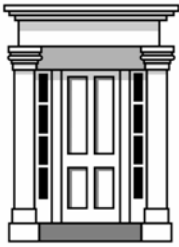


SHEBOYGAN COUNTY



HISTORICAL
RESEARCH
CENTER

The Researcher

The Newsletter of the Sheboygan County
Historical Research Center

Volume XXV Number 4 April 2015

Russian Imperial Porcelain Easter Eggs

Did you know—The Easter egg symbolizes the resurrection of life that is the central theme of the Christian Easter celebration. The custom of exchanging eggs at Easter was brought from Byzantium to Russia with the introduction of Christianity. As early as the 15th and 16th centuries painted eggs were sold during Passion Week (the week preceding Easter). Some were boiled goose or chicken eggs, others were made of wood; many were gilded or painted red, the color that signifies the passion of Christ. An Easter kiss was exchanged along with the egg, although those of high rank did not always accept the traditional kiss from those of lesser rank.

Over time, the preparation and exchange of Easter eggs became more elaborate. Before the advent of porcelain in Europe in the 18th century, eggs were made of wood, lacquered papier-mâché, precious metals and semi-precious stones, and luxurious textiles such as velvet and embroidered silk.

Porcelain eggs were commissioned by the Romanov Imperial family and presented to relatives, friends and courtiers at Easter. They were produced at the Imperial Porcelain Factory in St. Petersburg during the 19th and 20th centuries. The art of painted eggs reached perfection during the reigns of Nicholas I (1825-1855) and Alexander III (1881-1894).

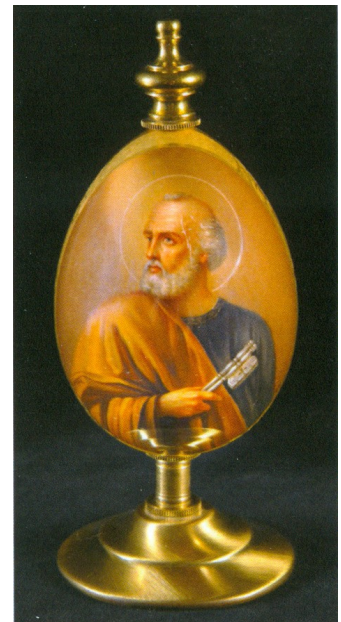
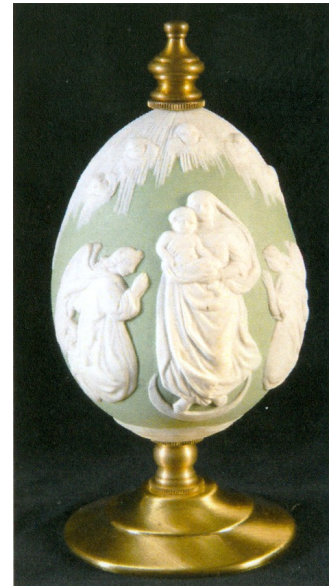
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Above: Easter Egg with old Russian motif, Imperial Porcelain Factory, 1880s-1890s, porcelain.

Upper right: Easter egg with the Madonna. After a painting by Raphael. Imperial Porcelain Factory, 1860s-1880s. Bisque porcelain.

Lower right: Easter egg with apostle Peter. After a painting by T.A. Neff.



The Sheboygan County Historical Research Center is located at 518 Water Street in Sheboygan Falls.

Open Tuesday through Friday, 9:00am – 4:00pm and Saturdays from 8:30am to 12:00 noon.

Closed Saturday, May 23, 2015 for Memorial Day.

Phone: 920-467-4667

E-mail: research@schrc.org

Website: schrc.org

The Researcher is the official newsletter of the Sheboygan County Historical Research Center, 518 Water Street, Sheboygan Falls, Wisconsin.

It is published six times per year in August, October, December, February, April and June.

The Research Center is the local history archive for Sheboygan County and areas surrounding the county. It is a repository for paper records of all kinds.

The Research Center is a sister organization to the Sheboygan County Historical Society and Museum which collects the artifacts of the county.

If you file it, it comes to the Research Center. If you dust it, it goes to the museum.

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Go Paperless. Receive *The Researcher* via email. Save paper. Save postage and receive a more colorful newsletter. Contact Katie at research@schrc.org to sign up now. Catch us on Facebook— Updates daily.

Don't miss Sheboygan County History column in the Saturday *Sheboygan Press* or online Friday through Sunday each week.

