

The Heirloom Murders Locations Guide

THM is the second book in the acclaimed Chloe Ellefson Historic Sites mysteries by Kathleen Ernst. This work of fiction is steeped in the knowledge and experiences Kathleen gained during twelve years working at Old World Wisconsin, an outdoor history museum near Eagle, WI. *THM* takes place in 1982, at the museum, the surrounding area, and amongst the Swiss-American population in Green County, WI. Most scenes occur at locations that still exist and can be visited. This guide is intended to help readers discover where **Chloe Ellefson**, **Roelke McKenna** and others in the book lived, worked, and faced danger.

Old World Wisconsin

Chloe works at OWW as curator of collections, together with her friend, head gardener **Dellyn Burke**, Dellyn's top volunteer, **Harriet Van Dyne**, security guard **Hank DiCapo**, and 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 19th century immigrants, including Danes, Finns, Germans, Norwegians, and Yankees. These structures have been relocated from across 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. Almost all scenes that take place at Old World are in buildings that you can explore. Enjoy your visit!



Garden Fair – **Dellyn** and **Harriet** organize the first-ever Garden Fair at Old World. The event is intended to highlight the importance of safeguarding heirloom plants and animals (above and below) and the role OWW plays in preserving them. **Markus Meili** visits the museum to study its rare animal breeds.



The Garden Fair in *THM* is based on the original Garden Fair created by OWW staff back in the 1980's. The photos above were taken during the wonderful County Fair weekend event at Old World in 2010.

Sanford Farm – Near the Crossroads Village is the Sanford House (below left), a stately Greek Revival home built in 1858 for prosperous Yankee immigrants from New York who settled in nearby Heart Prairie. Across from the house is the Loomer Barn (below right). **Chloe** stops by Sanford at twilight on the eve of the Garden Fair to help **Dellyn** and **Harriet**, who are busy finishing up some exhibits in the barn. (The author met her future husband at Sanford while working during a special event.)



Ketola Farm – Near Sanford is the Finnish Area, which contains the 1893 Ketola log farmhouse. It was relocated from near Bayfield, WI, and has been lovingly restored to its appearance in 1915. Next to it is the Ronkainen sauna. **Chloe** walks from Sanford to Ketola to fetch canning jars for **Dellyn**. Once there she uses keys from the house (below left) to enter the sauna building (below right).



Finnish immigrants in Northern Wisconsin typically bathed in their sauna twice a week, building a fire amongst the stones to heat the room and then splashing water on the warm stones to produce hot steam. Once inside the sauna, **Chloe** finds unexpected uses for the woven rag rugs and sturdy wooden benches. This sauna (below left and right) is one of Chloe's – and the author's – favorite places at Old World.



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 Roelke seeks help from **Denise** the EMT. The EPD-sponsored Movie Night program that **Roelke** proposes actually did take place in 1982, and the movie “McKenna’s Gold” that Skeet picked was shown by the EPD in the Eagle Village Park that summer.



Other scenes take place in sight of the Hwy 59/67 intersection and Eagle’s yellow smiley face water tower. Southwest of the intersection is Sasso’s (white building above right), now called The Kettle Moraine Inn. Sasso’s was a popular, family-owned tavern frequented by Old World staff. While out on routine patrol Roelke visits Sasso’s to “see and be seen,” and discovers **Chloe**, **Markus**, and **Dellyn** having drinks.



West of the intersection is the St. Theresa Catholic Church (left) where Roelke, Chloe, Dellyn, **Simon** and **Alan Sabatola**, Simon’s secretary **Edwin Guest**, and **Roxie** attend a funeral.

To the northeast is Diamond Hill, where the water tower now stands. The 15-carat “Eagle Diamond” was unearthed there in 1876 by Charles Woods, who gave it to his wife Clarissa. The discovery led to a local prospecting boom, during which Eagle was known as Diamond City. The Eagle Diamond changed hands many times, eventually being donated by J.P. Morgan to the American Museum of Natural History. It was stolen from there in 1964 and hasn’t been recovered as of 2011. This true story has been incorporated into *THM* with one change: hired hand **Albrecht Bachmeier** is fictional. Chloe, Roelke, Dellyn and **Valerie Bing** become interested in the diamond’s whereabouts.

Photos of the Eagle Diamond (below left) and Diamond Hill (below right in background, circa early 1900’s) are courtesy of the Eagle Historical Society Museum, where you can see a replica and learn more about it.



White Oak Trail

In chapter one **Roelke** and **Skeet** speed west from Eagle on Hwy 59 to reach the White Oak Loop Trail while **Marie** is back at the EPD trying desperately to help **Bonnie Sabatola**, who has called from a public pay phone at the trailhead parking lot. Later Roelke brings his cousin **Libby** there.

