**History at Home**

**with the**

**Milwaukee County Historical Society**

**Mary Jo Knapp**

**Family Activities Jobs that Built Wisconsin – Dairy Farms**

With Wisconsin’s wheat crop declining, the German farmers had to turn to something else to make a profit. With the help of Governor Hoard, they became dairy farmers. Governor Hoard encouraged the farmers to be smart and scientific with this process. But, where did the cows come from? Cows are not native to Wisconsin, so the cows were shipped from Europe to Wisconsin (that is a giant milk shake on those ships!). From 1870-1910 we produced so many dairy products that we got two more nicknames, “America’s Dairyland” and “Cheeseheads”. At one point, 90% of Wisconsin’s farms were dairy farms.

Here are a couple of videos to look at to learn more about the dairy industry in Wisconsin.

<https://www.wisconsinhistory.org/Records/Article/CS1744>

<https://www.wisconsinlife.org/story/the-simple-device-that-transformed-the-dairy-industry/>

Activity: What is your favorite dairy product? Make butter <https://www.allrecipes.com/recipe/42264/homemade-butter/>

Have a drink of milk Taste some cheese.

