

News of Centreville Settlement, Inc.

A non-profit, tax exempt organization dedicated to the preservation of the architectural and cultural heritage of the German-American farming community in the Centerville/Cleveland Wisconsin area.

In January 2022 at the Annual Meeting of Centreville Settlement, Inc. members reviewed and made decisions on upcoming business for the year.

The following officers were elected:

Chris Kuehnel	President
Richard Lutze	Vice-President
Kathy Pearce	Secretary
Janet Lutze	Secretary Assistant
Richard Weigand	Treasurer

Bookkeeper Greg Zahn was re-appointed

'Even year' Board members selected are: Travis Gross, Glenn Lutze, Brian Kraemer, Greg Zahn, Sarah Lutze, and Janet Lutze

Congratulations to all!



Delicious Day in Plymouth...May 1st plan to support Centreville Settlement with Brats and German Music!

The annual CSI Fund Raiser brat fry will be held on Sunday, May 1 at the Piggly Wiggly on Eastern Avenue in Plymouth. Volunteers please report at 8 AM. Please contact Kathy Pearce if you are able to help out for a 3 hour shift. 920 946-1036 texting.

Richard Lutze will be Grillmaster, managing the flames on Johnsonville Brats, and juicy 1/4# hamburgers. Meat and baked goods available from 9:30am till 1pm.

We are welcoming baked goods from members and friends to sell!. Please deliver between 8:30 and 9:30, or perhaps someone could pick up from you the day before. Have individual plates -over wrapped in plastic suggesting 2 to 3 cookies or two or three pieces of cake per plate and wrapped in clear plastic or put in a baggie.

German and Polka music will be provided by Ryan Kautzer-accordion, John Losiniecki- fiddle and Kathy Pearce on upright bass from 10-12:30.

Come out and support your favorite nonprofit organization: Centreville Settlement! Monies will be put toward archiving and restoration projects.

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Work 'Adventure' Days Begin April 2022

April 9th was opening workday at the Lutze Housebarn for the season. 'The Adventure' starts at 9:30 AM and running till about 3:00. Wear old clothes (new ones are OK but you might get dirty or torn :-)), work boots (at least not open toe) and bring a sack lunch.

Work days continue on the second and fourth Saturdays of the month until November 12 2022. We keep details and plans for work-days on our public CSI Google Calendar, view it or add it to your own calendar [here](#), or keep up via our website events page [here](#).

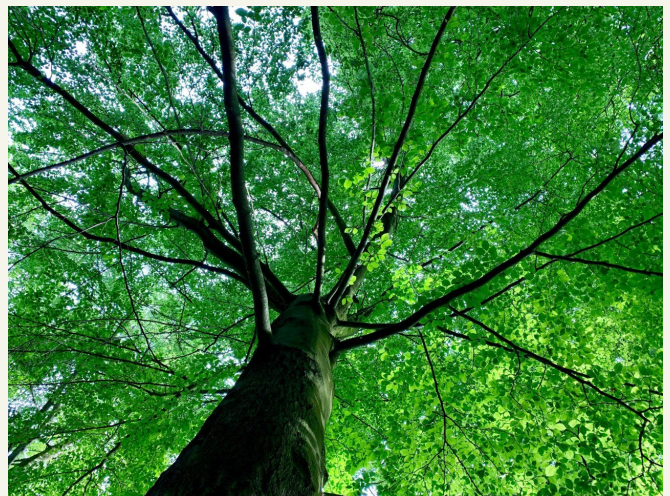
First timer? The Lutze Housebarn is located at 13630 South Union Road, Newton. WI 53063. To get there, take 1-43 to exit 137, go west to South Union Road and turn right (north). Go to the driveway after the third farm on the left before the Centreville Settlement sign.

