

# *Old World Murder* Locations Guide

*Old World Murder* by Kathleen Ernst is the first book in the Chloe Ellefson / Historic Sites mystery series. *OWM* is a work of fiction, but is steeped in the knowledge and experiences Kathleen gained during the twelve years she worked at Old World Wisconsin, an outdoor history museum near the Village of Eagle. Most of the story is set at and near Old World in 1982. Many of these places still exist and can be visited. This guide is intended to help readers locate and learn about many of the places where **Chloe Ellefson**, **Roelke McKenna** and others in the book lived and worked, and the locations where scenes took place.

## Old World Wisconsin

**Chloe** works at Old World, as does her ambitious young intern **Tanika Austin**, Chloe's fellow curators **Byron Cooke** and **Margueritte Donovan**, security guard **Hank DiCapo**, lecherous maintenance chief **Stan 'The Man' Colontuono**, his employee **Rupert Engle**, and their nemesis: site director **Ralph Petty**.

Old World is a real and very special place. If you can only visit one spot in this guide, make it Old World. Situated on 576 acres of the Kettle Moraine State Forest, Old World is now home to over 60 historic farms, businesses and churches constructed by 19<sup>th</sup> century immigrants, including Danes, Finns, Germans, Norwegians and Yankees. These structures have been relocated from all over the state, carefully restored, and lovingly furnished with period-correct antiques. Knowledgeable museum staff, known as interpreters, help explain and demonstrate the lives and life styles of the people who once dwelled in these buildings. Many scenes in *OWM* take place at Old World in buildings the public can explore. Enjoy your visit!



**Norwegian Area** – **Chloe's** search for the antique Norwegian ale bowl leads her to the historic farms here. One, the 1845 Fossebrekke cabin (above left, showing Kathleen working as an interpreter in 1982) is from the earliest time period depicted at Old World. The other has the 1865 Kvaale cabin (below left) where she examined the rosemaled 'rose painted' pieces on display (above right, including a wooden ale bowl). She also searched the Kvaale farm buildings (below right) where she first encountered the Ossabaw hogs (next page top left). While this area is a bit of a walk from the visitor center, there are trams available.





**Crossroads Village** – In chapter one **Chloe** walks into the Crossroads Village, entering the quaint 1839 Saint Peter’s Church (below left and right) where she is discovered inside by **Hank** the security guard. Later **Nika** sets up a textiles storage area in the basement, where several subsequent scenes take place. At the heart of the village is the 1853 Four Mile Inn (above right) where **Byron** takes **Chloe** to brief the interpreters at their morning meeting, and where the end-of-the-school-tour-season staff picnic is held.



**Old World Boundary Loop** – A drive around the outside perimeter of Old World reveals several locations featured in the book, which are not open to the public. At the museum’s entrance, turn right onto Hwy 67. The Administration Building, where **Chloe** repeatedly clashes with her boss **Ralph** during staff meetings, can soon be seen on the right side of the road (photo below left). It is no longer in use. A right turn onto County Road S North will take you over a small hill to the accident site where **Chloe** first meets **Roelke** (shown below right, looking back at it from the top of the next hill). Continuing along ‘S’ you can glimpse to the right the Restoration area where **Chloe’s** office and storage for many of the site’s artifacts were located in a pair of dilapidated trailers (since replaced by a large modern building). This is where **Nika** introduces **Chloe** to her fiancé **Joel Carlisle**. A little farther along on the right, but not visible from the road, is the Education Building, known as “Ed House”, where **Chloe** meets with **Byron** and **Marguerite**. County S ends at Hwy 59; a right turn will quickly take you into the Village of Eagle where other scenes in *OWM* take place.



