

LOST PLACES

LISBON

On the southwest shore of Lake Sheboygan (today's Sheboygan Marsh), adjacent to the western county line (in the town of Greenbush), was depicted a town called Lisbon, with beautiful parks and avenues, a spacious harbor emptying its waters into the lake, and a number of large vessels riding at anchor near the huge wharves. The Sheboygan River was pictured as being the source of wonderful water power, swift and powerful enough to operate large mills. Lisbon never materialized.

BEAR LAKE

Comprised of about 165 acres four miles southwest of Greenbush, Bear Lake is a swamp. By the 1920s it was a mecca for sportsmen and hunters, a feeding ground for ducks and home to the largest muskrat farm in the state of Wisconsin.

The Researcher

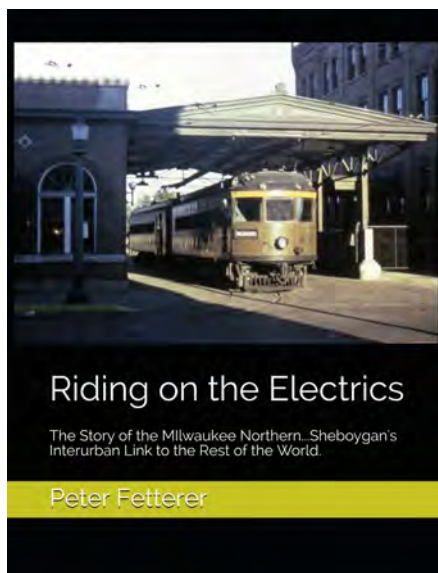
**The Newsletter of the Sheboygan County
Historical Research Center**

Volume XXIV Number 2 December 2018

The Researcher is sponsored by Jay Christopher of Christopher Farm & Gardens.

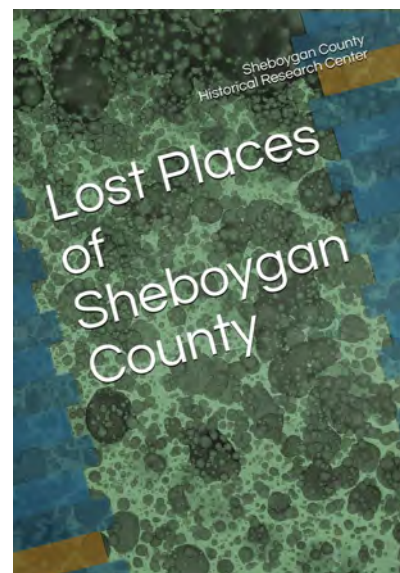


Newest Publications



Riding on the Electrics - The Story of the Milwaukee Northern. . .

Sheboygan's interurban link to the rest of the world.
By Peter Fetterer
\$20.00



Lost Places of Sheboygan County

Our lost settlements were once vibrant centers of life and work in Sheboygan County. We'll take a trip back to reconnect with many.
By SCHRC
\$15.00

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 9:00am to 12:00 noon.

Closed Saturday, December 22, 2018 through Wednesday, January 2, 2019 for the holidays.

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 53085.

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.

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“LET’S DEVELOP OUR CENTER”

Steven K. Rogstad
Director of Development

As we approach the end of a year and the start of another, it is appropriate for us to appreciate our accomplishments in 2018. This year the Center has witnessed many successes in its quest to save and share history:

- 1) The Center acquired several new major collections, including records and photographs for Mayline Furniture Company, Ballhorn Funeral Home, St. Andrew’s Lutheran Church, and Sheboygan Press.
- 2) The Center conducted a 4-day bus tour to Springfield, Illinois, to visit sites associated with Abraham Lincoln.
- 3) The Center continued processing and digitizing a 100,000+ photograph collection from the Sheboygan Falls & Plymouth Review, tax records for Sheboygan County, and 30,000+ photographs from Sheboygan Press.
- 4) The Center hosted another year of engaging and entertaining programs for Second Saturdays, History on the Move, Lincoln Seminar, and genealogy studies.

Yet, the cost of conducting preservation and programs continues to rise. One way the Center can meet its costs is by having current members renew and attracting new members.