Our Old Fashion Christmas party was held on a snow filled afternoon at Meats Opera House in Saint Nazianz in December. The historic structure, built in 1855 hosted CSI members and guests. Ryan Kautzer provided the Christmas carols on accordion, accompanied by Kathy Pearce on upright bass and John Losiniecki on the violin. The menu featured assorted German sausages, sauerkraut, red cabbage, spaetzls (dumpling like noodles), and a specialty dessert. Richard Wiegand was master of ceremonies and welcomed members, honored guests and those interested in a good time.

Mark your calendars for the first Sunday in December '22 which will feature an Old Fashioned Christmas celebration with members and guests. Location to be announced. Always a lovely time of historical fellowship. Details to follow in future newsletters.

CSI Arbor Day Honors Former Members

To acknowledge, recognize, and honor former members who have passed, we are continuing to plant trees as arbor memorials. The mighty oak planted for Vernon Wernecke in 2006 is now 30 feet tall. Sugar maple planted for Edith Lutze in at 15 feet. We are planning to plant a tree for Kathy Sixel and for Ed Heckman in the spring of 2022. The Arbor committee is researching permanent style signage for each as part of our Memorial Tree Policy formalized in the fall of 2021.



Help Wanted

with Grant Writing: CSI is looking for help and would welcome you to be on the committee for grant writing, fund raising, and our historic building report required for any major grants. Please contact Kathy Pearce with your interest!

with grounds and lawn care: We are looking for a volunteer (or paid?) that could run our ride-on mower to cut grass once a week in May/June and perhaps every 2 week in July-Sept, age 16 and up.

heirloom gardener: assist with appropriate plant selection, garden layout, weeding and care, harvesting

records conversion artist: assist with and/or manage scanning and cataloging hundreds of documents and thousands of slides and photos, to the cloud

Tech Training for Board Members

Chris Kuehnel coordinated virtual (online) training with tips on using many aspects of the Centreville Settlement Google Drive on March 7. He demonstrated to board members how Google Drive works and how to access and collaborate on word processing documents. Further features were explored such as making comments, putting in suggested edits and even translating documents to a different language quickly.

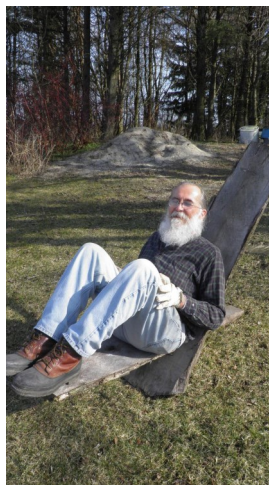
The Executive Committee and Board of Directors have access to ongoing training and our CSI cloud drive. Other members can be granted access, contact Chris Kuehnel with your interest.



Niles Klaves plants and tends what becomes a very productive heirloom garden.



Lots of hops was grown in the area in the late 1800's, ours is doing well, perhaps leading to a beer brewing day at the Housebarn?



Timberframer Charlie demonstrates slabwood outdoor chair and proper technique for resting after a demanding work-day.



Or is Charlie pondering this 'device'? This is a 'modern' tool perhaps built by a member for some specific project at the Housebarn, but our memories are not clear.... What is it to be used for???

Lutze Housebarn Structure Plans for 2022

Our goals for restoration steps in 2022 are lofty, we hope to return to our worker numbers seen in the 'before times', and to meeting our mission of teaching the skills and trades used in the original construction! Along the way several of our Advisors will be stepping up with consulting on some details of finish carpentry and we may be hiring individuals as contractors for specific tasks.

