



PROGRAM CATALOG



YAWKEY
HOUSE MUSEUM



WOODSON
HISTORY CENTER

MARATHON COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

A Primer on the Schools of Wausau

Presented by Gary Gisselman | 35-50 minutes

This program looks at the history of Wausau's schools, including the public and church schools, from kindergarten to the high schools going back as far as the 1860s

An Immigrant History of Marathon County

Presented by Ben Clark | 30-60 minutes

For most of its history, Marathon County has been influenced by the experience of immigrants and refugees. This program looks at the history of the County through these people, from the arrival of German-speaking farmers starting in the 1850s, to the experience of the Hmong refugees in the late 1900s.

A Winter Playground: The Wausau Winter Frolic Festival

Presented by Ben Clark | 45-60 minutes

In the middle of the 1920s, Wausau leaders hosted a festival to celebrate and promote winter sports. This program looks at the Wausau Winter Frolic and how it helped secure the Wausau area's reputation as the Winter Playground of Wisconsin.

Lectures Programs

These programs feature our informational presentations, using PowerPoint-style presentations for visual aids.

Programs are presented by our historians Gary Gissleman or Ben Clark and run 30-60 minutes.

Can They Play: The Ladies Saxophone Band

Presented by Ben Clark (45 min)

This program looks at the Ladies Saxophone Bands of Edgar and Wausau, which featured young women playing those new, musical curiosities in the 1920s and 1930s. Their story provides a great lens through which we can understand the social and cultural changes of their generation.

Checking Out: Grocery Stores and Supermarkets

Presented by Gary Gisselman (35-50 min)

Learn about the emergence of the mid-century grocery stores, and specifically, some of the notable places people shopped for food in Wausau.

Cherished Chapels: The Churches of Marathon County

Presented by Gary Gisselman (35-50 min)

This program provides an overview of some of the historic churches across Marathon County, and the ethnic communities that built them.

Conscious of a Brilliant Future: The History of Wausau

Presented by Ben Clark (45-60 min)

In 2022, Wausau celebrated 150 years as a City. This program looks at the history over those 150 years (and more), from the first sawmill to the destruction of the Wausau Center Mall.

The Evolution of Marathon County's Shape

Presented by Ben Clark (30 min)

This program examines the question of why Marathon County is the shape it is today. The location and evolution of the County's borders tells an interesting story of the people of the Wisconsin River Valley.

Fair Time: The History of the Marathon County Fair

Presented by Ben Clark (45-60 min)

Since 1868, Marathon County residents have enjoyed taking part in the county fair. This presentation looks at why it got started and how it is changed over the more than 150 years since then.

Famous Figures: The Leaders of Wausau

Presented by Gary Gisselman (35-50 min)

A look at the stories of notable figures who helped develop the city of Wausau, from its founding through the twentieth century.

From the Beginning: An Early History of Wausau

Presented by Gary Gisselman (35-50 min)

This presentation gives an overview of the history of the Wausau area, tracing the early lumbering settlement in the 1840s to the turn of the twentieth century.

The Fromm Brothers and Their Fur Farm

Presented by Ben Clark (45-60 min)

This presentation looks at the story of the Fromm Brothers, who perfected ginseng growing in Marathon County and became world-famous for their distinct variety of silver black foxes that gleamed "Bright with Silver."

The Last Log Drive, 1912

Presented by Ben Clark (30 min)

A curious stereoscopic photograph from the MCHS collection was identified as The Last Log Drive on the Wisconsin River, 1912. Was it actually the last log drive? What is a log drive? And why was this peculiar photograph even taken? This program answers all these questions, and more!

Living Well: A History of Health Care in Marathon County

Presented by Gary Gisselman (35-50 min)

It is a fact of life, people get sick and suffer injuries. This program is all about the history of Marathon County's wellbeing, through stories of the notable people and places of medical care.

The One-Room Schoolhouses of Marathon County

Presented by Gary Gisselman (35-50 min)

This presentation takes a trip across Marathon County to examine some of the one-room school houses that served as centers of education and community in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

Shopping Around Wausau

Presented by Gary Gisselman (35-50 min)

From the Department Stores to the Wausau Center Mall, this presentation examines the ways and places people have shopped in the Wausau area over the 20th Century.

Visiting Wausau's Historic Houses

Presented by Gary Gisselman (35-50 min)

Study the architecture of these homes and the architects that built them—as well as the stories of the people who lived in the homes, who built Wausau to be the city it is today.

Will Women Vote? The Suffrage Movement in Marathon County

Presented by Ben Clark (45-60 min)

Marathon County has had a long and somewhat conflicted history when it came to the idea of women voting. This program will look at the ups and downs of the Suffrage Movement in Marathon County.

Artifact Programs

These programs center around physical objects brought from our collection, which speak to various historical stories.

All programs are presented by our curator of education Anna Chilsen Straub and run 45 minutes.

100 Years of Women's Hats

This presentation looks at the changes to fashion over 100 years, by examining examples of women's bonnets and hats from the 1870s through the 1970s. Men's hats also available by request.

A Century of Fashion

This program looks at the changes in dress fashion from each decade, beginning with the 1870s and ending in the 1970s.

Apron Strings

A history of aprons and the purpose they served in the culture and society of local communities. Those attending the program are encouraged (but not obliged) to bring their favorite apron to share.

Artifacts of the World Wars

A collection of items and artifacts from individuals who served during the World Wars of the twentieth century. Options for World War I and for World War II.

The Sears Catalog

This program contrasts a group of various historical objects and the pages from Sears & Roebuck catalogs where you once could have ordered those items, and much more!

Turn-of-the-Century Trunk

This program brings a collection of general household items that were used between the 1890s and 1920s. Determine what the items were used for, and how our lives have changed.

Wedding Fashion

Take a look back in time to what people would have worn on their wedding day. This program includes examples of historic wedding attire, dating from the late 1800s through the 1970s.

Walking Tours

In addition to our self-guided walking tours, we also can provide a handful of guided walking tours. These events will be easier to schedule during seasonably appropriate parts of the year.

Wausau Tours | Gary Gisselman (1 hour)

- Historic Downtown
- Andrew Warren Historic District

Traveling Trunks

These educational tubs contain objects and activities related to a topic. They were developed for classroom settings, but will be interesting to participants of all ages.

Current Educational Tubs | Anna Chilsen Straub (45 min)

- The U.S. Civil War
- Immigration
- Toy & Games of Long Ago
- Pioneer Days
- Native American Life
- School Days

Additional Programming

*FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO BOOK ONE
OF THESE PROGRAMS, PLEASE SEE OUR WEBSITE
marathoncountyhistory.org/programs
OR CALL US AT 715-842-5750.*

Please note that all reservations should be made at least two weeks in advance and are subject to availability.