



Happy 250 USA 4th of July 2026



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Oconto County Times Herald
Wittenberg Birnamwood Enterprise & News
The Shawano Leader

SUMMER ORIGINALS

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July 4th
pairing!



Shawano Ski Sharks
Special Sunday Show
June 28th • 5:30 pm

2 Revolutionary War veterans buried in northeast Wisconsin

Both members of Stockbridge tribe

By KEVIN PASSON
Editor-in-Chief

Forty veterans of the American Revolutionary War have their final resting place in Wisconsin, with two of them in Outagamie County.

Both were members of the Stockbridge Tribe, which did not officially merge with the Munsee community until 1836, at which time both men had already died.

According to the Wisconsin Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, the 40 veterans moved to the Wisconsin Territory later in life and are buried in 25 cemeteries across the state.

The gravesites for Hendrick Aupaumut and Jacob Konkapot Jr. are impossible to locate. They are buried in the old Stockbridge Cemetery on the former Frank Thelen farm, near Kaukauna in Outagamie County.

The Thelen farm no longer exists, and the area is now a residential development.

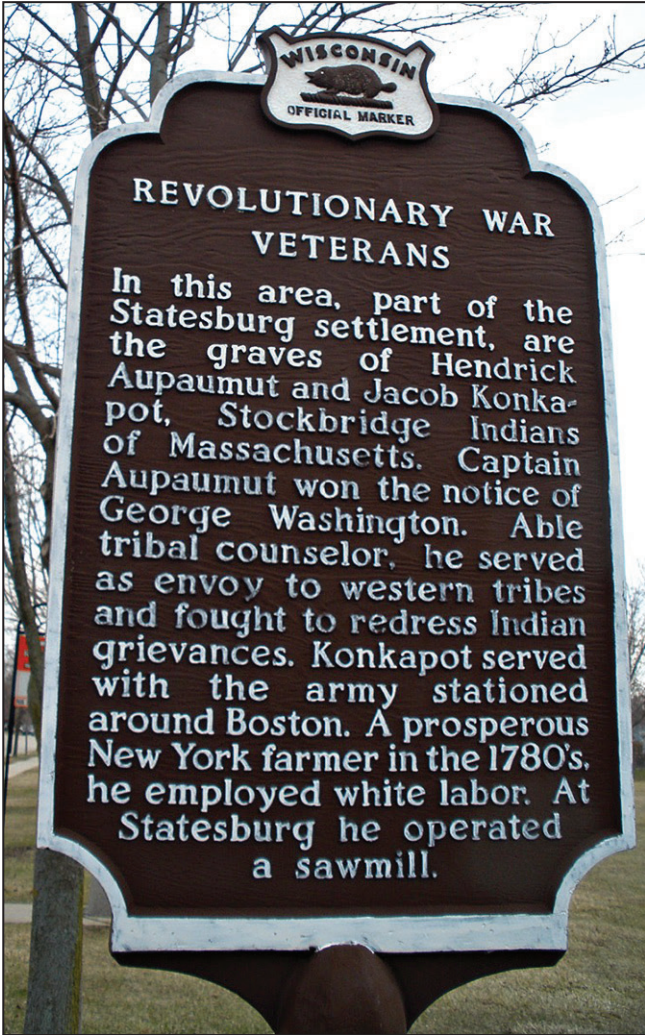
A historical marker, in tribute to Konkapot and Aupaumut, is located in Thelen Park, nearly where the cemetery existed.

The Wisconsin Society of the Sons of the American Revolution provided biographical sketches of the veterans based on the accounts given by the soldiers in their pension applications and, in some cases, their military service records.