Goals for 2022:

- Rebuild of 2nd floor 'hay mow' door in addition
- Installation of timber for ceiling/floor joist in addition
- Completion of outhouse roof, possible move of outhouse to 60' north of existing
- Removal of center south 1940's window
- Review of window details, recreation of missing windows frames and trim
- Fit-up and stabilization as needed for window sash in existing windows
- Replacement of vertical second floor timber south side 'chicken coop' which was cut out in the 1930's (that will conclude all above ground timber work for the building!)
- Seal up rooftop chimney (cover blew off this winter) looking to union tradespeople for sun dried chimney rebuild in attic
- Lifting of interior sill beams to original level, decisions about stabilization or replacement process
- Possible installation of brick in floor of kitchen (bricks in storage)



How is your German? We have begun to explore options for virtual and self guided tours, probably to be offered up in both English and German. Could you help with developing the content for those tours? Extra points for anyone that can demonstrate their skill and help us with improving this automated translation of the early days of the Lutzes in Centerville:

Gottlieb und Friederika Lutze verließen 1847 mit ihren beiden Kindern Deutschland; Edward, 5 Jahre und August, 4 Jahre. Baby Clara wurde auf dem Schiff geboren. Der Kapitän wollte sie über Bord werfen, also versteckte Friederika sie unter ihren Röcken. Sie war nur ein weiterer Mund, den es zu stopfen galt.

Die Lutzes kamen auf Ellis Island an und bestiegen ein anderes Schiff, um über den St. Lawrence Seaway zu den Großen Seen zu gelangen. Ihr ursprüngliches Ziel war Sheboygan, aber als das Schiff in Hika Bay in Centerville anhielt, um Vorräte abzuholen, erfuhr Friederika, dass sich hier eine Familie namens Jost niedergelassen hatte. Diese Familie sprach sächsisches Deutsch.

Deutschland war damals in mehrere Abschnitte mit jeweils eigenen Dialekten unterteilt. Es könnte sehr schwierig sein, jemanden aus Norddeutschland zu verstehen, wenn Sie aus dem Süden kommen. Jemanden zu haben, mit dem man sich unterhalten konnte, war für eine Einwandererfamilie sehr wichtig.

Jemanden in Centerville zu haben, mit dem sie sich verständigen konnte, ein neues Baby und Reisemüdigkeit waren drei Gründe für Friederika, ihren Fuß zu setzen und zu erklären: „Wir lassen uns hier nieder!“

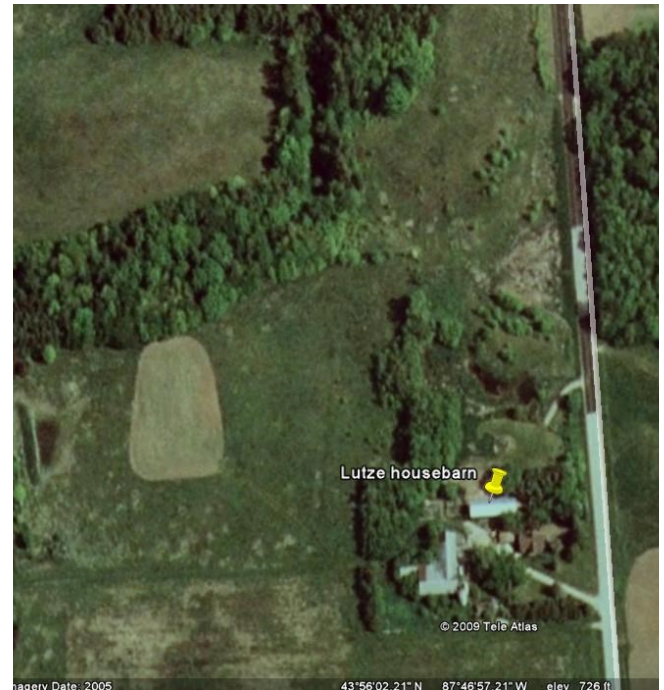
Als die Lutzes in Centerville ankamen, wohnten sie bei der Familie Born auf der Farm nebenan, die eine Art Übergangsheim für neue Einwanderer war. Zu dieser Zeit erwarb Gottlieb das ursprünglich 80 Morgen große Grundstück von Christian Robb, dem Leuchtturmwärter in Sheboygan. Herr Robb erhielt das Land von der Regierung für seine treuen Dienste während des Krieges von 1812. Das Land kostete Gottlieb 320,00 Dollar.