## Village of Eagle

**Roelke** works in this charming village as a part-time police officer at the Eagle Police Department (EPD) with **Chief Naborski**, **Skeet Deardorff** and **Marie**. Several key scenes take place at the EPD (below left), which is now on East Main across from the Fire Station where **Denise** the EMT works. Eagle is home to **Stan the Man** and **Rupert**. The Eagle's Nest Tavern that **Roelke** investigates is entirely the product of Kathleen's imagination. A tavern that did exist was Sasso's (the white building below right, circa 1976), a family-owned, popular after-work destination for Old World staff. It is there that **Chloe** had lunch with **Nika** and **Byron** and where she, **Nika** and **Joel** discovered the car damage in the parking lot shown below. Sasso's, now known as The Kettle Moraine Inn, can be found at the intersection of Highways 59 and 67. First settled in 1836, Eagle was almost renamed Diamond City after a large stone was found there in 1876.



## Village of Palmyra

**Roelke** rents a small walk-up apartment, and his cousin **Libby** and her two children own a home here. Their places are not based on actual buildings, but several other locations are real and still exist as of 2010: the Municipal Beach on Lower Spring Lake (below left) where **Chloe** and **Libby** meet, the Palmyra Airport where **Roelke** longs for a plane, and the Nite Cap Inn (below right) where **Chloe**, **Roelke** and **Libby** enjoy walleye and potato pancakes at its popular Friday night fish fry. Settled in 1842, Palmyra was once known for the healing powers of its mineral springs. The village is located just 6 miles west of Eagle on Hwy 59.



## Town of LaGrange

Driving south from Palmyra on County Road H takes you through the lovely rural town of LaGrange. The parking lot on the right at the intersection with Hwy 12 is where **Roelke** took **Chloe** for a pre-dawn talk. Continuing south on 'H' takes you into the area where **Chloe** rents an old farmhouse from a dairy farmer. Many key scenes take place there, including Chloe's phone calls with her college friend **Ethan Hendricks**. The farmhouse is patterned on the one that Kathleen rented while working at Old World. It still exists, but the location is not being revealed in order to protect the privacy of any current occupants.

Venturing farther afield, one can find additional places where characters reside and events happen.

## City of Stoughton

**Chloe** was born and raised here. Her mother **Marit Kallerud** and father still live there in the family home. Several scenes take place in their home, which is based on several houses in the city. Founded in 1847, Stoughton is one of the most Norwegian-American cities in America and well worth a visit on its own merits. This city is located just outside of Madison, less than an hour's drive west and a little north from LaGrange.

## City of Madison

**Chloe** visits the 1897 headquarters building of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin (below left) to meet with **Leila**, the Division Collections Curator, and to do research. This institution has the distinction of being the oldest historical society in the US to receive continuous public funding. The headquarters is located on the Library Mall at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where **Joel** is a student in the pharmacy program. Founded in 1836, Madison is the lovely capital of Wisconsin and home to nearly a quarter million people. It has the distinction of being the only city in the world to be constructed on an isthmus between two lakes. The SHSW can be reached from Stoughton by driving west on Hwy 138 to Oregon, then north on Hwy 14.



## Daleyville

**Berget Lundquist** and long-time neighbor **Bill Solberg** have homes just off the main street in this hamlet. Their houses exist only in Kathleen's imagination. Daleyville is nestled around the historic Perry Lutheran Church (above right), which dates back to 1856. This area was heavily settled by Norwegian immigrants. Many of them are buried in the church cemetery, including Civil War veterans of the 15<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin Infantry, the only all-Scandinavian regiment in the war. Daleyville is about 30 miles west and south of Madison.



Kathleen Ernst writes mysteries for adults and young readers. Her previous fifteen books have received numerous honors, including multiple Edgar and Agatha mystery nominations, and have together sold a half million copies.

*Old World Murder* is the inaugural book in the Chloe Ellefson / Historic Sites mystery series from Midnight Ink Publishing. The sequel, *The Heirloom Murders*, arrives in September 2011. These books are available as trade paperbacks as well as in electronic versions for the Kindle, Nook and Sony e-readers.



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