

The Researcher

**The Newsletter of the Sheboygan County
Historical Research Center**

Volume XXVII Number 1 October 2016

Why Are Barns Red?



WHY FARMHOUSES ARE WHITE

White paints were more popular for houses because of their association with cleanliness and purity. Plus, lead- or zinc-oxide-laced white paints lasted longer than other colors and were easy to touch up.



WHY ARE BARNES RED ?

The short answer: Cost! White paint, which got its tint from white lead, was tougher to come by and more expensive than red paint, which was tinted with the much more plentiful ferrous oxide, or rust. Farmers used a combination of linseed oil and rust to protect their barn wood from decay.

WHY SHUTTERS ARE GREEN

Emerald hues were all the rage after the 1775 invention of Paris green, a compound used as a paint pigment. Its namesake paint originally got its tint from arsenic, which acted as a preservative. Later, it was discovered that the paint had a poisonous quality, and homeowners used it in an effort to keep mosquitoes, flies, and other insects at bay.

WHY PORCH CEILINGS ARE BLUE

Two reasons: Ghosts and Victorians (really!). In the Southern tradition, "haint blue," a pale blue-green, was used overhead to ward off "haints," the restless spirits of the dead. But Victorians favored blue porch ceilings because they mimicked the color of the sky and gave the feeling of a nice day even when it was overcast and gray.

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 Thursday, November 24th, 2016 for Thanksgiving.

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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 Historical Society & Museum.

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**Check out
schrc.org**

**Website updates
weekly
Go to History News
under Collections
Great Stuff!!**

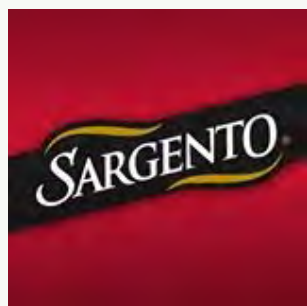
Go Paperless. Receive *The Researcher* via email. Save paper. Save postage and receive a more colorful newsletter. Contact Katie at research@schrc.org to sign up now. Catch us on Facebook— Updates daily.

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

**Please support our Business members.
They make all the difference in the quest to save history.**



Plymouth



Wenig Funeral Homes



Feldmann Engineering & Manufacturing

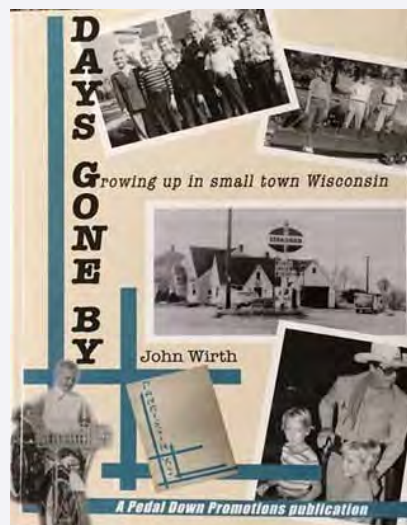


Oostburg State Bank



Welcome to our newest Legacy Society Member!
Kathleen Walker of Chesterfield, Missouri

New in the Bookstore



Days Gone By

by Mr. John Wirth

\$10.00 paperback

Days Gone By The Falls - Growing up in small town Wisconsin is John Wirth's poignant, colorful account of growing up in Sheboygan Falls in the 1950s and 1960s. The book features a collection of 39 newspaper columns, which have appeared on a regular basis in The Sheboygan Falls News since 2007. The book takes readers back to a time when imagination, creativity and the pursuit of good, clean fun ruled the lives of youngsters long before the clutches of modern technology swooped in to stifle such endeavors. Wirth paints a vivid portrait of an era in time when people worked hard without question and played hard without considering the possible dangers of youthful exuberance. Readers will meet several colorful characters who inhabited many memorable locales in the quaint, picturesque, Midwestern city of Sheboygan Falls. Whether you have your own memories of the 1950s and 1960s or are looking to find out what all the fuss was about, buckle in and enjoy the twists and turns of a real-life, small-town adventure ride going on 60 years in the making.