Lutze Housebarn Mysteries

#1. Some folks believe the arched brick fruit cellar was built as a first step in the Housebarn construction; that would seem logical, and would have given them a place to store food as the building was erected, perhaps when the family was living in a temporary log cabin. Other experts say the building was built without such a cellar, and a traveling crew that specialized in installing such cellars under existing buildings came around and did that project after the building was occupied. There are a few other buildings in the area that show evidence like that. One of our archeological digs made it clear there was originally a cellar entrance to the south going up and under what is the now current first floor main entrance. So what do you think was the sequence? How might we be able to collect more evidence or prove which came first or how it was done??

#2. The traditional German fachwerk nogging and clay infill in the walls provided insulation from the cold winters, and during the summer helped balance out the hot days with the cooler night air. All of the first floor contains that nogging and infill. The exterior of all the clay would have been coated with a layer of lime to keep it from washing away in the rain. Similarly, the interior would have been coated in the living quarters for aesthetics. The lime especially on the exterior was a high maintenance item, and a 'good German' then and still today in 'the old country' would redo any chipped or damaged parts of the lime in spring and/or fall to keep it rain resistant. That was a lot of work. So a few years after the Lutze Housebarn was built, the sawmill opened on Fisher Creek, next to what is now S. Fischer Creek Road. Covering the clay and lime with the now available sawn siding was seen as a more 'modern solution' and the horizontal siding was apparently considered more fashionable, and became used on almost all farm buildings in the area of that timeframe. The challenging question: if there was not (ever) infill in the second and third floor walls, how did they possibly stay warm? And if the siding presumed to have come from the Fischer Creek Sawmill wasn't available till several years after the Housebarn was erected (actual name and dates needs research), what was the exterior of the building for the 2nd and third floors?? What do you think? And would you like to do some research and help us figure this out??

#3: In Germany, the main first floor room would have had a ceramic double wall wood stove, was there ever one there? Were such units available from Germany to Wisconsin?



Have you ever explored the land around the Housebarn? This 2005 Google Earth gives an idea, but lots has changed and grown since then! Join us for a hike to 'the ravine' and on our walking trail In June!

Verne Wernecke, Local Man Lived Large

Vernon Ira Wernecke hailed from the Centerville area for most of his life, yet he first learned about the Lutze Housebarn when he stopped and visited New Age Computer Systems at their old Juniper Street office in 1993 to sell apples from his orchard. There he learned about Centerville Settlement from a display. He came to his first workday at the Lutze Housebarn in 1996 and immediately became a member. Verne was instrumental in helping move the project forward with his loyal attendance at work days and also his ability to prune fruit trees on site with his orchardist and arborist background.

A few years later he first began to share his (till then secret) experiences as a Codebreaker with the Enigma Project during the Second World War, which he remembered from some 50 years earlier.

The parallels of his experiences with recent and current events in Ukraine is uncanny.

He went on to write a huge amount which he shared the only way he knew which was (surprisingly for his age and the times), by long emails.

We will continue to provide excerpts from his writing over the years; which included 60+ lengthy documents. Verne continued to volunteer at Centerville Settlement until his passing at age 95 on December 12, 2012.

If you would like to help out with categorizing or indexing Vernon's writings please contact Chris Kuehnelt at 920 693-3141.

Here is the first in our series of Vernon's writings:

[ed. This is just a portion of his 4 page single space email of that date]

Date: Fri, 30 May 2003 11:37:22 -0500

Subject: We go into the Vosges Mtns.

