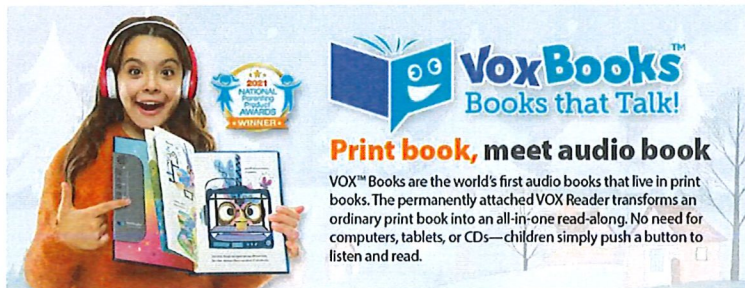


VOX Rocks Manitowoc Public Library's Youth Services Department!

Mar 3, 2025 | 2:30 PM

[Local News](#)



The following article was written by Sharon Verbeten, the Youth Services Manager at the Manitowoc Public Library.

Making books cool again. That could be the unspoken motto for VOX Books—it's also our hope for the newest collection to hit our Youth Services Department shelves at Manitowoc Public Library.

We know it's a challenge to get kids off those omnipresent screens. And, of course, as librarians, *WE* know books are a perfect option. But, sometimes, especially for reluctant readers, it may take a bit more of a nudge.

MPL recently debuted a small collection of VOX Books—a user-friendly, self-engaging way for youth to interact with books. VOX books are print books with an internal audiobook—letting the user follow along and turn pages while the story is read to them. Genius? We think so, which is why we've purchased a pilot collection of just under two dozen titles for young readers.

The benefits are endless! They're especially helpful for children learning to read—they can *see and hear* the words at the same time, fostering early literacy skills and creating a strong link to books and reading. Those learning English—especially those learning to sound out words—will find these VOX Books a helpful tool.

Best of all? They're just grab and go! VOX books require no Wi-Fi, no devices, no batteries and no headphones—and they work at the simple push of a button. They're so easy, even a child can operate them on their own (kind of like a real book!) That's because, well, they ARE real books—and real fun.

Bringing books to life is at the core of what we do at Manitowoc Public Library—and we're always looking for new and exciting ways to do that. VOX books are the newest way we can do that.

They're just one more tool in our magical arsenal of library wonders—and these books will truly VOX your kids' socks off! (P.S. Parents will love them too!)

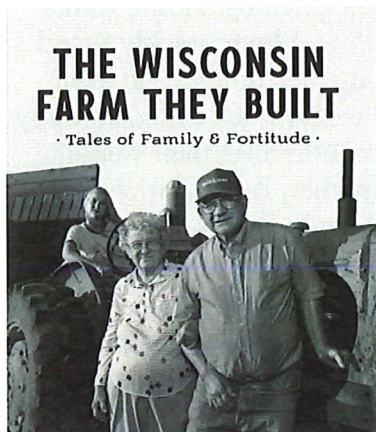


Sharon Verbeten

Local Author Brings Historic Manitowoc County Back to Life at Manitowoc Public Library

Mar 4, 2025 | 2:30 PM

[Local News](#)



Author Event with Corey Geiger

Thursday, March 13, 6PM

Balkansky Room at Manitowoc Public Library

When his wife's father passed, city boy Elmer Pritzl stepped in to help—and his whole life changed. Author Corey Geiger blends rural roots with storytelling to capture life in America's Dairyland.



707 Ohio Street | 920-656-2000
manitowoclibrary.org

The following article was written by award winning local author, Corey Geiger.

In the hit song, “The House That Built Me,” country music singer, Miranda Lambert, shares a story of returning for one final time to her childhood home. While her family no longer owns that house, the home once again comes to life as Lambert instantly returns to her upbringing, walking its hallways and recalling the moments in time that created the woman she has become today.