IT’S MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME!

Our members are at the heart of everything we do at the Research Center, from document and photograph preservation to outreach programming, special events, and engaging research activities. When you visit, you will see the impact of your support in our archives, which allows people to learn about their families, houses, business, nationality, and culture. If you attend a program as part of “History on the Move” or “Second Saturdays, Journeys into Local History,” you are learning intriguing stories associated with the history of the greater Sheboygan area.

Have you renewed your membership? If not, please renew today. The Center is also asking current members to sponsor a new member for 2019. It is a great opportunity for you to share with others what the Center does and expand its visibility in the area. Did you know that if every SCHRC member sponsored a new member for one year at the \$45.00 level, the Center would raise \$36,000! Imagine what new programs and projects could be realized with just that one small effort!

The Center has established a goal of increasing its membership base by 10% in 2018-2019. We are looking for 80 new members. So far, 26 individuals have joined or been sponsored. Won’t you help today by giving a neighbor, friend, relative or co-worker a membership?

Please help the Center during this holiday season by giving the gift of membership and bringing a new member to the organization. A membership would make a fun stocking-stuffer for a family member or friend!

Please feel free to contact me with your ideas, suggestions, and recommendations for enhancing our fundraising efforts. You can contact me at 920-467-4667, or email me at steverogstad@schrc.org.

Best wishes to you for a happy, fun, and prosperous 2019!

Sincerely,
Steven K. Rogstad
Director of Development

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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

NEW RESEARCH CENTER MEMBERS THIS QUARTER

Beth A. Allcox - New Holstein, WI
Chris Allred - Jenks, OK
Helen L. Bifano - Spring Hill, FL
Charles Born, Sheboygan Falls, WI
Christina A. Dalrymple - Aurora, IL
Kathleen S. Foust - Sheboygan, WI
Michele Hofmaier, Campbellsport, WI
Allison Markus, Sheboygan Falls, WI
Shirley K. Miller, Kewaskum, WI
Bambi J. Schultze - Shorewood, WI
Sandra Lee Williams - Kohler, WI
Waldo State Bank - Waldo, WI

NEW SPONSORED MEMBERS AND THEIR SPONSORS FOR THIS QUARTER

Helen & Ernie Baumann - Sheboygan, WI (sponsored
by Joe Zagozen)
James Gerend & Family - Cedar Grove, WI
(sponsored by Jacob Gerend)

Ann & Jon Keckonen - Sheboygan (sponsored by Robert Gorges)
Gillian Kohler - Barrington, IL (sponsored by Victoria Kohler)
Bette & Bernie Lemkuil - Monona, WI (sponsored by Mary Te Stroete)
Mary Day & Mark Mantia - Sheboygan, WI
(sponsored by Marjorie Giesen)
Mary Jo & Paul Mesich - Sheboygan, WI (sponsored
by Marjorie Giesen)
Kenneth Odom - Plymouth, WI (sponsored by David Gallianetti)
Tom & Kathy Strojinc - Sheboygan Falls, WI
(sponsored by Marjorie Giesen)
Carl & Lynn Vollrath - Sheboygan Falls, WI
(sponsored by Wayne Warnecke)
Julian Wassink - Merrill, WI (sponsored by Marilyn Hanson)
Bill & Ellie Westphalen - Plymouth, WI (sponsored by Nancy Jusky)
Jim & Jennifer Willaert - Plymouth, WI (sponsored by Robert Harker)

THE SHEBOYGAN PRESS, Wednesday, November 29, 1961 25



ABOUT 400 PEOPLE TOOK PART in the Plymouth Chamber of Commerce's tree lighting ceremony which signaled the start of the holiday shopping season. Prizes were given to children with the best costumes. From left, are Peggy

Stuerwald, dressed as St. Joseph; Kathy Riese, majorette; Barbara Stuerwald, as Mary, and Lynne and Karen Mikologic, angels. The tree lighting ceremony followed a parade through the business district. — (Erbstoesser photo)



GARTON TOY LOGO AND MOTTO

GOOD TOYS SINCE 1879

For more than 95 years beginning in 1879, the Garton Toy Company played Santa Claus and created great Christmases for children everywhere. They manufactured the coaster wagons, sleds, tricycles, scooters and pedal cars of which we all dreamed. At one time, Garton was the largest wheel goods toy factory in the world.