A Time for Reflection

The First One Hundred Years



Germans from Russia
in Sheboygan, Wisconsin

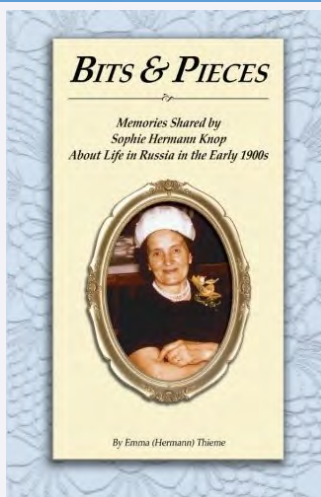
A Time for Reflection

Germans from Russia in Sheboygan, Wisconsin

Ms. Emma Thieme and Mr. Fred Zitzer

\$10.00 paperback

The history, chronology, and maps in this booklet represent only a small part of the Volga German's unique heritage. Here is a brief look at the Volga Deitsch, how they got to Russia and why they came to America, and then to Sheboygan. It is a tale of more than 200 years of travel, hardship and joy endured by our ancestors. Older generations might recall the good times as well as the not-so-good when they read about old customs and practices. Younger people may learn a history they did not know existed. This 2016 update adds extra photos and more history.



Bits and Pieces: Memories About Life in Russia

Mrs. Emma Hermann Thieme

\$8.00 paperback

Sophie Hermann Knop was born and raised in Schaefer, Russia, a German-Russian community along the Volga River. In 1923, when she was 18 years old, Sophie traveled to Sheboygan, Wisconsin, where Gottlieb Hermann, had been living since 1912. During their long separation, Sophie endured great difficulties, including the Russian Revolution and the upheavals and famine that followed in its wake. Sophie willingly shared detailed descriptions of her life in Russia. Those "bits and pieces" follow a brief history of German migration to the Volga River area of Russia.

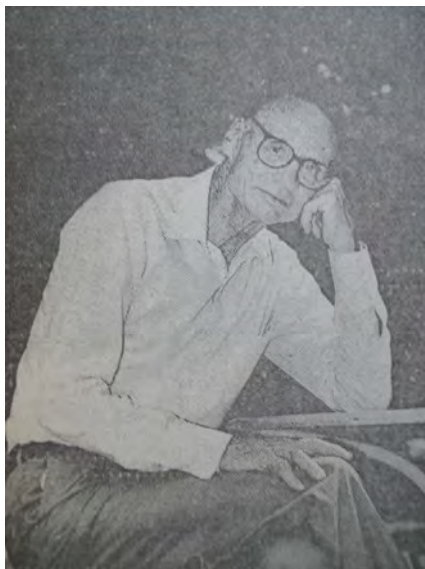


Wisconsin Lore

Alexander Botkin and His Baraboo Bluff

Richard A. Stoelb

In the introduction to his book ***"The Romance of Wisconsin Place Names"*** Robert E. Gard wrote; *"The names of places lie upon the land and tell us where we are or where we have been or where we want to go and so much more. The names of places tell of those who came before us, of the ancestry of our ancestors, sometimes of their hopes and dreams, sometimes of what they saw when they came or what they hoped their children would see."*



Robert E. Gard

Robert E. Gard was an author whose works recorded Wisconsin's pioneer past and how it continued to affect our modern society. He authored more than forty books including ***"Wisconsin Is My Doorstep"*** and ***"Wisconsin Lore"***. For his research he travelled the state collecting remembered events, family histories, and tales of lumberjack days, people and pioneer farms.

Gard was not a Wisconsin native. He was born in Iola, Kansas and earned a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Kansas in 1934, and a Master of Arts from Cornell University in Ithaca New York in 1938. He and his wife Maryo came to Madison and the University of Wisconsin in 1945 and spent the next 45 years learning and writing about their adopted state eventually retiring as UW Madison Professor Emeritus.

He was also a playwright and founded the Wisconsin Regional Writers Association in 1948, the Wisconsin Arts Foundation and Council, the Wisconsin Idea Theater and the Robert E. Gard Wisconsin Idea Foundation. After several months of illness and suffering a stroke Robert E. Gard died in 1992 at the age of 82 in Madison.

Alexander Botkin

Alexander Botkin was born in Kentucky in 1801. At young age he moved to Ohio and then in 1832 he moved to Alton, Illinois. In 1837 he was serving as Justice of the Peace in Alton during the ***"Lovejoy Riot"*** and was active preserving law and order. American clergyman and newspaper editor *Elijah Parish Lovejoy* was noted for his opposition to slavery. Lovejoy published the *Alton Observer* and helped organize the *Illinois Anti-Slavery Society*. Pro slavery supporters already had destroyed three of his presses and in November of 1837 a mob gathered outside a warehouse to wreck his newest press. Lovejoy was killed trying to stop

them. The warehouse was burned and the press was thrown into the river.