Unlike that house featured in that song, our house and farm nestled in Manitowoc County remain in the family some six generations later. However, just like Lambert’s song, our house and farm literally built our entire family, including yours truly.

This revelation didn’t immediately come to me as a young person. Until my senior year in high school, I had only left Wisconsin for one daytrip. After enrolling in the dairy science and agricultural economics program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, the world opened before my eyes. Upon graduation, I joined the editorial team of *Hoard’s Dairyman* magazine and eventually traveled to 48 states, 6 Canadian provinces, and 12 countries on three additional continents to cover the dairy industry and all of agriculture. Despite all these incredible experiences, my heart remained rooted in Manitowoc County.

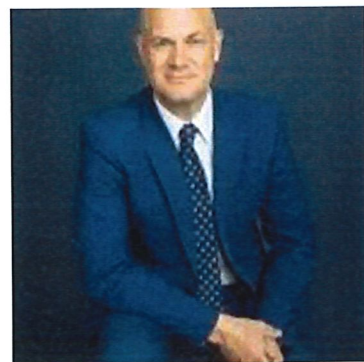
Then came the revelation.

There’s an age-old saying among dairy farmers that goes like this: “The grass is greener on the other side of the fence.” This saying goes back to a time when most dairy cows grazed on pastures and cows would get their head and neck stretched through a fence for a bite of the very best grass. Unlike those cows, however, I finally learned that the grass—my life experiences growing up in Manitowoc County—was actually greener on my side of the fence. In other words, I didn’t need to reach for stories.

And so, I embarked upon writing two books that have now won four national writing awards and have sold copies to all 50 states. On March 13, from 6-7:30 PM in the Balkansky Community Room, I will bring those stories to life with my lively storytelling at Manitowoc County Library.

To be certain, these are not my stories, but stories of those who have gone before me.

My first book, *On a Wisconsin Family Farm*, flings the barn doors wide open to a cast of characters that built America’s Dairyland. A maternal maverick, Anna Satorie, my great grandmother, went against cultural norms and became the sole owner of her family’s homestead in 1905. The next year, Anna married John Burich, and the couple went about building a thrifty family farm.



Corey Geiger

Pioneer life was fraught with trials and tribulations as polio and tuberculosis claimed loved ones and the fabricated death of a bootlegging brother turned gangsters away from the farm. There are tales of “Copper Cows” who were the most profitable cows. It was an era where neighbors pitched in as members of the immigrant class and aided one another to construct farmsteads and support one another through unsanctioned bank loans, daring dynamite work, and barn raisings.

The journey continues in *The Wisconsin Farm They Built*. After his mother Anna was killed by a train, Elmer Pritzl was thrown into adulthood at the tender age of sixteen. A clever and crafty fellow, Elmer quickly found work at the local foundry. Promoted to foreman by age eighteen, he began supervising men double and even triple his age during the depths of the Great Depression. However, that professional career track ended abruptly five years later when Elmer fell in love with a farmer’s daughter, Julia Burich. Six months after their wedding, Julia’s father passed away, and with no living male relatives left in her life, Julia’s mother, Anna Burich, asked, “Elmer, will you run my farm?” So, Elmer, born a city boy, transformed his life and began a love affair with a Wisconsin family farm.

To bring their stories to life, I use narrative nonfiction to share historical events of Wisconsin, the United States, and the world that were also taking place. Anna, John, Elmer, Julia, and a host of relatives are characters in some good tales that unfolded in real life. Those oral histories are revealed in my books. I hope that you’ll be able to join me for the telling of these stories at Manitowoc Public Library on March 13, from 6-7:30 PM.

Introducing “Little Steps” at Manitowoc Public Library-Making Tooth Brushing Fun for Preschoolers!

Mar 9, 2025 | 10:00 AM

[Local News](#)



The following article was written by Kirsten Smith, a Youth Services Associate at the Manitowoc Public Library.