Hendrick Aupaumut
(c. 1757-1829)
Hendrick Aupaumut,



A historical marker honoring Stockbridge tribal member Hendrick Aupaumut is located on a traffic island near the intersection of Reaume Street and Hendricks Avenue in Kaukauna. Aupaumut is one of 40 Revolutionary War veterans buried in Wisconsin. FINDAGRAVE.COM



Stockbridge tribal member Jacob Konkapot Jr. served in the Revolutionary War and is buried somewhere in Kaukauna. The exact location is not known, but a historical marker in tribute to Konkapot and fellow tribal member and veteran Hendrick Aupaumut is located in Thelen Park in Kaukauna, nearly where the cemetery existed. FINDAGRAVE.COM

the son of a chief sachem, was born in Stockbridge, Massachusetts. He enlisted in the Continental Army at age 18 on June 23, 1775. By August of that year, he was serving as a private in Capt. William Goodrich's Company of Indians, Col. John Paterseon's Regiment, during the siege of Boston.

During the 1777 Saratoga campaign, Aupaumut acted as the lieutenant of Native American scouts under Capts. Nimham and Mtohsin. In 1778, he survived the massacre of Stockbridge tribal members in the Bronx, New York, and took command of the Indian company on the death of his captain.

In 1779, Gen. George Washington promoted Aupaumut to the temporary rank of captain. He enlisted regularly and remained in the service through 1782.

Aupaumut reenlisted with the Army during the War of 1812 and served under Gen. William Henry Harrison, who would go on to be elected president of the United States in 1840.

In 1829, he moved to tribal lands on the Fox River near Green Bay. Late in life, Aupaumut translated religious texts into the Mohican language, wrote a traditional history of the tribe and, after 1811, became chief sachem of the Mohicans.

Aupaumut died in 1830 at the age of 72.

A bicentennial marker about Aupaumut is located on a traffic island near the intersection of Reaume Street and Hendricks Avenue in Kaukauna.

Also, near and south of the Calumet County village of Stockbridge, south of Kaukauna on state Highway 55 is another Stockbridge cemetery. An engraved stone in that cemetery lists Aupaumut.

Jacob Konkapot Jr. (?-1835)
The birth date of Jacob Konkapot Jr. is not known, but he was also a scout in the American War for Independence.

He enlisted May 2, 1775, for an eight-month term in the same company as Aupaumut.

Konkapot served at the siege of Boston for three months and seven days.

He moved to Wisconsin with the first migration of Stockbridge members around 1822 and established a small sawmill on a creek near Kaukauna, which today is known as Konkapot Creek.

Today, a highway marker can be found on the bridge over the creek.

Konkapot bled to death as the result of an accident felling timber.

kpasson@newmedia-wi.com

Local Fourth of July Events

JULY 3 & 4

GILLETT
JULY 3
Food and beverages at the Civic Club Stand and the Beer Stand
July 3 - Food Special 4-5:30 pm \$2 hamburger, hot dog & \$2 beer.
4pm-7 pm Lawn Chair Concert ; 7 pm Truck Pull, 7-11 pm, Live Music by Petty Cash.
JULY 4 9 am Antique/Classic Car, Truck & Motorcycle Show; 9 am Horse Pull; 5 pm Antique Tractor Pull; Live Music by Country Re-wind 10am-1pm, Acoustic Viny 3-6pm, Highway 32 Band 7-11 pm.

JULY 3

CLINTONVILLE
Clintonville A's fireworks will begin at dusk July 3 at W.A. Olen Park, 10 Memorial Circle. Food and refreshments will be available for purchase and there will be music and baseball.

MOUNTAIN
Fire Department Auxiliary Annual Independence Day Event starts at 8am. Serving food all day including breakfast. 1-4 pm Kids Games; 4:30-8 pm Meat Raffle featuring Edleman Meats, Basket Raffle (winners announced after meat rafle). Fireworks at dusk.

SHAWANO
Fireworks at Shawano Airport at dusk

JULY 4

BONDUEL
Red, White & Blue Parade 11 am with live music by Fabulous Johnny following the parade at Village Park, 6 pm music by Road Trip. Food Trucks, Baseball Games, Bounce Houses, Bike Raffle, Bull Ride, Rock Climb and more!