Upcoming Programs

Second Saturdays

April 11, 2015 - This Superior Place: Stories of Bayfield and the Apostle Islands with Dennis McCann

Picturesque little Bayfield on Lake Superior is Wisconsin's smallest city by population but one of its most popular visitor destinations. Author and columnist, Dennis McCann, will capture those unique qualities that keep tourists coming back year after year. He will offer a historically reliable look at the community as it is today and how it came to be. His new book, of the same title, is abundantly illustrated with both historical and contemporary images. This Superior Place showcases a community where the past was layered with good times and down times, where natural beauty was the one resource that could not be exhausted by the hand of man, and where history is ever present.

May 9, 2015 - Where the Hammock Hangs with Rochelle Pennington
Rochelle Pennington returns to tell us about her newest book, Where the Hammock Hangs. This book will deal with the concept of Up North. Just what does Up North mean? If you're from Wisconsin, the UP of Michigan or Minnesota, we all know what it means. Rochelle will tell stories of the Pennington's beloved cottage in the Porcupine Mountains in Upper Michigan. She'll deal with mysteries from lighthouses and shipwrecks and tell stories about hunting, fishing and camping.

Genealogy Classes

April 13, 2015, 1:00pm at SCHRC - Using Maps in Genealogy and History Research
May 11, 2015, 1:00pm at SCHRC - Writing Your Family History

History on the Move

Cedar Grove—April 14, 2015—6:00 to 7:30pm - History of Post Cards

Random Lake - May 7, 2015 - 1:00pm to 2:30pm Local History Connection Part II

Cedar Grove - May 12, 2015 - 6:00pm to 7:30pm – Random History Stories

Wanted!! Liebe Descendants

Carl Moritz Liebe was born in 1831 in Saxony and at the age of 21 he left Bremen on the ship *Kosmos*, arriving in New York 22 April 1853. Three months later he purchased 40 acres in the town of Mosel, Sheboygan County for \$193.00. In 1856 he married Wendelina Schaaf at Mosel. She came from Eischleben, Saxe-Coburg Gotha, Thuringen in 1854. The couple had fourteen children.



An SCHRC member has, in his possession, an immigrant trunk lid from the Carl Moritz Liebe family. It is dated 1853 and was salvaged from the collapsed ruins of the Liebe log cabin, which was torn down in 1985. There is also a log from the cabin. Both were salvaged from a decaying ruin. Our member wants them to go to a family member who will value these pieces as he has. They've been preserved and cared for thirty years.

If you are a descendant of the family, please call the Research Center at 920-467-4667 to discuss the treasures.

Foods That Made Wisconsin Famous

150 Great Recipes by Richard J. Baumann

A wonderful collection of personal, authentic Wisconsin recipes cleverly organized according to ethnic and agricultural regions of the state and types of food. Scattered throughout are humorous comments and family photos, as well as an ample serving of Wisconsin trivia. Wisconsin is certainly the sauerkraut-simmering, bratwurst-grilling, cheese-sprinkling capital of the United States. But, did you know that Wisconsin also leads the nation in the production of cranberries and produces an abundance of wild rice, maple syrup, cherries and a lot more?

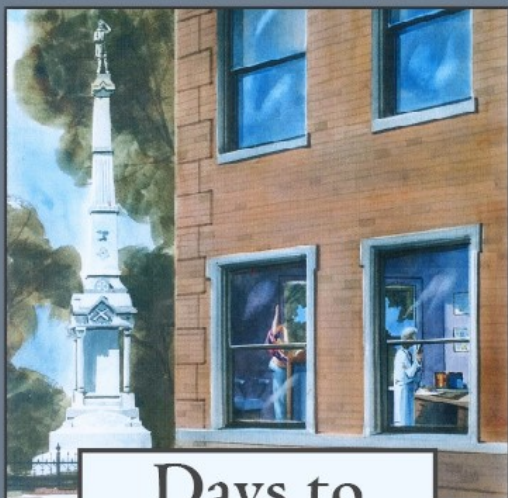
Drawing heavily from the state's rich agricultural heritage, Richard Baumann provides 150 practical and delightful recipes. Some are naturals: beer-cheese soup, sauerkraut potato casserole and cream puffs. Others are less obvious: apple and butternut squash soup, Welsh pastries and cherry tortes. All the recipes call for Wisconsin's best foods and provide delicious dishes for people with discriminating tastes.