Had a big mail call and it looks like all our back mail has caught up with us now so will have to begin answering them. By now Montgomery's parachute drop in Belgium had failed so his troops had to now try to open the estuary into the harbor so that supplies could be unloaded at Antwerp instead of having to be trucked from the D-Day beaches and the Cherbourg harbor. Further S. it was decided to attack toward the Ruhr so as to eliminate a lot of the war factories there. That did not leave much supply for Patton so it was decided that his XV Corps troops would be transferred to 7th Army as we could stretch our supplies enough to cover that Corps as more roads, the railroads, and the like were being repaired from the S. From the DDay beaches to the front lines they were running the "Red Ball Express" - trucks going one way E. and returning W. via another highway but still could not get enough supplies forward until they could rebuild the railroads there. Both Gen. Devers and Patch realized the French would have trouble getting thru the Belfort Gap so they asked Gen. Eisenhower for more troops. Because of the supply situation he decided that 3 divisions on their way from the US would be diverted from landing at Cherbourg to landing at Toulon in the S. and join our 7th Army. So on 9/29 XV Corps was transferred. They had been in combat for 100 days, quite a bit of it spent chasing the retreating Germans so they were in need of a rest, just like VI Corps. Their CO, Gen. Haislip was similar to Gen. T. in that he had picked an excellent staff to support him and had good morale in his units. He had the 79th Infantry Div., the French 2nd Armored Div., whose CO was Gen. Leclerc, also almost as difficult to deal with as de Lattre, but was considered by other US COs as one of the top tank commanders, Gen. Haislip had learned how to get along with him. There were also a few cavalry groups in the Corps to act as recon units or to protect the flanks. They were now fighting in the Luneville area heading for the Saverne Gap between the Upper and Lower Vosges Mtns. On 9/26 VI Corps resumed their attack, the 45th div had it easier now as the Germans had decided to pull back in that area and soon they were in Rambervillers and getting into the Vosges foothills. The 36th and 3rd Div.s were already in the foothills so they had a tougher time. During this time and till the end of Oct., XV Corps would push E. of Luneville thru 2 large forested areas that were easily defended by the Germans. Found out that Plombiere les Bain, which we had just passed thru, had a bunch

of hot springs with bath houses so we sent half our crew in yesterday and the other half today to get a good cleanup. We were too busy for me to go but I will get my turn. The next day I again took the Jewish men to their special services but found the bath houses too crowded for me to wait in line. Scrounged up enough milk toward evening so some of us could have a treat of cocoa, instead of having to use water. 9/30 Had to move again, luckily it was a nice day for a change so we had no trouble getting to a nice wooded area near Pouxoux. Gottlieb and I took a walk in the evening, got 3 eggs, another treated us to the local potent drink called "Eau de Vie" - each area uses a different fruit or grain to distill their specialty, some is very fiery going down, some has a high alcohol content, and some even tastes quite good. Clear and sunny the next day so I take everything out of my truck to dry it in case rain has seeped in anywhere. Cate is out looking for stoves as our fingers are getting cold at work. A few days later again found 4 eggs and more milk, with so many out looking for some, pickings are slim. Then had an afternoon free so laid in a tub for several hours at one of the bath houses. Received 2 packages the past few days, herring - a rare treat - candy and other goodies. C-ration at noon so we fried some of the eggs, had fried potatoes and pork loaf with them. Corps has set up movies in Remiremont, the first time since we landed so we sent a truckload there. 10/8 After several days of searching, Cate has located 2 stoves, they heat so well that our I-Van gets too hot for me so as soon as I have finished my work I get out of there. Took my truck down to Ordnance for a complete checkover before winter sets in, it is ready 4 days later, has a complete new motor so it should make it to the end of the war. Recently Gladys (In Wash DC) sent me a snapshot of her with her 5 sisters, a really good-looking group, also got some snapshots of the Langenhahn families and their children, how they have grown since I last saw them. It is so good to receive things like that, almost like being at home. We have had our VHF truck several miles forward as we have enough voice nets to keep 1 or 2 men busy and every little bit helps. Went forward to see them today, last week they were a little too far forward as suddenly they saw some german tanks coming down the road so had to go back a ways via some back roads. That is the problem with this mountainous area, our troops cannot patrol all of it all the time so somebody can sneak thru somewhere - our infantry and tanks do the same. They are a ways off the main road, the voice nets are very good, but I would not want to try to find my way up here after dark. Our first winter clothing came in, warm underwear feels good already as it is cold here in the Vosges. Cate and Stan went out looking for pyramidal tents, ran into a tree along the way so we sent Moe to Ordnance the next morning to get a wrecker sent there. Few days later I went to VHF again, some of the others had heard that there were dead germans in the woods at their new area so Moe asked me to find a good pair of boots and Poser asked for a pistol holster, because it was cold they had not turned ripe yet so had no trouble getting those items. Decided though that I was not cut out for that, if someone else wanted something they could go there and get it themselves. Someone else out scrounging for eggs and cheese came back with a small bottle of kirsch (cherry liquor) so we all had an ounce or two.