BREED
Breed Parade in Suring 12 noon. Meat raffle, live music, mechanical bull, food, drinks. All proceeds benefit Suring American Legion Post #283.

CLOVERLEAF LAKES
Boat Parade 6:30 pm, Kiddie Parade 10 am, Fireworks at dusk. Rain Date July 5.

LEOPOLIS
Triathlon, registration 8-9:30 am Races 10am (Jocks, under 16 and Beer Belly divisions). Parade at 12:00 noon.

TIGERTON
Tigerton's 4th of July Block Party 4pm to 8 pm. Food, live music, meat raffles, and activities for all ages. After dark a spectacular fireworks show near the high school.

TOWNSEND
Annual 4th of July Celebration. Craft Fair 9 am to 4 pm, food and drink, live music, meat raffles. Parade at noon. Concessions at 7 pm until fireworks at dusk at Veterans Memorial Park, 16564 Elm St., Townsend.

Events may be subject to change based on the weather or other factors.



Stephen "Doc" Hopkins works on a motorcycle in the repair shop of his business that he started out of a rented garage in Shawano in 1979.

GREG SEUBERT

‘Doc’ keeps Harley-Davidson brand going strong after 50 years

Multiple businesses spring from repair shop

By GREG SEUBERT
Correspondent

What started as a motorcycle repair shop in a rented Shawano garage almost 50 years ago is now a motorcycle mecca that draws visitors and customers from throughout the world.

The person behind the venture is 75-year-old Stephen "Doc" Hopkins, who can usually be found at Doc's Harley-Davidson off of state Highway 29 between Bonduel and Pulaski.

"I started April 1, 1979," Hopkins said. "I rented a tiny little stall in a half-garage in Shawano. Five years prior to that, I was working for the Harley-Davidson dealer in Shawano, which is what S&S Marina is today. I asked him if it was OK if I started a little repair shop. I wasn't a Harley dealer yet, but we had quite a following of people and I was extremely busy.

"Two days before I opened my door, I was fixing the place up, painting and putting my tools away and a man came to me and said, 'I need my bike fixed, I have to have it for work

in the morning, can you fix it right now?' I said, 'Sure,' so I dropped what I was doing and fixed his motorcycle. I made 75 (dollars) on the parts and labor. That was my month's rent, so I knew I'd be there at least a month.

"I was working in my little workshop and I had a lot of work to do myself. There was also a Harley dealer in Manawa, and he had three mechanics working for him. They had all the tools and equipment, but they had no way of knowing how to use them. They could not build motors and transmissions.

"The fellow that owned the Harley shop was bringing me all of his heavy engine and transmission work twice a week, dropping it off and picking it up. One day, I said, 'Hey, if you ever want to sell your Harley franchise, let me know.' He walked out the door and I thought he doesn't want to. Two weeks later, the phone rang and he said he has all the figures together. I ended up buying it from him and moving it back to Shawano. By then, I had moved over to Shawano's industrial park. Once I got going with Harley, I had to open a 5,000-square-foot showroom. We outgrew that three times and added on when we could."

Fast forward to the late 1990s, and Hopkins started thinking of expanding his business and relocating again. He purchased 72 acres of farmland

along Highway 29 in 1997 and opened Doc's Harley-Davidson of Shawano County in April 1998.

"Harley recommended that we get out of the industrial park and get out on a major highway where we could be seen," he said.

Besides a showroom and repair shop, the business has grown over the years and now includes a classic car and motorcycle museum, Timeline Saloon and BBQ, Timeline Antique Mall, Doc's Full Bore Outdoor, Hog Barn Banquet Hall and Doc's Zoo.

"I never thought it would get quite this big," Hopkins said. "Once I moved out here, I had plenty of room to expand. I've always loved animals, so I made room to put my animals out here. Now, we have camels, kangaroos, tortoises and alligators."

Hopkins' love for cooking led to the Timeline Saloon and BBQ, which opened in 2010.