Company founder, Eusebius Bassingdale Garton was born near Toronto, Canada in 1843 of English immigrants. E.B. arrived in America in 1864, finding employment at Jos. Richardson's sawmill in Sheboygan

Falls driving an oxen dray in the lumberyard.

E.B. had his first epiphany concerning toys while working for Sheboygan Carriage Company. Legend has it that young Garton put four wooden wheels on one of the cigar boxes manufactured there because he envisioned a "motion conveyance having play value for children" – a complicated explanation for toys, but then and there a toy dynasty began.

Garton Toy started in a small frame woodworking shop along the north bank of the Sheboygan River near the Eighth Street Bridge. It initially manufactured anything and everything that was needed by consumers including cigar boxes, washboards and fish boxes. But, as time passed, production moved toward toys. By 1882, the nation's first coaster wagon, all-wooden in construction - even wheels and axles - was introduced by the firm. The year 1887 brought one of Garton's first catalogs featuring the new Pony Express wagon with iron wheels instead of wood.

As the century progressed new products were introduced, stick horses, fancy willow carriages, hooded toy cra-



1929 GARTON TOY FIRE – THE DAY THE CITY WENT WILD



E.B. GARTON, COMPANY FOUNDER

dles, a child's parlor swing and a striped wagon that could be pulled by a dog or goat.

In 1890, the company suffered heavy financial loss when fire levelled the plant after sparks from the smoke stack of the neighboring Halsted factory ignited Garton Toy.

After considering and rejecting a move to Chicago, a new and larger factory was built on property at North Water Street and Niagara Avenue in Sheboygan. This new factory employed 150 and was logically outfitted with a primitive sprinkler system, albeit state-of-the-art for the time.

For the next 50 years Garton Toy introduced something new to the toy market annually. The company's first star was an iron velocipede, a forerunner of the tricycle. It had large spoke, metal wheels, a fiber seat and wooden handlebars. Next came the sled, introduced in 1915 at a time when Garton Toy Company was recognized as a leader in the toy industry. An ironclad wagon, a revision of the original wooden one, also appeared sometime around 1915.

Soon after came sidewalk autos or pedal cars. They ranged from deluxe models like the Pierce Arrow to more mundane brands like the Buick. The most distinctive toy in company history was the 1950 Garton Kidillac.

Wheel goods with metal bodies became the company's specialty through the decades after 1920. The steel body wagon arrived in 1929. Within the toy trade, the color of those much-loved coaster wagons and tricycles was known simply as "Garton Red."

Disaster struck the company again on May 31, 1929, when the largest fire in the city of Sheboygan's history consumed Garton Toy for a second time. The Sheboygan Press deemed it "the day the city went wild". The fire began in the bark house of American Hide and Leather. The days and weeks preceding had been abnormally hot and dry. A steady wind from the southwest fanned the flames that soon spread to Garton and other nearby wood-frame houses.

Within minutes the area was a raging inferno and Garton Toy was a pile of smoking rubble. But, ever resilient, Garton was up and running again, putting employees back to work with cleanup and construction. Within months of the fire, in 1930, Garton Toy became the biggest producer of baby walkers in the world.

Sleds made up about 15% of the sales in the later years of Garton Toy Company, 50% of the sleds in the United States were produced in Sheboygan. At peak, sleds were produced at the rate of 2,000 a day. The one millionth sled was produced in 1958, number 2,000,000 in 1962.

The toy business was good, and Garton Toy sought to expand, opening a new plant north of Sheboygan on LS in 1964.

But, all good things must come to an end. The introduction of plastics to the toy industry and increased government regulation led to Garton's demise. Sale of the company to a finance and investment organization based in Milwaukee was announced in February 1973.