Former Governor Tommy G. Thompson says about the book, "Foods That Made Wisconsin Famous" is not just another cookbook. It is a true celebration of good Wisconsin food and how to prepare it. I recommend it to anyone who enjoys the simple pleasures of food, from good cooking to good eating."

Soft cover, 291 pages. Total \$18.25 includes postage and shipping and handling. Books are available at- www.wisconsincook.wix.com/richardbaumann. E-mail-rjbaumann1131@gmail.com Address 22 Cedar Lane, Elkhart Lake, Wisconsin 53020-1960. Phone—920-781-2030.



Coming Soon — Days to Remember



Days to Remember

ARVED OJAMAA
ASHBY, M.D.

Arved Ojamaa Ashby was born in Estonia on the Finnish Sea on August 8, 1922. Soviet armed forces brutally occupied his home country in 1940, and a carefree and idyllic life gave way to a time of uncertainty, fear, and death. He evaded the Russian draft in 1941 before he joined the military forces that liberated his home country. In 1943, he started his medical studies at the University of Tartu in Estonia. He fled to Finland to escape the German military draft, and fought the Russians as part of the Finnish army.

Shortly after immigration to the United States in 1951, Ashby was fortunate to be accepted into medical school at the University of California, San Francisco. It took him 12 years and studies at four universities in four countries to reach his goal of becoming a doctor, but in 1955 he earned his M.D.

With his medical degree in hand, Ashby spent a year of internship at Queens General Hospital in New York, then continued his studies at the University of Kansas Medical Center specializing in the field of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

Ashby moved with his young family to Wisconsin, where he opened his medical practice in 1960, at the Sheboygan Clinic. He retired in December 1989, having delivered thousands of babies.

This book, a reprint of the two memoirs *Capful of Wind* and *The Wind at my Back*, tells Ashby's traumatic but ultimately successful story – a coming of age story, and a story of emigration and survival.

Available at SCHRC after May 1st and schrc.org for \$19.99. This is a WWII story like you've never heard.

Sheboygan County Reacts to Halley's Comet

In the spring of 1910 the Dalai Lama fled Tibet to escape the Chinese, President Taft began the tradition of throwing out the first ball on baseball's opening day, King Edward VII of Great Britain died and Montana's Glacier National Park was formed. In May of 1910 the citizens of Sheboygan County also braced themselves for a close encounter with Halley's Comet.

Halley's Comet is a periodic comet last seen here in 1986 and expected to return in 2061. Named after Edmond Halley, an Oxford mathematician who observed that it came every seventy-six years on the anniversary of significant world events, it was especially significant to Christians who believed it to be the Star of Bethlehem that guided the Wise Men.



A photo of Halley's Comet, still in sight on May 4, 1910, thirteen days after Mark Twain's death.



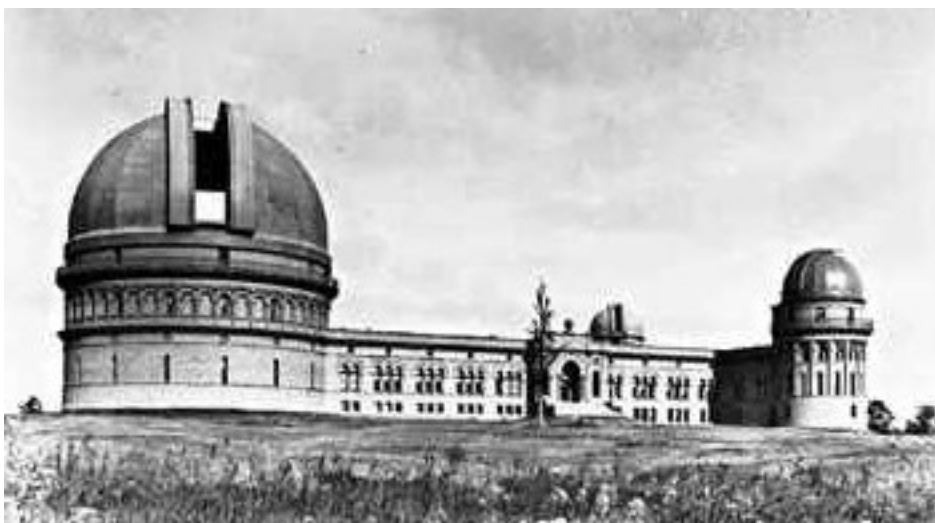
Edmond Halley, English astronomer, geophysicist, mathematician, meteorologist, and physicist is best known for computing the orbit of the comet named for him, Halley's Comet.