The White Oak Loop is loosely based on the Emma Carlin Trail (right) in the Kettle Moraine Forest off of Hwy 59 about 3 miles west of Eagle. Due to the sensitive nature of the events depicted, the author chose to give the trail a different name.



Village of Palmyra

Established in 1842, Palmyra was once known for the healing powers of its numerous mineral springs. The village is 6 miles west of Eagle on Hwy 59. **Roelke** has a small walk-up rental apartment here, and his cousin **Libby** and her kids have a home that Roelke and **Chloe** visit. Neither of these dwellings exist.

Town of LaGrange

Driving south from Palmyra on County Road H takes you through the lovely rural town of LaGrange. The farming area south of Hwy 12 is where **Chloe** and her cat **Olympia** live in an old rented farmhouse. It is there that she talks on the phone with **Ethan Hendricks**, her friend and fellow former forestry major, and hosts the “wine and whine” writers group meeting that **Libby** and **Valerie** attend. Chloe’s farmhouse is based on the one Kathleen rented from a dairy farmer while she worked at Old World Wisconsin. It still exists, but the location is not being revealed in order to protect the privacy of any current occupants.

City of Elkhorn

Settled in 1846, “Elk Horn” hosts the Walworth County Fair, considered to be one of the best in the country. Elkhorn is the imagined headquarters of both AgriFutures, where **Roelke** interviews **Simon** and **Edwin**, and Roxie’s Roost, where he talks with **Roxie** and Simon. Just north of Elkhorn on County Road H is the farming community of Sugar Creek where Roelke rolls his pickup truck at the intersection of ‘H’ and Cobble Road.

City of Waukesha

Incorporated in 1846 as Prairieville and then renamed Waukesha, it was known for a time as a Spa City because of the high quality of its spring water. It is located about 18 miles east of Eagle on Hwy 59. **Roelke** drives there to find **Alex Padopolous** and returns later to transfer a belligerent drunk driver to a “goon squad” of burley Waukesha County Sheriff’s Deputies.

City of Madison

Madison is some 70 miles west of Waukesha on I-90. Founded in 1836, it is the state capital and home to nearly a quarter million people – and the only city in the world built on an isthmus between two lakes (right). The State Historical Society of Wisconsin headquarters building is at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The Society runs OWW and other state historic sites. **Chloe** drives her Pinto to the SHSW headquarters to meet with **Leila**, the Division Collections Curator, and to do research on the Eagle Diamond at the archives.



Village of New Glarus

This charming community is nestled within the beautiful rolling hills and dairy farms of Green County, which has a large Swiss-American population and an excellent reputation for producing beer and cheese. New Glarus was founded in 1845 by settlers from the Canton of Glarus, Switzerland, and is a 45-minute drive south from Madison on Hwy 69. Known as “Little Switzerland”, the village’s many efforts to preserve and celebrate its heritage have made it a popular destination. **Chloe** meets **Markus** at the historic 1853 New Glarus Hotel (below left) where they dine on “Kaesechuechli” and “Wienerschnitzel” in the restaurant. Later they drive from the Swiss Historical Village Museum in New Glarus to the nearby Frietag Farm.

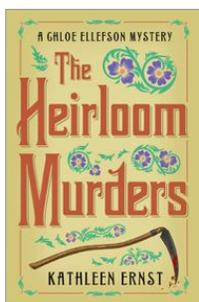


City of Monroe

Less than 20 miles south of New Glarus along Hwy 69 lies Monroe, the county seat of Green County. Called the US “Swiss Cheese Capital,” Monroe is home to the National Historic Cheesemaking Center. The museum has a fully functional cheese factory that is now over one hundred years old (above right). It is in Monroe that **Chloe**, **Markus**, **Roelke** and other characters come together in the emergency room.

Frietag Farm

While this farm is fictional, it is representative of a number of century-old dairy farms that can be found scattered across Green County. The Frietags’ “Kasehutte” is based on similar small cheese factories that are located at the Swiss Historical Village Museum and the National Historic Cheesemaking Center. **Chloe** and **Markus** visit with **Johann** and **Frieda Frietag** and their granddaughter **Martine** at the farm, which was founded by Johann’s great-grandfather. (Others come too, but it might spoil the story if we told.) It is there that Chloe learns the historic use of – and the secret ingredient in – Swiss green cheese. And it is there that she must find the strength and courage to confront murderous greed, face-to-face.



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

The Heirloom Murders is the second book in the Chloe Ellefson Historic Sites mystery series published by Midnight Ink. The first book, ***Old World Murder***, was released in 2010. Both are available as paperbacks and for the Kindle and Nook. The third book, set in Door County, WI, will be released in 2012.



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