

For Immediate Release

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New Book Celebrates the History of Marshfield

Local author releases new book featuring stunning collection of vintage photographs

New from Arcadia Publishing's *Images of America* series is *Marshfield* by local author Kenneth J. Wood. This pictorial history boasts more than 200 vintage images, giving readers a unique opportunity to reconnect with the history that shaped their community.

Marshfield owes its existence to the twin factors of railroads and timber. The first permanent white settlers, the Rivers brothers, built a two-room hotel in Marshfield because they heard that Wisconsin Central Railroad crews would travel through on the way to Ashland, Wisconsin. The brothers had a saloon, a sleeping room with bunk beds, and food ready and waiting when the railway crews arrived in 1872.

Marshfield's central location made it a crossroads for up to five railroad lines, with 1,000 freight cars and 28 passenger trains passing through per day in 1893. Timber led to the establishment of sawmills, stave and heading mills, and shingle and veneer factories.

As the timberland was clear-cut, the townspeople turned to agriculture. New industries appeared, including dairies, a pickle factory, a brewery, and several cigar factories. Today, one of the dominant industries is health care, with extensive medical research being conducted at the Marshfield Clinic.

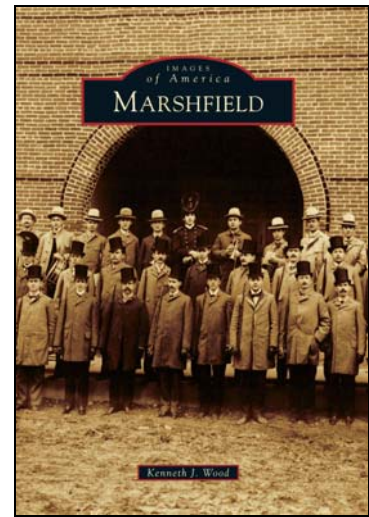
Highlights of *Marshfield* include:

- Traces the history of existing businesses, such as the Marshfield Clinic, Weinbrenner Shoes and Roddis Corp.
- Many old and unique photographs of people and places about the city.
- Images that illustrate the changes the city underwent as it grew and progressed during the last 140 years.

Available at area bookstores, independent retailers, and online retailers, or through Arcadia Publishing at (888)-313-2665 or www.arcadiapublishing.com.

Arcadia Publishing is the leading publisher of local and regional history in the United States. Our mission is to make history accessible and meaningful through the publication of books on the heritage of America's people and places. Have we done a book on your town? Visit www.arcadiapublishing.com.

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According to legend, Marshfield's first postmaster, Louis Rivers, gave the city its name as a reference to Samuel Marsh, who, with John Magee, owned the land that became the village. The photographs in this volume are only part of those available in the archives of the North Wood County Historical Society.

Marshfield

by Kenneth J. Wood
Images of America series

Price: \$21.99

128 pages/ softcover

Available: **February 20, 2012**

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About the Author of *Marshfield*

Kenneth J. Wood, 72, was born in Oconto, WI. His interest in history began while living with his grandparents during and after World War II. His Grandmother Wood would tell stories of her family, ship captains and sailors from New Hampshire and Maine, and their travels about the world and fights with pirates. This led him to a love of history and genealogy which he began to pursue in high school.

A 1962 graduate of UW-Stevens Point with a degree in History, Geography and English, he taught these subjects for 32 years in the public schools of Rosholt, Hilbert and Appleton, Wisconsin.

Today he is actively involved in the Marshfield Area Genealogy Group, chair of the Marshfield city Historic Preservation Committee, and on the Board of Directors of the North Wood County Historical Society located at the Upham Mansion Museum.

After retiring from teaching Kenneth worked for several years at the reference Desk of the Marshfield Public Library. He is also active with the Clark County History Buffs, supplying information for their web site. He also does house and business histories and writes a column twice a month for the *Marshfield News Herald* on interesting, unusual or historic structures in the city.

In his spare time Kenneth enjoys writing short stories based in Marshfield in the 1920's. When asked to undertake this project he was excited to face the challenge.

Kenneth hopes that *Marshfield* will not only bring back fond memories of the past but will encourage people to look into their own and their family's past and preserve the stories that exist there.