

🕒 The Travels of Jacques Marquette

Travel along with Nicolet and Fr. Marquette from French Canada across Lake Michigan and through the river systems south almost to the gulf, and back up to Chicago. What did they experience? Who did they meet? What was the winter of 1674/5 like for them? Imagination will carry you along and inspire you to understand the woodland landscapes before settlement.

🕒 The War to End All Wars

This lecture will examine the Milwaukee home front during World War I and will discuss the good, the bad, and the ugly sides of how city residents responded to the military, social, and economic demands of the conflict.

🕒 The Wisconsin State Fair is a Great State Fair!

From its 1851 start in Janesville to its current location in West Allis, learn about the history of this annual event.

🕒 Through the Lens of a Master

Featuring photographs taken by reclusive amateur photographer Lyle Oberwise, this talk devoted to the work of this prodigious documentarian. All images are from the Lyle Oberwise Collection housed at the Historical Society.

Custom Talks Available

You are invited to request a presentation on a specific topic and if our resources allow, we are happy to create a presentation specifically for your group, lecture, or other event.

Additional Information

- 🕒 Presentations must be scheduled in advance. We request that you contact the Society **a minimum of 2 weeks, but no more 6 months, before your desired date.**
- 🕒 Presentations are usually 45 minutes to one hour but can be adjusted by request.

Pricing Information

- 🕒 For offsite presentations, a minimum donation of **\$100** is requested to cover staff time.
Additional fees may be assessed for travel, presentations outside business hours, and custom presentations.
- 🕒 For onsite presentations, a donation of **\$75** is requested and includes access to the museum for up to 25 people.
Additional fees may be assessed for additional attendees, presentations outside business hours, and custom presentations.

To inquire about a presentation, please call 414.273.8288 or email info@milwaukeehistory.net

**910 North Old World Third Street
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414-273-8288
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Speaker Presentations

The Milwaukee County Historical Society staff offers on-site and off-site presentations about a variety of topics related to Milwaukee County history.

The following is a list of popular presentation topics based on the areas of expertise of the staff and topics that are often requested.

🕒 A City of Three Rivers

Milwaukee's development depended on three rivers coming together at what is now a busy harbor, and continues to celebrate life on the water, with recreational and commercial use, the Coast Guard, lighthouses and stories of sail, steam and speed. As a significant watershed, the map of water sources in the area shows urban, rural and city settings for these three arteries that lead to the gateway to the Great Lakes.

🕒 Four Famous Milwaukeeans:

The stories of :

- Mathilde Anneke: educator
- Alexander Mitchell's first insurance company (bank)
- John Clarence Cudahy: lawyer, hunter and diplomat
- Increase Lapham: self-educated scientist

🕒 Digging Through the Years

The Research Library of the Milwaukee County Historical Society has a wide variety of information about the history of the City of Milwaukee and Milwaukee County. Whether you are researching your family history or have an interest in a particular part of our local history, our collections may have the information you are looking for. (Combine with a trip to the MHCS Archives)

🕒 Improvisation, Syncopation, & Swing Notes

Ever since John H. Wickcliffe and his Famous Ginger Jazz Band played at the Schlitz Palm Garden in the late 1910s, Milwaukee has had a small, but vibrant jazz community made up of musicians, promoters, club owners, and aficionados. This talk discusses some of the principle figures and venues that have contributed to the rich history of Milwaukee's jazz scene and how that scene fits in to the national context .

🕒 Letters from the Front

In years past, the written letter brought news from soldiers, kept families connected and relayed orders to the troops. We'll consult correspondence and dispatches from MCHS's various War collections for news from the front and at home.

🕒 Marble, Iron, and Wood: Milwaukee's Grand Buildings

Celebrating five buildings in our city: The Northern Trust Bank Building, The Pabst Theatre, The Second Ward Savings Bank, The Federal Building, and Milwaukee City Hall. We will enjoy learning about the resources, architects and styles used, and the hard work that contributed to these elegant, decorative and substantial examples of European style charm.

🕒 Milwaukee Before Settlement

The geography, climate, flora and fauna of this glacial landscape was well used by native people long before the first Europeans investigated the potential for trade and settlement in this area. Prehistory includes some extinct mammals, and helps us to understand the inherent beauty of the land we enjoy through parks, rivers, hills and valleys, and the vistas of our lakeshore.

🕒 Milwaukee: City of Festivals

While most people think of the festivals held at Henry Maier festival park, the origins of the city's passion for festivals goes back to the mid 19th century – from the earliest Sangerfests and Turnfest to the major festivals of today.

🕒 Milwaukee's Holiday Traditions

Remember Billie the Brownie, the Holiday Parade, and other local traditions? We do. Let's reminisce together. (Combine with a trip to MCHS to see Milwaukee's Treasures and Traditions holiday exhibit)

🕒 Milwaukee's Founders

The individual backgrounds, goals and achievement of three very different people contributed to the success of this landscape divided by the rivers. Settlement was competitive, but the local ingredients of woodlands, potential farmland, and new business opportunities created a thriving metropolis celebrating its 200th anniversary in 2018. Get to know these early entrepreneurs and understand their unique gifts and shortcomings, and our group inheritance of courageous stories.

🕒 Milwaukee Gets Around

From horse and buggies to street cars to buses and back to the street car; this talk shows the variety of transportation methods used to explore Milwaukee and beyond!

🕒 Our Community

From the vibrancy of the late 1920s and early 1930s to the Civil Rights Movement of the 60s, and beyond, learn about the history of the African American community in Milwaukee.

🕒 Pride in Place

Explore the highlights of Milwaukee's architecture and built environment and how people in and outside of Milwaukee view and approach the city.

🕒 "Roosevelt's Tree Army"

The work of the Civilian Conservation Corps in Milwaukee County.

🕒 Take Me Out to the Ball Game

Milwaukee has always been a city that loves baseball. This presentation hits it out of the park for sports lovers.