– 12 p.m.
- July 4: ♦ 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Ice Cream Social, 1 – 3 p.m.
- August 5: ♦ Foster House Open for Tours, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
- August 19: ♦ Members-Only Day, 10 a.m.– 4 p.m.

*Questions about any of our events?*

*Contact the Hoard Historical Museum by calling (920) 563-7769 or emailing [info@hoardmuseum.org](mailto:info@hoardmuseum.org).*