

How Dry I Am: Milwaukee Prohibition

Prohibition is considered one of the largest legislative interventions in the history of the United States. At the same time the 1920s were more than just flappers, speak-easies, and bootleggers. What were the roots of the movement and how did people resist it? This talk explores the people, places, and organizations instrumental in the Prohibition movement and 1920s Milwaukee.

Transportation in Milwaukee

Part 1: "Steel Wheels and Shipping"

Part 2: "Rubber Wheels and Aviation"

This two-part presentation dives into the history of transportation in Milwaukee. The presentation are divided into two 1-hour presentations. Part One focuses on the history of transportation in Milwaukee with a focus on steel-wheeled forms of transportation (trains, streetcars, and interurbans), plus ships and boats. Part Two focuses on history of transportation in Milwaukee with a focus on rubber-wheeled forms of transportation (buses, automobiles, and bicycles), the history of streets and roads, and aviation.

Why Should He Not Be Welcomed?

The Transnational Network Between Ireland & MKE


Did you know the Irish in Milwaukee shipped flour back to Ireland to help feed the Irish in the Great Hunger? This talk explores how the Irish in the city engaged in activism for Ireland's future, and how organizations in the city today preserve Irish-American culture. Discover how Milwaukee impacted Ireland throughout the decades.

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 ~45 minutes to one hour with 15 minutes for questions.

Pricing Information

- ◆ For offsite presentations, a minimum honorarium of **\$175** is requested to cover staff time. Additional fees may be assessed for travel, presentations outside business hours, and custom presentations.
- ◆ For onsite presentations, a minimum donation of **\$150** is requested and includes access to the museum for up to 25 people and a behind the scenes look at MCHS collection & archival material.
- ◆ Additional fees may be assessed for presentations outside business hours and custom presentations.

 Presentations available virtually.

***To inquire about a presentation,
please call or email***

414.273.8288 or ohoff@milwaukeehistory.net

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2025 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.***

Milwaukee: City of Three Rivers

The story of the Milwaukee, Menomonee, and Kinnickinnic Rivers and their relationship with the city, both past and present, told thematically with sections covering hydrography, transportation, recreation, industry and commerce, and decline and restoration.

Milwaukee: City of Festivals

While most people think of the festivals held at H. 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.

African American History in MKE Part 1, 1835-1960 and Part 2, 1960-2000

The presence of African Americans, in the city of Milwaukee is long and notable. Since the 19th century, Blacks have played a critical role in shaping the city, influencing political, social, and economic policies; challenging the city to maintain and extend its commitment to democracy.

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.

Latine History in Milwaukee

Latine communities have been present in Milwaukee since the late 1800s. People from Central and South America established a strong presence in Milwaukee's history and present day. This presentation explores the impact of the Latines in Milwaukee.

Milwaukee's Holiday Traditions

Remember the Holiday Parade, decorated windows Downtown, holiday lights and other local traditions? Let's reminisce.

Take Me Out to the Ball Game: Professional Baseball in Milwaukee

The history of baseball in Milwaukee, tracing the origins of the game in the city and highlighting the teams, ballparks, and people most important to the story of Milwaukee baseball.

Milwaukee's Founders

The story of the three founders of Milwaukee (Solomon Juneau, Byron Kilbourn, and George Walker) and their impact on the city's early history.

The Wisconsin State Fair Through the Decades

A decade-by-decade look at the history of the Wisconsin State Fair, discussing the evolution of attractions, events, food, and more from the inaugural fair in Janesville in 1851 to the contemporary state fair. This presentation also covers the development and year-round use of Wisconsin State Fair Park in West Allis.

From Vaults to Views: Exploring the Architecture of the MCHS

This talk or tour* will focus on the architecture and restoration of the impressive "Brewers Bank". Built in 1913 as the Second Ward Savings Bank, the building today serves as the MCHS headquarters.

*In person tours will include behind-the-scenes spaces that the public rarely, if ever, gets to visit.

Through the Lens of a Master

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

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.

The CCC: Roosevelt's New Deal Conservation Program

This presentation explores the work of the Civilian Conservation Corps in Milwaukee County.



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