



Our First Finder

Bennett Beck from Menomonie shared two objects he found near his home. One is a piece of broken china that was made in England. The other is a Donald Duck Cola can.

Note that the cola can is steel rather than aluminum and was not opened with a "pull tab."



The label on the shard of china indicates it was made in England.

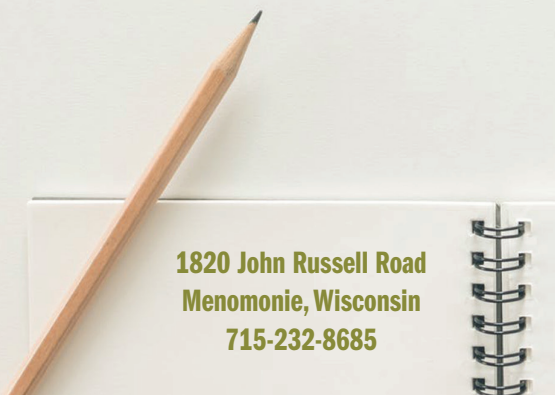
The Finder's Station

This is the Dunn County Finder's Station at the Rassbach Museum. Bring your 'finds' to the museum, and tell the front desk person you are a Dunn County Finder. At the station you can look closely at the item with our magnifying glass, show and describe what you have noticed about the object, and even look some things up in our research books! You'll also be able to check out cool objects that other Finders have brought in. You can see how many points you will need to get certain objects.



Finder Reminders:

- ▶ Take a notebook, pencil and containers when you go finding.
- ▶ Follow state and federal laws — don't collect protected items.
- ▶ Respect private property and nature. Leave things the way you found them.
- ▶ Take one or two items and leave the rest — don't over collect.
- ▶ Research the items you collect.



1820 John Russell Road
Menomonie, Wisconsin
715-232-8685

DUNN COUNTY FINDERS

What will you discover?



HISTORY • DISCOVERY • COMMUNITY



DUNN COUNTY FINDERS

China pieces and a 1926 dog tag found while digging in a garden on the east side of Menomonie.



Rose quartz mineral found in landscaping border rocks.

Trilobite fossil found near the Red Cedar River.

Be a Dunn County Finder:

A finder is someone who looks for and finds interesting objects, then seeks to learn and write down the story behind them. In the process you'll become a historian and scientist — discovering, questioning, learning and sharing your finds!

What to Do:

Go outside and find something interesting here in Dunn County, such as:

- ▶ An artifact like an old glass bottle, a marble, or horseshoe.
- ▶ A natural item like a rock, fossil, skull or dead bug.

Take notes about the item, including where and when you found it. Find out about your artifact or specimen — look it up in books, online, and/or talk to people to learn more.

Finding is Fun!

Come learn how to preserve and display your artifacts or specimens. You can visit the Finder's Station during open hours at the Rassbach Museum.

Earn Points and Trade:

Bring an item you found to the Finder's Station and open an account to keep track of your points. Tell us what you've learned about it. You'll earn points for sharing your knowledge. The more you know about your artifact or specimen the more points you earn. Points are used to trade for other objects. Money is useless here. You may use your points that day or save your points (*we'll record them for you*) to trade later.

What can I collect and trade?

Things you find here in Dunn County! For example: specimens from nature like shells, insects, clean bones or skulls (*no flesh attached*), shed snake skins or antlers. Or artifacts that you find outside like old buttons, old toys, coins, glass bottles, bottle caps and other interesting things.

What *cannot* be traded at the Finder Station?

- ▶ Anything that is a protected or endangered species. If you're not sure, check online at www.fws.gov/endangered/
- ▶ Bird feathers, eggs and nests are not accepted because they can carry live bugs that can damage the museum collections.
- ▶ Animals (*dead or alive*) — including animal mounts.
- ▶ Wildflowers.

Important: Respect the world around us. Never kill a living thing — *even flowers and leaves* — to bring to the Finder's Station.

Do I have to trade my item to get points?

In most cases, yes, you have to trade your item. If your object is too valuable or sentimental to you, bring it in and share what you know about the object. We'll give you points for your knowledge only.

There is a four item per-visit limit at the Finders Station.

Sharing Your Finds

Consider these questions and be ready to talk about them when you bring in your finds! This is how you earn points. It is a good idea to keep a 'finder notebook' with you, so you can write down information right away.

- ▶ What is the object, or what do you *think* it is?
- ▶ Where did you find it?
- ▶ What is it made of?
- ▶ Is it an animal or plant or mineral or rock?
- ▶ If it isn't a natural object, what was it used for?
- ▶ How old is it?
- ▶ Are there interesting facts (*not guesses*) you can share?

Remember, you can do some research, and if you can tell not only **what** you know, but **how** you know it, that earns more points. For example, if you find an animal skull, try and find out what kind of animal it was, and tell us why you think that. Use your finder skills to research and learn!



This bear skull was found in the Red Cedar River near Downsville.