Botkin left Illinois and settled in Madison in 1841 as the Assistant Secretary of the Wisconsin Territory. The Wisconsin Territory was created by Congress on April 20, 1836 and included parts of present day Minnesota, Iowa, North and South Dakota. President Andrew Jackson appointed Henry Dodge as its first territorial governor.

He served in the Wisconsin Territorial House of Representatives for Dane, Green and Sauk Counties for 1847-1849. He also became Wisconsin State Senator serving in the state legislature 1849-1850.

Alexander Botkin died at the age of 56 in Sun Prairie on March 5, 1857.

The following story about Alexander Botkin is taken from *“Wisconsin Lore”* by Robert E. Gard and L.G. Sorden published by Heartland Press, North Word Inc., Ashland WI.

Botkin and His Baraboo Bluff

The year is 1847. *Alexander Botkin*, candidate for the territorial house of representatives in Madison, faced the good people of Baraboo and considered how most effectively to approach them. Botkin, who had come to Madison in 1842 as assistant secretary for the state under the territory, was convinced he could sway the voters in his direction, for he had learned a trick or two about campaigning.

He eyed his opponent from Marquette County from across the improvised stage. Campaigning together was an accepted practice, for it gave the voters a chance to make up their minds once and for all, with no room for doubt, as to which was the likeliest incumbent.

It so happened that it was Botkin's privilege to speak first. He began by complimenting the intelligence of the audience, then rhapsodized over the Baraboo valley. He pointed to its natural beauties, its marvelous advantages of water power, manufacturing privileges, and productive soil. This of course, was the build-up by which he hoped to win their votes.

Stepping forward on the platform, Bodkin exclaimed, *“One thing you especially need; and you are justly entitled to it; that is a good road over the bluffs. How can you procure it? How can that most desirable end be obtained? If through your sufferance, I have the honor to represent you in the territorial council, send me your petition to organize a company for the purpose of macadamizing [macadam: small broken stones used in making roads] the highway over the bluffs. You don't desire to subject the inhabitants of Sauk Prairie to pay toll on the way to your mills, nor persons coming to transact business at the county seat. Hence, shall I endeavor to get appropriation from the territorial treasury to macadamize that road.”*

Midst wild cheers, whistles and clapping of hands, Botkin sat down. His opponent, bewildered and dismayed by Botkin's success, took the stand. He began to speak while casting about wildly for some point that Botkin had overlooked. There didn't seem to be any so he ended, lamely, by making the same promises and said he, too, would see that they got a road over the bluff if elected.

A few days later the two candidates met again at Prairie du Sac on the other side of the bluff. Since Botkin had spoken first at Baraboo, it was his competitor's turn to open at Prairie du Sac. Still smarting under the beating he'd taken at Baraboo, he decided he'd not only take the wind out of Botkin's sails, he'd steal the sails. Smiling benignly, he began by sympathizing with the citizens for being practically cut off from the beautiful valley of Baraboo by such miserable roads, and he promised right then and there to right the situation upon his election by putting through a bill in the legislature to macadamize the road over the bluffs.

Prairie du Sac, at that time, was still smarting under the blow of having lost the county seat to Baraboo. They hoped to get it back, and were opposed to anything that contributed to the advancement and welfare of the opposing city.

When it was Botkin's turn to speak, he stepped forward confidently, smiled at his opponent, turned to the audience, and said. *"Fellow citizens, I am astonished at the diabolical proposition made by the gentleman. What is it that he promises? Why, that you shall be taxed to build up a town in a barren, worthless, rocky, stone bound region where there is no town, nor never ought to be one! When I look upon your beautiful, rich prairie, your magnificent river, the trade and business which must necessarily center here, I think with indignation of the proposition made by my opponent, that you should be taxed to help build up a competing town where neither God nor any sensible man ever intended there should be one."*

Botkin carried both sides of the bluff in the election.