The comet is visible for slightly less than three months each occurrence. The earliest known written record of the comet is by the Chinese in 240 BC.

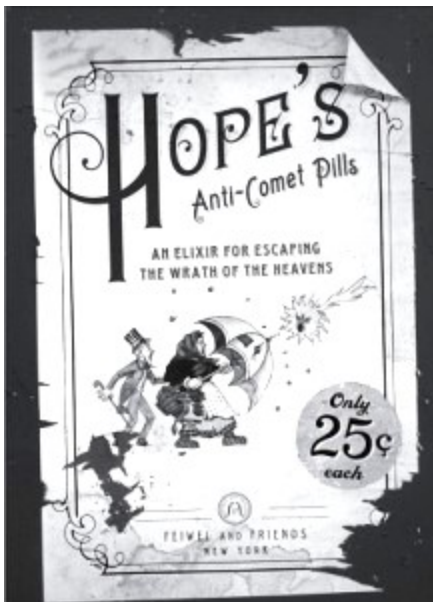
Mark Twain, author and humorist, born in 1835 as the comet approached, said in 1910, "I came in with Halley's Comet... It is coming again ... and I expect to go out with it... The Almighty has said, no doubt: 'Now here are these two unaccountable freaks; they came in together, they must go out together.'" Sure enough, he died on April 21, 1910, the first day the comet was visible.

Celestial phenomena have triggered apocalyptic hysteria many times throughout history. The comet of 79 A.D. was blamed for the eruption of Vesuvius that led to the destruction of the cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum. Its appearance in 1665 was said to have caused the Black Plague that killed tens of thousands in London. In 1835 it was blamed for several things, including the fall of the Alamo and a fire in New York City that raged for nearly a week.

In 1910, when astronomers from Wisconsin's very own Yerkes Observatory announced that the planet would pass through the tail of Halley's Comet in May of that year alarmists and tabloids spread the erroneous rumor that poisonous gas within the comet would spell doom for the world's population. They warned Cyanogen gas in the comet's tail would "snuff out" all life. Shysters capitalized on the resulting fear, selling "comet pills" and "anti-comet umbrellas" that would counteract any lethal effects.



Yerke's Observatory, seen here in 1892, is operated by the University of Chicago and located in Williams' Bay, Wisconsin. It has the world's largest refracting telescope used in scientific research.



An ad for Hope's Anti-Comet pills guaranteed to be an elixir for escaping the wrath of the heavens.

During the night of May 18, 1910, when the Earth passed through the tail of Halley's, some people took precautions by sealing the chimneys, windows, and doors of their houses. Others confessed to crimes they had committed because they did not expect to survive the night, and a few panic-stricken people actually committed suicide. Church services were held for overflow crowds, and people in the countryside took to their storm shelters.

But, by 1910 people were also divided in their thinking. Along with the fearful, there were skeptics who turned the event into festivity. A strangely frivolous mood in cities caused thousands of people to gather in restaurants, coffee houses, parks, and on the rooftops of apartment buildings to await their imaginary doom in the company of friends.

Locally, Miss Emmeline Cole stated in a Sheboygan Telegram article, "The year 1910 is that of the reappearance of Halley's Comet. The best proof that people are less superstitious now than they were in the past was shown by the fact that there were few people of any one's acquaintance who showed great fear that the near approach of the heavenly wanderer. While there were a few persons comparatively whose fear led them to commit self-destruction; the large body of the people awaited the predicted collision with the comet with a philosophical calmness that did them great credit. The people of Sheboygan County did not show that they were in the least disturbed."

The Sheboygan Historical Review of July 1910 reported, "Late in the afternoon of May 18, 1910 the earth was scheduled to enter the tail of Halley's Comet. If the wanderer came in contact with the earth or the atmosphere there was nothing unusual to indicate it."

It seems the residents of Sheboygan County were sufficiently educated and streetwise to avoid falling for the purveyors of snake oil found everywhere at the time.

By the end of the summer of 1910 news coverage of the event disappeared. The world went on and so did the Comet; there were more important events to report. Looking back it seems slightly reminiscent of Y2K doesn't it?