Manitowoc Public Library is thrilled to present “Little Steps,” a program series designed to simplify essential daily routines for preschoolers. Our first session focuses on making tooth brushing both enjoyable and manageable, using learning media from PBS Kids and visual schedules. Join us on Friday, March 14, at 10:30 AM for this engaging multimedia session tailored for children ages 3-5 years!

Tooth brushing might seem simple to adults, but for preschoolers, it can be daunting. In the “Little Steps” program, we emphasize breaking down instructions into smaller, more manageable tasks. Rather than just saying, “Brush your teeth!” we provide specific steps: pick up your toothbrush, apply toothpaste, brush the top teeth, brush the bottom teeth, spit, and rinse. Clear instructions, complemented by examples from beloved PBS characters and reinforced with a visual schedule, help children understand and complete each task.

A visual schedule uses pictures or symbols to represent the sequence of steps in a routine or task. It helps children follow instructions by providing a clear stage that they can see and reference. Visual schedules play a crucial role in the “Little Steps” program, increasing understanding, enhancing memory, and empowering children to complete tasks independently.

The “Little Steps” program is especially beneficial for neurodivergent children, such as those with autism or ADHD, who may struggle with processing verbal instructions and focusing on multistep tasks. By providing a consistent and structured approach—along with visual cues and step-by-step guidance—this program helps these children grasp the task at-hand and provides the necessary tools to minimize feelings of overload and create a reliable routine.

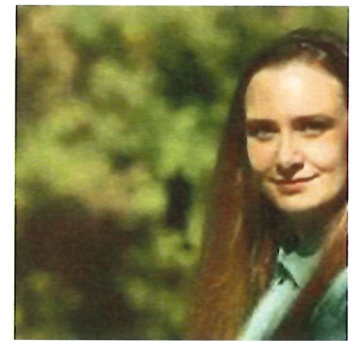
While especially helpful for neurodivergent children, all preschoolers can benefit from the structured approach of the “Little Steps” program. Learning to follow a sequence of steps helps children gain independence in daily routines, build confidence and self-esteem, improve focus and attention, and develop the ability to follow directions. Additionally, library programs that involve discussing familiar routines boost vocabulary and language comprehension in young children.

Don’t miss the first session of our “Little Steps” program on Friday, March 14, at 10:30 AM in Manitowoc Public Library’s Balkansky Community Room. This engaging and interactive program will provide valuable tools and techniques to make tooth brushing a fun and achievable task for your preschooler. Stay tuned for more sessions in the series, where we will address other essential routines and skills.

We extend a heartfelt thank you to Manitowoc’s Smile Clinic for their generous donation of toothbrushes, toothpaste, and floss. Their support is making a difference in our community, ensuring that children have the tools they need for a healthy smile.

Furthermore, we are excited to announce that Wendy Cracraft, Head Start Family Advocate, will be available during “Little Steps” to answer any questions caregivers might have about the Head Start program. Wendy’s wealth of knowledge and dedication to supporting families make her an invaluable resource, so do not hesitate to reach out to her during the event.

We look forward to seeing you and your little ones there!



Kirsten Smith

Heart Health for Our Children During Happy Healthy Heart Storytime at Manitowoc Public Library

Mar 18, 2025 | 2:30 PM

[Local News](#)

♥ happy ♥ healthy ♥ heart **STORYTIME**

Wednesday, March 19, 10:30AM
Balkansky Room at MPL



The following article was written by HeartCorp Member, Sue Koeppe.

My name is Sue Koeppe and I work locally at the UWGB Extension with HeartCorps through the American Heart Association. Our big focus is heart health in our communities. I will be at Manitowoc Public Library presenting [Happy Healthy Heart Storytime](#) on Wednesday, March 19, from 10:30-11:15 AM in the Balkansky Community Room. I will be bringing stethoscopes with me to listen to our heartbeats! We can do a bit of exercise and listen to how our heart rate goes up with exercise! While this program is appropriate for all ages, it is being presented with preschoolers and their families in mind.