The Story of Louie Eisold's Demise

Sheboygan Herald—October 10, 1886

Louis Eisold who was struck with a beer glass by Wm. Schaetzer during a quarrel in the saloon of Hermann & Kroos in the 4th ward a week ago Sunday (September 26), died last Sunday afternoon (October 3). Schaetzer was arrested about 9 o'clock Sunday evening and placed under \$500 bonds to await trial. Eisold worked a part of last week and there appears to be a question as to whether his death was caused by the blow from the glass. It is also claimed that Eisold attacked Schaetzer first with a chair.



Eisold Family

Sheboygan Herald—October 16, 1886

A week ago last Sunday at Kroos & Heermann's saloon in the 4th ward Louis Eishold and Wm. Schaetzer quarreled about some trifling matter and during a struggle that ensued Schaetzer struck Eishold over the head with a beer mug. Eishold was taken to Dr. Bock's drug store, the would dressed and the next day went to work; but Tuesday he complained of pain in his head and quit work about noon; his head grew worse and he died the Sunday following at 3 o'clock p.m. Schaetzer was then arrested and placed under \$500 bonds, and is now out on bail. Drs. Bock and Gunther held a post-mortem examination and a coroner's jury brought in a verdict to the effect that he came to his death from the effect of the blow upon his head. Deceased was born in 1847 in Germany and leaves a wife and four children. Schaetzer is also married and has a family.



Sheboygan Herald—October 30, 1886

Wm. Schaetzer charged with being the cause of Louis Eishold's death from striking him with a beer glass has been bound over to the Circuit Court under bonds of \$5,000; he secured bondsmen and is now out on bail.

Today, the legend of Louie - Jim McCabe and Mike Bieser of the Milwaukee Ale House, "after sifting through the hand written records that were fire damaged from a courthouse fire" they found that "Louie had it coming" and the fight was over a woman. He was picking a fight with another bar patron over the man's wife. After the scuffle moved outside, Louie was sent on his way bruised up. Near closing time Louie came back. A fight escalated and Schaetzer clocked Louie with the beer glass. Legend has it, an onlooker pried the beer from Louie's dying hands and toasted his lustful life.

The Vollrath Company in Photos



Above: A selection of Vollrath enamelware in a Dulin & Martin store window. Washington DC. Circa 1923.

At right: Sheboygan Press advertisement, 1914.

Below: Post card of the new Vollrath Company factory on the west side of Sheboygan.

Vollrath Enameled Ware
at Less Than Manufacturing Cost

Each and every article here advertised is useful in every kitchen.

Flat bottom speckled blue and white and white and white Tea Kettles in regular sizes, 7, 8 and 9, regular value 65c, 75c and 85c. Sale Price	39c
Seamless Tea Kettles in grey and white and white, sizes 7, 8 and 9. Values \$1.25 and \$1.50. Special Sale Price	59c
Majestic Blue Coffee and Tea Pots. Vollrath's finest blue ware, 1, 2, and 3 quart sizes, regularly sold at 40c, 50c and 60c. Sale Price	25c
Majestic White Coffee and Tea Pots. Majestic Ware in 3, 4 and 5 quart sizes, regularly sold at 65c, 75c and 85c. choice at	33c
10 Quart Milk Pans in Vollrath's white 25c value. Sale Price	10c
25c Seamless White Wash Basins. Special at	10c
3 1/2 Quart White Covered side handled Sauce Pots, 50c size. Sale Price	29c
Quart size Covered Buckets, white ware, 30c size at	19c
25c Two quart Blue Dippers. Sale Price	10c
Basting Spoons, all sizes, worth 10c, 12c and 14c. Your choice at	5c
Seamless Egg Pans, in white and white, 5 1/2, 6 and 7 inches, worth 15c, 18c and 20c. Choice at	7c
Seamless Egg Pans, in 10, 11 and 12 inch size. Worth 35c, 35c and 40c. Special at	14c