"I brought all my homemade recipes to the restaurant," he said. "I didn't really have that vision for a long time, but I decided that if I could come up with a good recipe for baby back ribs, I'm going to do that. I built my own rib-cooking machine and fine-tuned and worked on my recipe for three years. I figured it out."

Branching out into

DOC, continued on page 5



This Ferris wheel with Harley-Davidson motorcycles instead of seats is one of the one-of-a-kind attractions at Doc's Harley-Davidson, which opened its doors in 1998 between Bonduel and Pulaski. GREG SEUBERT

DOC, continued from page 4

other ventures has worked out for Hopkins, who said he's met visitors from all over the world.

Harley-Davidson Inc. began manufacturing motorcycles in Milwaukee more than a century ago and the brand is as popular as ever, according to Hopkins.

"I think it's the fact that it's made right in Milwaukee," he said when asked about the brand. "It's an American thing and the Harley has a certain sound. You can't reproduce that sound, and people love the sound of the Harley, the size of the Harley and the fact that it's made in America. It's always been an iconic motorcycle that people have followed for many, many years."

However, Hopkins has noticed a shift over the years.

"It seems like all the baby boomers were the ones that really wanted to be in the Harleys, get Harleys and couldn't get enough of them," he said. "For years, we could not get enough motorcycles from the factory. Over time, we were able to get more. We used to sell 250 motorcycles a year. Now, we're down to 47. It's not just Harleys. It's the motorcycle industry across the board."

"They are not selling like they used to. Maybe the moms have got the



Clothing and other Harley-Davidson merchandise can be found at Doc's Harley-Davidson. GREG SEUBERT

youth freaked out about how motorcycles are not safe. It seems like the younger generation would rather be on their cell-phones or playing a game pretending they're riding a motorcycle instead of actually riding a motorcycle."

On the other hand, Harley-Davidson merchandise — everything from clothing to gear to dartboards to plush animals — remains popular.

Although he missed it last year, Hopkins will ride in Bonduel's upcoming Fourth of July parade.

He doesn't have any special events scheduled for America's 250th celebration at his business but expects plenty of visitors and customers during the weekend.

"My gal Joy (Tuminic), she and I are going to drive a 1924 four-cylinder

Henderson motorcycle that we're going to doll up with 250th flags and drive it to the Bonduel parade," he said. "I have some pretty cool flags ordered, and that'll be a fun event. We didn't do it last year, but we'll be back at it again this year."

Although Hopkins is 75, he doesn't see a day in the near future when he'll stop showing up at the business he spent almost 50 years building from scratch.

Once he does, however, it'll free up more time for him to take a ride in the brand of motorcycle he's been loyal to since he was a teenager growing up in Algoma.

"It's a freedom of being out on the road," Hopkins said. "It's a feeling you can't really describe. You have to experience it."



The showroom at Doc's Harley-Davidson includes several new and used motorcycles. GREG SEUBERT



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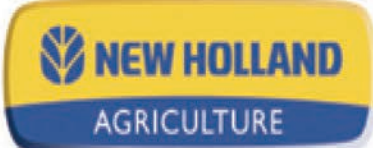
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Who parked an army tank at a Shawano city park?

Children played on it instead of a swing set. Adults drove past it day after day, most likely not giving it a second thought.

For those who did wonder, how did a World War II Sherman tank end up at the corner of Lieg Avenue and South Main Street in Shawano?

According to the Shawano County Historical Society, in the late 1940s and early 1950s, as the U.S. military was modernizing its hardware, and there was lots of WWII surplus.

At the same time, communities around the nation and organizations like AM-VETS, American Legion and the VFW were looking to build memorials to WWII.

Shawano's Sherman tank arrived in July 1953 through the efforts of VFW Post 2723 and the TACOM group of the U.S. military. The tank was named by the British for American Civil War Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman.