Ed. I just went searching and I have an additional 200+ 'personal emails' from Vernon to me and others of 2003 to 2011, about half are multipage war stories, I don't recall how the 60 became PDF's in CSI's files, does anyone know who created those from his work? All the PDF's are dated Feb 3rd 2020 and were placed there by me, but I did not create them. With some effort I could find which emails are relevant, and which did not get turned into PDF's.....

2022 OFFICERS AND BOARD



Officers:

President: Chris Kuehnel (920-693-3141) chris.k@centrevillesettlement.com

Vice President: Richard Lutze (920-693-3454) richard.lutze4145@gmail.com

Secretary: Kathy Pearce (920-946-1036) kpear2002@yahoo.com

Treasurer: Richard Otto Wiegand (715-416-0513) rowiegand@wisc.edu

Board:

Brian Kraemer (920-693-8935) bck76@tds.net

Reick Biersdorf (920-693-8000) briec7@hotmail.com

Cindy Kraemer (920-693-8935) bck76@tds.net

Bill Heckmann bheckmann@tds.net

Gerry Jost (920-726-4474) nicky19@hotmail.com

Richard Wiegand (715-416-0513) rowiegand@wisc.edu

Sarah Lutze (920-627-1526) sdlutze823@gmail.com

Janet Lutze (414-828-4942) janetlutze@ameritech.net

Margaret Lutze (920-823-9940) mlutze777@gmail.com

Travis Gross (920-946-5357) tgross1971@charter.net

Glenn Lutze (920-583-4280) lutzes@bglcomputers.com

Accountant: Greg Zahn (920-973-5872) gregzahn@zahndesign.net



Who We Are

Centreville Settlement, Inc. is a non-profit, 501 (c) (3) organization dedicated to the cultural and architectural preservation of the farming heritage of Centreville Township. The focus is a capsule of German immigrant heritage of which many residents are descendants from Saxony, Germany. They continue to farm the land their ancestors settled and the architectural and cultural heritage remains.

We will be highlighting members in this and future newsletters. In this edition check out the next page for some fun facts about Richard Wiegand and Janet Lutze!



South side of the Lutze Housebarn
before work began, perhaps 1980?

Richard Otto Wiegand was one of the co-founders of Centreville Settlement, Inc. in 1982 and a lifetime member. He is a local Centerville historian who has published two books and is currently working on a family history. Richard's first book, *Centerville*, is an historical novel featuring a time-travel and love-story based on the Wiegand farm in the 1860's and 1870's. Most people and events in the book are disguised but the events actually happened and the characters are based on actual residents of Centerville Township. Richard's second book, *Jackson's Kenya*, chronicles his four years in the Peace Corps in Kenya in the 1970's and his adventures with his cook and mentor Jackson. His website is www.safari-shamba-books.com.

Janet Lutze is one of the original founders of Centreville Settlement. She grew up and was raised on the farm on S.Union Road where the Housebarn is located. In 1979 she went on to college and her nursing degree, worked in the medical field and started her own business called Health Concepts.