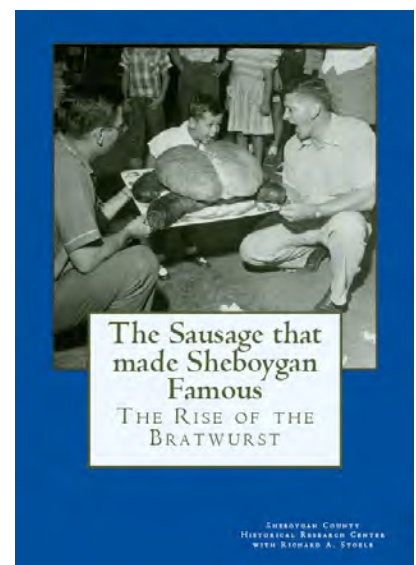
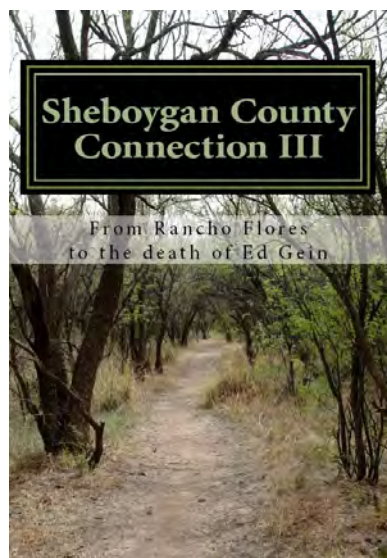
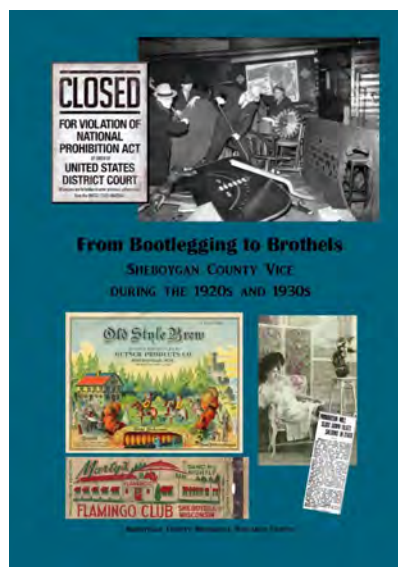


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**Coming this November
New in the Bookstore**



2016 SCHRC Fall Program Schedule

All programs are open to the public. Most are free of charge.
Second Saturdays is funded in part by a grant from the Wisconsin Humanities Council
and by the John and Hilda Holden Memorial Fund

(History on the Move) Cedar Grove Public Library

131 Van Altena Avenue, Cedar Grove

Time: 1:00pm - 2:30pm

Tuesday, November 15, 2016 - Dutch in the Midwest

(History on the Move) Oostburg Public Library

213 North 8th Street, Oostburg

1:00pm to 2:30pm

Tuesday, October 25, 2016 - Wartime Stories- Sheboygan County Experiences

Tuesday, November 29, 2015 - Sheboygan County Crime and Criminals

(Genealogy Classes) SCHRC

518 Water Street, Sheboygan Falls

1:00pm to 3:00pm \$15 members, \$20 non-members

Monday, November 14, 2016 - DNA and genealogy

Monday, December 12, 2016 - German Genealogy

Monday, January 9, 2017 - Research Work Day

Monday, February 13, 2017 - Research Work Day

(Genealogy Classes) Kiel Public Library

511 Third Street, Kiel

7:00pm to 8:30pm

Monday, November 21, 2016 - DNA and genealogy

Second Saturdays– Journeys Into Local History

Made possible by funding from the John and Hilda Holden Memorial Fund

Plymouth Arts Center, 520 East Mill Street, Plymouth

9:30am to 11:30am

November 12, 2016 Jerry Apps - Farm Memories from Yesterday

December 10, 2016 John Eastberg - Pabst Farms and TBA

January 14, 2017 Rochelle Pennington - The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald

February 11, 2017 Matthew Prigge– Milwaukee Mayhem - Murder and Mystery in the Cream City's
First Century.

March 11, 2017 Wendy Lutzke– The USS Cobia and Much More

April 8, 2017 Michael Jacobs - America Declares War on Germany, 1917

May 13, 2017 John Jenkins– Prohibition in Wisconsin's Holyland.

The Lincoln Series with Steven Rogstad—The Assassination of Abraham Lincoln

Tuesdays- October 18th and 25th, 2016

6:30pm-8:30pm

A Four-Part Series

Sheboygan County Historical Museum—3110 Erie Avenue, Sheboygan.

The Lincoln assassination is one of the most prominent – and also one of the most misunderstood – events in American history. Aside from the acknowledged fact that Lincoln was murdered by John Wilkes Booth in Ford's Theater, most of what people think they know about Lincoln's murder is wrong and do not associate the crime with the Civil War, or as a natural result of it.

Session 3 examines it as a Simple Conspiracy.

Session 4 studies a myriad of other conspiracy theories.