In the News

Sheboygan Press 19 Aug 1930 Kick by A Dead Horse Puts Man In The Hospital
Plymouth—Walter Brickner was confined to the hospital here today as the result of being kicked by a dead horse. Brickner, an employee of the Edward W. Bohnsack Company at their rendering plant outside the city limits, was watching two workmen remove the carcass of a horse. One of the hind legs swing around suddenly, hitting him in the head and rendering him unconscious. Although he is suffering slight in-juries to the head, his condition is not serious.

On May 16, 1925, Miss Margaret Kamens, named "The Perfect Woman" in a New York physical culture contest, demonstrated exercises on the fourth floor of the H.C. Prange store.

In 1925, merchants throughout Sheboygan declared May 29th the start of the straw hat season.

On April 19th and 20th , 1925, the Ford Hopkins Drug Store was having an Easter toiletry sale. Two thousand live baby chicks were brought in for the event.

After Miss Harriet Keach of Greenbush had passed, \$10,000 was found in her house. It had been hidden in books, magazines, mattresses, and even sewn in-to furniture upholstery.



Candid Photos

Sheboygan Press — Leo, a black Nubian lion, was the living trademark of Metro Goldwyn Mayer Pictures. He was insured for \$1,000,000 and was purported to be the heaviest and longest lion in captivity. On Monday, July 22, 1929 he stopped in Sheboygan as part of a five-year promotional world tour which designed to promote the movie studio. Leo traveled from stop to stop in his cage that was mounted on an REO Speedwagon truck. At the Sheboygan Press, a photographer entered the 24 foot cage to take his picture. At the Sheboygan Theater he performed stunts for the audience, including kneeling and saying his prayers. Leo split his usual rations of 25 pounds of meat a day into meals at Joe Bensman's Meat

Above: Greta Garbo with Leo on the MGM Promotional World Tour.

Market, Diamond Meat Market, and The Sanitary Cash Meat Market. In an interview with the Sheboygan Press, Leo's trainer, Captain Volney Phifer, said that he had come from a long line of animal trainers, going back at least four generations on both sides of his family.

Back Story—MGM had trademarked Leo's very distinctive roar which appeared at the beginning of their films for decades. Leo seemingly was a cat with nine lives: while touring the globe for MGM, he survived two train wrecks, a Mississippi flood, a California earthquake, a fire and a plane crash. He died at an advanced age of 23, in 1938, and is buried in Gillette, New Jersey, on the farm owned by Volney Phifer, premier animal trainer.

The Loss of Friends

Below: On February 25th, 2015 we lost Ed Fisher, 96, a founder of the Sheboygan County Historical Researcher back in 1983. With a longtime interest in genealogy, Ed traced his and his wife's ancestry back to 1600 and published the results.

Ed's farm background led to an interest in the cheese industry in the county. After researching the topic, he wrote, "The Cheese Factories of Sheboygan County" for which he received an award from the Wisconsin State Historical Society.

Always willing to help, beautiful hostas from Ed's yard surround the Historical Research Center today, a legacy from his mom.



Right: On March 7th, 2015 we lost another loved and valued member of the Research Center team. John Dees, 87, a man who gave thousands of hours to save local history, died after a long illness.

For 25 years he was a fixture at his desk in the corner, probably indexing something. There wasn't a job at SCHRC that John didn't tackle, even fixing the dumbwaiter.

John hadn't volunteered in a while because of his health, but we talked frequently of his crazy sense of humor and his dedication to SCHRC. Safe home, John and thanks for the memories



Recent Additions to the Collection

Scott Noegel Collection - A Pioneering Kin, The Mog, Eckardt, Fohl, and Noegel Families of Wisconsin – 977 pages, hardbound book, PDF file, 800 + digital images. Donated by Scott Bryon Noegel. Not yet processed.

Sheboygan County Medical Society Collection - Hundreds of files about all physicians who practiced in Sheboygan County, including both members and non-members of the society. Includes photos, news articles, minutes from the society and much more, 20 linear feet of material. Donated by the SCMS, facilitated and by Dr. James Weygandt, Dr. Larry Zweben, et al. Archived.

Road America “Winning” Movie Collection - Scans of 8 x 10 black & white photos taken May, 1968 at Road America during the filming of the movie, Winning, featuring Paul Newman, Robert Wagner and Joann Woodward. 33 scans. Donated by Road America. Not yet processed.

Road America 50th Anniversary Books - Donated by Road America. 2 Archived and others for sale in Millhouse store.