"It was acquired by the VFW post in 1953 for display in town," Joe Dillenberg with the VFW told the historical society. "Technically, it is still on loan from the federal government. It seems that quite a few veterans' organizations in Wisconsin and Minnesota secured tanks for display in the mid-1950s from TACOM."

TACOM is the United

States Army Tank-automotive and Armaments Command, and they have a program where organizations can request surplus military equipment to display.

The program still exists but when contacted, TACOM, which is based in Michigan, doesn't have any records of this Sherman arriving to Shawano. However, the Sherman tank was built by Ford and was turned over to the military on May 19, 1943. Its serial number is 12236, and registration number is 3054391. These numbers and dates are still on the tank today.

According to Pierre Olivier, a tank expert with the Tank Encyclopedia group, "I think this Sherman tank served for training state-side during WWII. It was later rebuilt and upgraded in the 1950s and most probably served with a National Guard unit or was simply kept in storage before being sold as surplus."

Technically, it's an M4A3 Sherman where the A3 designates that it's built by Ford. The Sherman was the most widely used medium tank by USA and Western Allies in WWII. The total number of M4s produced was more than 49,000 with 1,690 by Ford.

The following account is from Danny Staub. His grandfather, SSGT Reuben Staub, drove the tank from Madison to Shawano.

"My grandfather, SSGT Reuben P. Staub, from Shawano, was the head of the local VFW. He was given a police escort from an army base by Madison, up the highways and what is now Interstate 41 as he drove it alongside on the shoulder of the highway. He talked of this journey until the day he passed in 1969. He stated on how the tracks ripped up the roadways. At that time, the tank still had an engine, it and can be fully functional, which was part of the deal when it was donated.

"My grandfather owned Staub's Refrigeration after he got out of WWII. He was MIA presumed KIA for 15 months at age 20. He and his B24 bomber crew were ordered to bail out over Ploesti Romania on D-day June 6, 1944, as his squadron, the 98th bomb group 415th division, was on an easy mission out of Lecce, Italy, to bomb the oil yards in Romania as they were supplying the Germans with fuel.

"After their plane was shot up and hit by flak, the right engine caught on fire. The pilot gave the order to the six guys in the back to bail out over Romania. My grandfather never jumped out of a plane before that. He had his shoes and socks off as he was the belly gunner, and they needed the traction to kick the big gun around in a circle

underneath the plane.

"Just prior to being hit, my grandfather was asked by SSGT Celestino H. Garcia from Bexar, Texas, if he would like to switch gunner positions for the day as Grandpa had the best view of the country below. Grandpa Reuben obliged, and before he was able to get his socks and boots on, they came under fire from the enemy.

"The back crew all bailed out. My grandfather was a bit slower and drifted away from his crew mates that were picked up by friendly civilians in a communist-occupied Romania. Grandpa, with a map and

coordinates in his pocket started walking, but only at night, through enemy territory at 20 years old. He walked from Romania to Turkey, more than 1,500 miles in 15 months. He escaped being captured twice by German officers.

"My grandfather never spoke of his war time days except to his sister immediately after he got home. Her name was Ardis Staub from Shawano. Grandpa told her that the day he jumped from the plane that his best friend had asked him to change gunner positions, and we all know that my grandpa did. SSGT Celestino H. Garcia from Bexar, Texas, was

the only fatality that day. He died from an enemy airship gunshot to the head as he sat in the glass bubble under the plane where my grandfather had just been seated a moment before.

"I cannot imagine what my grandfather must have endured. I know that he traded my grandmother's Shawano High School class ring for a pair of sandals from a farmer. I also know that Romania is a very mountainous area that would not be easily traversed in summer and frigid winter. Grandpa Reuben died of brain cancer at the King Veterans Hospital in 1969."

250th

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Tasked with accurately preserving the county's past and recording the present for future generations is the Oconto County Historical Society. Founded in 1940, OCHS showcases its rich history with three museums — including the Beyer Home and Carriage Museum. A restored Victorian home, it also boasts a must-see antique vehicles collection.