How do we focus on heart health for our children? One big thing is physical activity! Take a walk and make it fun! Look for something yellow, red, or blue while you are walking. How about adding "Follow the Leader" or some dance moves to our walks! Our children need to play to get that heart pumping!! And if the weather is not the best outside, play "Hide and Seek" or have a dance party inside!!

What about healthy eating? I know it is not easy to cook every meal healthy, but what about starting with making 2 meals a week Heart Healthy? Heart Healthy recipes can be found everywhere!! We can start right here at Manitowoc Public Library for cookbooks! Limiting candy and soda would be another easy thing to focus on! Heart Healthy snacks are so much fun to plan!! Make a fun granola with raisins or craisins! How about a refreshing smoothie on a hot day? So many ideas can be found!

We should also focus on our serving sizes. Do our kids need a big serving of casserole or pizza? What about fruits and vegetables? How many should we get daily? Focus on a healthy plate for every meal! Healthy grains that are whole grains and not refined or processed. For fruits, choose fresh, frozen, or canned fruits with no added sugar. Vegetables should be eaten often! Eat a variety including dark green, red, and orange! Our protein should be lean meats and poultry, beans and peas, eggs, and unsalted nuts and seeds. Always remember to include dairy daily! Yogurt, milk, and cheese are wonderful ways to get calcium in our bodies!



Sue Koepp

Another simple thing to focus on is screen time. What do our hearts do when we are sitting and watching TV or playing video games? They are doing what they need to do to pump blood through our bodies, but if we are doing this for hours a day, that is not good for our hearts! We need activity throughout the day to get our hearts active and happy! I think of an active heart as a happy heart!

One more thing to think about with our children in mind. Would you know what to do if your child collapses and become unresponsive? Do you know about child CPR? I know it is a scary thing to think about, but it is so important to know what to do in these stressful situations. There are many resources available for learning basic first aid and CPR. I do teach hands only CPR and it is a wonderful resource to know! Who knows when you might need that knowledge!

I hope that you'll be able to join me at Manitowoc Public Library for [Happy Healthy Heart Storytime](#) on Wednesday, March 19, in the Balkansky Community Room from 10:30-11:15 AM. It's going to be a fun, informative good time!


The Flag of Company A: A 100th Anniversary Reenactment at Manitowoc Public Library

Mar 25, 2025 | 2:30 PM

[Local News](#)

The Flag of Company A


A 100TH ANNIVERSARY REENACTMENT



**THURSDAY
MARCH 27
6PM**


AT
MANITOWOC
PUBLIC
LIBRARY

IN 1861, MANITOWOC COUNTY WOMEN CRAFTED A FLAG FOR COMPANY A, WHICH THEY CARRIED INTO THE CIVIL WAR. GIFTED TO MANITOWOC HISTORICAL SOCIETY IN 1925, THAT FLAG IS THE FOCUS OF THE PROGRAM FEATURING A DRAMATIC READING AND A REPLICA FLAG ON-DISPLAY.



**manitowoc
public library**

707 Quay Street | 920-686-3000
manitowoclibrary.org



**MANITOWOC COUNTY
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

1819

Individuals requesting accommodation for disabilities should contact the Library's ADA Manager Stacey Bialek at 920-686-3008 or sbialek@manitowoc.org. Reasonable accommodations will be made as quickly as possible, often within a week.

The following article was written by Amy Meyer, the Executive Director of the Manitowoc County Historical Society.

Among the artifacts at the Manitowoc County Historical Society, one continues to inspire visitors. It is a piece of fabric sewn into a flag and now proudly displayed at the Manitowoc County Historical Society. The Historical Society's occupational monograph 64, 1988 series "The Flag of Company A, Fifth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry" describes the story.

On April 19 [1861], word reached Manitowoc that Southern forces had fired on Fort Sumter and President Lincoln had declared that military force had to be used to put down that rebellion and he called for volunteers to join the armed forces to fight for the Union.