Von Kaas Collection - Photo of Ervin Von Kaas, Letters from Carl Von Kaas in German with references to Prince George Wilhelm (1807-1860), English translations, Von Kaas family genealogy. Donated by Patty Schreiber. Archived.

Wisconsin Federation of Music Clubs, articles about Sheboygan groups, 1949-1950, 1956-1957 and 1957-1958. Donated by Jim Gross. General Files - Sheboygan Music Clubs.

Sheboygan Bowling Association - Averages for SBA bowlers, 1966-1967, 1967-1968, 1969-1970, 1971-1972. Donated by Charlies Mais. General files- Bowling.

Redskins yearbooks - 1949-1950 and 1950-1951. Donated by Charlie Mais. Archived.

2010 Sheboygan County Plat book - Donated by Don Lau. Library shelves.

American Legion Post No. 484, Walter Gilles Post Auxiliary, disbanded 2002 - Donated by Dale Cary. Archived.

Scherer Family History - Images scanned. Originals returned. Donated by Francis Scherer. Not yet processed.

St. Paul Lutheran, Sheboygan Falls Collection - Confirmation lists, Church anniversary book, 1915, Biographies of pastors by Elmer Koppelman, Photos 1917, 1933, 1934, 1948. Photo numbers, 523/31-95. Donated by St. Paul Lutheran Church. Photo collection.

Sheboygan County Triad - Law enforcement and senior citizens working together, scrapbook. Donated by Ed Kaminsky. Library.

Bethlehem Lutheran Grade School pictures - Grade 1, 1969-1970; Grade 4, 1972-1973; Grade 6, 1974-1975; Grade 7, 1975-1976. Not yet processed.

Douglas Dean murders scrapbook, 1971 - not yet processed.

Holy Cross Cemetery update, January 2015 - Donated by Ken Ristow. Library cemetery records.

DePagter Family Genealogy (1613-2014) - Donated by Robert DePagter. Family file.

SCARTA newsletters (2001-2012) Donated by Sheboygan County Retired Teachers Association. Library.

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Russian Imperial PORCELAIN EASTER EGGS

THE MUSEUM of RUSSIAN ART
MARCH 14 - SEPTEMBER 20, 2015

SCHRC member, Raymond Piper, started collecting Russian Imperial porcelain in the 1970s, after developing an interest in Russian history, architecture and decorative arts. Over the years he has amassed an outstanding collection of porcelain, including many beautiful Easter eggs.

This year from March 14th through September 20th, the Museum of Russian Art in Minneapolis, Minnesota is hosting an exhibition entitled, *Russian Imperial Porcelain Easter Eggs*. Drawn from the remarkable collection of Raymond Piper, the exquisitely painted eggs on display feature Russian Orthodox saints, Imperial monograms, traditional decorative patterns, ornate floral designs and more.

The treasures represented cover 100 years of Romanov family history, from Nicholas I through Nicholas II and Alexandra. Each egg is unique and the majority are hand painted. Some feature delicate floral motifs, others show bold ciphers emblazoned on dramatically glazed backgrounds. Some portray intricate religious portraits of Christ, the Saints, and the Madonna and Child. Russian porcelain Easter eggs offer insights into Russian Orthodox Easter traditions and the life of the imperial families.

Other eggs, worth millions, owned by the Russian royalty were crafted in the shops of Peter Carl Fabergé from 1885 to 1917, the eggs were designed primarily at the behest of Russian Tsars Alexander III and Nicholas II as annual Easter gifts for Tsarinas Maria and Alexandra.

Sounds like a field trip to Minneapolis!!



2015 Annual Campaign Coming Soon Once a Year, Every Year

Your annual campaign donation -

Keeps the lights on at SCHRC.
Buys office supplies and computers.
Keeps the garden looking great.
Pays for insurance and organizational fees.

Your annual campaign donation -
Keeps SCHRC open to the public.

So, when you receive your request,
Please give generously.

New Business Members

Many thanks to our new business members. Your support is much appreciated. Members— as you go about your daily business please support these great companies.

Mike Burkart Ford
Bavarian Ludwig Society
First Internet Alliance

Wigwam Mills Inc.
Legacy Architecture
Kohler Company

The Sounder
Town of Lima

Kaymead Dairy Farm
Sartori

Special thanks to Andy and Charlie Mais for their hard work with our networking and content management project.