CONTRIBUTED

Oconto County history traced back 12,000 years

Museums offer unique look at the past

By KATHLEEN MARSH
Correspondent

Oconto County is a significant historical and cultural center in northeastern Wisconsin. Its history reflects its importance as a blend of ancient indigenous cultures, European settlement and industrial development.

Archaeological sites indicate that Paleo-Indians settled in the area 10,000-12,000 years ago. About 6,000 years later, the Old Copper culture began. The Oconto Archaeological Site contains burial grounds and artifacts, including copper tools that highlight their early metalsmithing practices.

Oconto County has been governed by four political entities in its recorded history: the Menominee, before European contact; the French, who claimed the Great Lakes region in 1671; the English, who took possession in 1763; and the United States, which claimed it in the 1783 Treaty of Paris that ended the Revolutionary War.



Holt and Balcom Logging Camp Museum is located in Lakewood. As the oldest logging camp in America standing on its original site, it captures the myth and magic of the Big Pine Era.

CONTRIBUTED

The county's name is derived from Oak-a-toe, an early Menominee settlement. In 1669, Jesuit missionary Father Claude Allouez introduced Christianity to local tribes. French traders followed, bartering knives, axes, beads and blankets for prime fur pelts, and a mostly peaceful coexistence ensued.

In the early 1800s, wealth-seeking adventurers arrived to harvest the region's majestic white pines, creating a logging industry that attracted European immigrants. Settlement began in earnest when John P. Arndt established Wisconsin's first commercial sawmill and lumbering

operation on the Pensaukee River in 1826.

In 1851, Oconto County was formed by carving it from Brown County. There wasn't a single regular road in the county, only trails that led from nowhere to nowhere. The sawmill settlement of Oconto, which lies at the mouth of the Oconto River, was chosen as county seat.

By the 1860s, the city of Oconto had become a major industrial and commercial center with more than 1,000 residents and 12 sawmills operating simultaneously. Industrial growth swelled again when the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad reached Oconto

in 1871. Largely escaping the Peshtigo Fire that year, Oconto's economy continued to thrive on lumber, trade and, later, diversified industries. Marinette County was separated off in 1879.

Fueled by the country's insatiable demand for sawlogs, lumber barons like Farnsworth, Holt and Stephenson acquired fame and fortune. Immigrant laborers flooded into the area, which soon served as a hub for the logging industry. Steadily marching north and west, logging crews systematically sawed down the Northwoods.

For a first-hand account, read "A Wisconsin Lumberman Looks Backward" by W.A. Holt (available online). Holt's book recounts events as the logging boom went bust. Ruthless "cut and run" practices decimated the pines; a second cutting took out the hardwoods. Thankfully, the Civilian Conservation Corps, a key part of FDR's New Deal, restored much of the woodlands. The Forest Service, founded in 1905, has been tasked with preserving them.

The first newspapers published in the county were the Oconto Pioneer in 1859 and The Lumberman in 1864.

The Oconto Reporter was founded in 1871, gradually absorbing other publications and operating as the Oconto County Reporter. The Oconto County Times Herald was created in 1952 by combining the Oconto Falls Herald, founded in 1899, and the Gillett Times, which published its first issue in 1927.

Over the past century, Oconto County has flourished and flourished. Major employers like Bond Pickle, Carver Yachts and Suring Even-Flo closed, but the beat goes on with employers like ST Paper in Oconto Falls and Nicolet Plastics in Mountain.

There are two first-rate hospitals, Bellin Health in Oconto and HSHS St. Clare Prevea in Oconto Falls. Quality public schools operate in Gillett, Lena, Oconto Falls, Oconto and Suring. Six exceptional independent libraries meet the demand for 21st century services.

All of this and so much more happens despite unique geographic and demographic challenges. Shaped like three steps, Oconto County is composed of three distinct regions. The most densely populated is the southern part, the center for

government services. Residents find work locally and in the Green Bay area.