The news spread quickly and people gathered on the street corners, in the stores, and saloons to discuss this tragic happening . . . Within two days enough men had signed up to form a company of soldiers and they organized themselves into the "Manitowoc County Guards." Later, they were officially mustered into the service as "Company A of the 5th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry Regiment."

The 1861 origin of the flag relies heavily on the women of Manitowoc County. With news of the start of the Civil War, women banded together and decided to create a flag for their boys to carry through their journey in the war. The flag, they hoped, would bring thoughts of home and positivity to the soldiers. When coming up with a design for the flag, the ladies wanted it to resemble that of the Union flag, but with a bit of Manitowoc personalization. That being said, the colors for the flag were decided to be red, white, and blue. Realizing they did not have enough materials to make the flag they envisioned, the women traveled to Chicago. There, they obtained enough red and blue silk, but they could not locate white.

Then, a young woman came forward with white silk she had purchased for her wedding gown. In her donation, she requested her name be kept anonymous. The ladies then went to work on sewing the flag.

Having elected their officers, the Manitowoc County Guards established the North Side Park as their training grounds and proceeded with their daily routine to become soldiers. On June 17, as the Company marched toward its training site, a group of ladies—led by Mrs. Gideon Collins—joined them and upon arrival at the park they approached Captain Temple Clark to present the Company with a flag. It was graciously received by the Captain and his men and they promised to take it into every battle in which they should become engaged and never let it be disgraced, even upon the threat of their lives.



Amy Meyer

The long expected call to report for duty came and the Company with the flag flying at its head marched through cheering crowds which lined the streets to the pier at the foot of Buffalo Street where the transport to Camp Randall in Madison awaited. It was June 23, 1861—a day that would be forever remembered by this first group of volunteers that left Manitowoc for the Civil War.

Following Williamsburg, Temple Clark left the Company and Lt. Horace Walker took his place. Walker decided that the Company had done enough to keep its promise and packed the flag into his valise and sent it to the rear along with his personal belongings. This would be the last time that any one of Company A would see the flag during the war and to them it was considered lost.

It would not be until 15 years later that news of the flag reached Manitowoc. A man by the name of William W. Waldo, who was a resident of Manitowoc, was in Philadelphia at the International Exposition of 1876 when he stumbled upon the “Wisconsin building.” After going inside the Wisconsin building, he saw the flag. Since the flag had been missing for 15 years, Waldo must have been astonished to see it.

Waldo then escorted the flag back to Manitowoc. Along with it came a letter that explained what exactly had happened to the flag in those years.

In June 1862, the 8th Regiment Reserve Volunteer Corporation of Pennsylvania spotted the flag in Confederate hands. The Pennsylvania soldiers thought the flag to be of Confederate origin, so they devised a plan to confiscate it. Upon getting ahold of it and after further research, they realized the true origins of the flag. From that day on, they kept the flag safe, with the intent of one day returning it to its rightful owners in Manitowoc. In 1876, that became a reality when the flag returned home.

After the Civil War era flag that was given to the Manitowoc County Volunteers came back home after quite the journey, James Anderson and other survivors of the company retained it in their possession until 1925. With just a few men left from the 5th Wisconsin, Company A, the flag was restored and gifted to the Manitowoc County Historical Society—where it remains as a symbol of our community to this day.

Join us on Thursday, March 27, at 6 PM as we reenact the ceremony that took place at Manitowoc Public Library (then located at Chicago and North 8th Streets) for the Presentation of the Flag of Co. A, Fifth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry to the Manitowoc County Historical Society on March 23, 1925. [The Flag of Company A: A 100th Anniversary Reenactment](#) will take place at the Library’s current location—707 Quay Street—in the First Floor’s Atrium Space, situated near the Service Desk, situated by the Main Entrance. We hope that you will join us as we celebrate this momentous occurrence in our local history!