



**Neville
Public
Museum**

Of Brown County

*An educational and cultural
resource of Brown County*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: For additional details or general Museum information (hours, admission fees, location, etc.), visit www.nevillepublicmuseum.org or call 920-448-4460.

Re: *The Traitor State: Wisconsin in World War I* opens February 9 at Neville Public Museum

Green Bay, WI— Your neighbor likes brats and beer. Could he be a German spy?

During World War I, Wisconsin's large German immigrant population and early opposition to America's entry into World War I led to Wisconsin being branded as the "traitor state."

The Neville Public Museum is proud to present the thought-provoking and interactive exhibit, *The Traitor State: Wisconsin in World War I*. The exhibit opens February 9 and continues through August 17.

Although mostly forgotten today, Wisconsin was at the center of arguments over patriotism, loyalty, and the obligation of citizens to support an unpopular war. In order to convince the country of their loyalty, many Wisconsinites used coercion and sometimes force to require German immigrants to prove their loyalty. *The Traitor State* explores both Wisconsin's experience in combat and on the home front, and asks visitors to consider what decisions they would have made during the war.

In addition to an impressive collection of artifacts, the exhibit features a number of hands-on opportunities for visitors of all ages! Get in some bayonet practice, try on the gear the soldiers used, and camp out in a World War I tent. Visitors can also decide which foods should be saved for the war effort, and try to pick out the medicines that would best help them survive the terrible 1918 flu epidemic – and much more!

Accredited by the American Association of Museums

During World War I:

- Hatred of everything German was common. Sauerkraut was renamed "liberty cabbage" and having a German-sounding last name was considered suspicious.
- People who drove their cars on Sundays, or failed to buy war bonds were at risk of having their mailbox painted yellow, their property vandalized, or worse!
- You could be fined or go to jail for speaking against the war or suggesting the government could do a better job.
- The Spanish flu killed more people in a few months than the war did in four years. Today scientists are convinced that a new killer flu could strike at any time.
- The conflict saw the introduction of tanks, airplanes, helmets, and machine guns on a huge scale, but the United States army had to rely on the British and French for almost all of its weapons during the war.

For more information on the exhibit, contact the museum at 920-448-4460 or generalinfo@nevillepublicmuseum.org

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