The middle section is rural-agricultural, with small towns, farms and a mega dairy operation in Suring. The northern portion is forested with natural and man-made lakes. It relies on retirees, logging and tourism for economic survival.

Despite these divergences, close-knit communities provide essential services and help to those in need.

Tasked with accurately preserving the county's past and recording the present for future generations is the Oconto County Historical Society. Founded in 1940, it showcases its history with three museums.

The Beyer Home and Carriage Museum, a restored Victorian home, also boasts a must-see antique vehicles collection.

The Copper Culture Museum is a gem that captures the area's Native American heritage.

Holt and Balcom Logging Camp Museum in Lakewood is also a treasure. As the oldest logging camp in America standing on its original site, it captures the myth and magic of the Big Pine Era. All are well worth a visit.

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Wisconsin Veterans Museum anchors state's contribution to time capsule

As part of the America250 national celebration, a time capsule will be buried on July 4 at Independence National Historical Park, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

America's Time Capsule contains objects from all 56 U.S. states and territories and the three branches of the federal government. The Wisconsin Veterans Museum contributed items that represent the state of Wisconsin and its many people.

Wisconsin's submission includes items related to Old Abe the Civil War eagle: a feather of Old Abe's, a photocard of Old Abe sold at the 1876 Philadelphia Centennial Exposition and a military badge with his likeness.

In addition to the Old Abe materials, letters from Wisconsin's Gov. Tony Evers, Lt. Gov. Sara Rodriguez, Secretary of State Sarah Godlewski, State Supreme Court Chief Justice Jill J. Karofsky, Wisconsin Sen. Dianne Hesselbein and Wisconsin Veterans Museum director Chris Kolakowski were sent.

Rounding out the submission are items from Native nations within the state. Two of those nations, the Oneida and Stockbridge-Munsee, fought with the colonies during the War of Independence.

"It is an honor to help assemble this message for generations 250 years in the future," Kolakowski said. "As we considered what to include, Old Abe was a stand-out choice. He was a star of Wisconsin's contribution to the Centennial Exposition in 1876 and remains an enduring symbol of the state to this day."

As an official America250 project, America's Time Capsule creates a national record of the United States at 250 that will not be seen again until 2276.

About Old Abe Orphaned in the North Woods, the eaglet was captured by Ogi-maa Weigiizhig, Chief Sky, of the Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians in 1861. The eaglet was sold and later offered to a militia company in

Eau Claire. The company organized with the 8th Wisconsin Infantry Regiment for service to the Union Army.

The eagle was named Old Abe after President Abraham Lincoln and became the regiment's mascot. Old Abe survived many Civil War battles as he rallied the troops. His service to the Union resulted in widespread fame, and his life after the war reflected the esteem with which Wisconsin and the nation held him.

As a well-loved veteran, he lived with a caretaker in the Wisconsin State Capitol when he wasn't touring the nation in support of veteran causes. Today, a statue of him overlooks the State Assembly Chamber.

A feather from Old Abe is included in the capsule. When Old Abe died in 1881, his body was preserved in taxidermy and remained in the State Capitol. Unfortunately, in 1901, a fire destroyed the building and Old Abe's remains.

However, the eagle was such a celebrity that Wisconsin governors would present his feathers as gifts to dignitaries and citizens. These many feathers were returned to the state after the fire to represent Old Abe and are now in the care of the museum.

A card with a photograph of Old Abe from the 1876 centennial celebration is also included.

Old Abe toured the nation for the centennial and was exhibited for six months at the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia. The card is signed by Wisconsin Gov. Harrison Ludington, himself a descendent of the American Revolution, with one ancestor who was one of George Washington's aides-de-camp, Sybil Ludington.

A badge from the 101st Airborne Division is the third Old Abe related item included. Created in 1921 as the 101st Infantry Division in Milwaukee, the division used Old Abe on their insignia as a nod to the state's military tradition.



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