Janet was instrumental in increasing the membership of Centreville Settlement and led the group as president for many years. She inspired others with encouragement and recognition. We are grateful for Janet's leadership over the years.

Her ideas were far reaching and she encourages fact based research, identifying educational opportunities and support in the mission of the organization..

Janet now resides in Milwaukee and can be contacted at 414.828.4932



ON THE WEB:
CENTREVILLESETTLEMENT.COM

Mission

Centreville Settlement, Inc. is a non-profit, 501(c)3 organization dedicated to the preservation of the architectural and cultural heritage of the German American farming community in the Centerville area.

In the 1840's and 50's, immigrants fled Germany to escape war and the economic hard times. Many Saxon Germans settled in Centerville Township. Their fifth and sixth generation children still remain on the original farms using original buildings for their original purposes. Centerville Township is a unique time capsule of architecture, culture, and traditions of the early settlers.

Organizational Goals

Centreville Settlement, Inc. will meet its mission by:

- Providing educational programs and classes in the Old World arts and crafts, restoration of historical heritage, as well as pioneer and self sufficiency skills.
- Promotion and organization of local cultural and preservation groups.
- Providing a detailed cultural and architectural survey of the local German-American ethnic community.
- - Demonstration to future generation, the wise use of farm land, and preserve the quality of life and environment that brought the original settlers.

TIME TO RENEW OR START YOUR ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FOR CENTREVILLE SETTLEMENT, INC.

Help support our historic mission; a key part of our budget comes from memberships, and yours is appreciated!

Please print:

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Do you text at phone # above? _____

Street Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Newsletters will be sent to the email address unless otherwise indicated:

_____ I do not have an email address and prefer postal mailing for the additional fee of \$5.

Individual (\$30) _____

Family (\$45) _____

Contributing (\$125) _____

Supporting (\$1000 & over) _____

Benefactor (\$5000 & over) _____

Donation _____

Please complete and mail with check to: **Centreville Settlement, Inc.**

Attn: Greg Zahn

9304 S Lake Drive

Manitowoc WI 54220

Membership expires December 31 of each year

Renewals can also be made at our website via PayPal or credit card.

Know someone looking for a great summer history related job?

We recently received this notice..... This would be a great experience and would ready the right person's resume for a possible 2023 hire at Centreville Settlement!!

The Wisconsin Historical Society has fantastic summer opportunities located across Wisconsin.

These jobs are a fantastic opportunity to get hands-on experience at a historic site or museum. Many of the jobs include the opportunity to work both inside and outside. Some of the roles are costumed third-person interpreter positions that would allow for the opportunity to learn 19th century skills, and others are firmly 21st century in modern street clothes.

A seasonal position with the Wisconsin Historical Society is an opportunity to learn new skills that students will be able to apply and use throughout their careers. There may be an opportunity to turn a seasonal position into an internship. A seasonal position is also a great fit for retirees.

If you know someone who might be a great fit at a premier living history site, please have them reach out to Anna Altschwager with any questions at Anna.altschwager@wisconsinhistory.org.

Examples of available positions:

Education and program assistant at Wade House

Experience Facilitator at Old World Wisconsin

Education Intern at Black Point

Guide/Visitor Experience at Madeline Island Museum

Villa Louis Tour Guide

Stonefield Tour Guide

Domestic Interpreter at Wade House

Trades Interpreter at Wade House

Period Clothing Coordinator at Old World Wisconsin

Our twelve sites include:

Black Point Estates in Lake Geneva

Circus World in Baraboo

Reed School in Neillsville

H.H. Bennett Studio in Wisconsin Dells

Wisconsin Historical Museum in Madison

Pendarvis in Mineral Point

First Capital in Belmont

Villa Louis in Prairie du Chien

Stonefield in Cassville

Wade House in Greenbush

Madeline Island Museum on Madeline Island

Old World Wisconsin in Eagle