

# IMPACTS

IN FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES



## RETIREMENT BRINGS OPPORTUNITY



**Virginia Hall**

Retired  
Wisconsin

Retirement does not end a career; it opens opportunities to engage knowledge, skills, experience, and relationships gained over the years in new ways. As an Extension Educator in Southeast Wisconsin's Walworth County, Virginia Hall was known for meeting the needs of individuals and families throughout the county. Walworth County boasts a rich agricultural heritage and resilient families. Lake Geneva, a popular second home for Chicago families, contributes to the county's diversity and opportunities.

Ms. Hall began her retirement journey volunteering at Lake Geneva Library, creating publications focused on nutrition and financial management. While on a trip to Iowa, she found a self-guided tour book for the area, which inspired her to suggest similar books for Walworth County. Drawing on her extensive knowledge of local history and residents, Ms. Hall quickly got approval from the library to develop a self-guided tour book focused on one area. The project was a huge hit, her book became popular, sparking demand from other parts of the county for guides covering their history, people, landscapes, and buildings. Over time, 11 books were added to the Walworth County series.

Hiking around Geneva Lake is an environmental and housing architectural experience. Walking tours resulted in five books focused on different areas around the lake.

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The books undergo continuous updates. Ms. Hall was invited to participate in Story Corp, a Smithsonian project including an interview for a historical series. Doctoral candidates rely on the publications when preparing papers and dissertations. Community organizations request presentations on relevant subjects. All 12 Walworth County libraries offer copies of the books for purchase. Proceeds go to the local Friends of the Library.