GARTON TOY COASTER WAGON IN GARTON RED



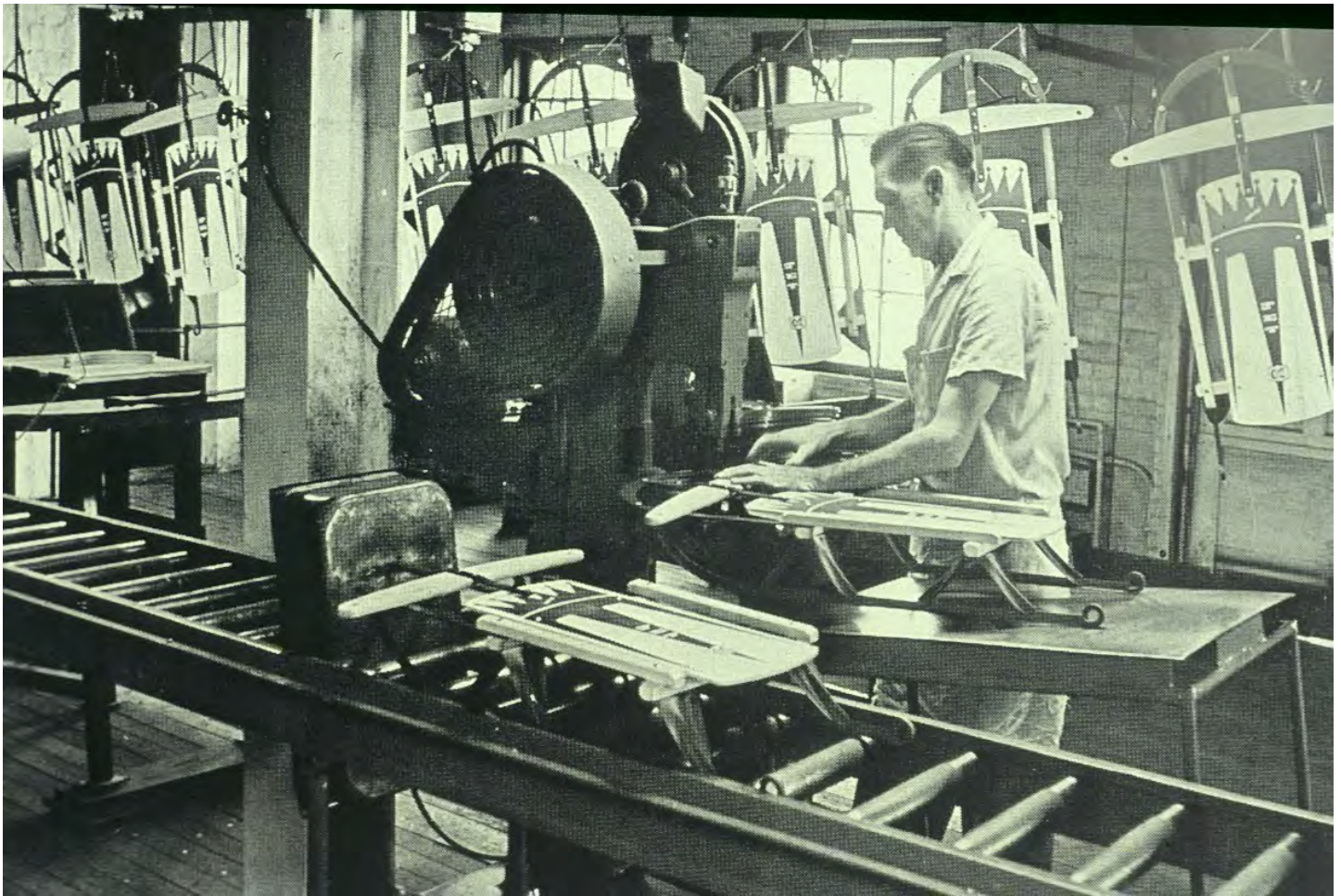
The plant on LS was eventually sold to Kohler Company. The old Garton factory on Water Street became the Garton Toy Apartments.

Regrettably, the company is gone, but what we have of the firm whose name was synonymous with Christmas and whose motto was Good Toys Since 1879, are fond memories and outstanding collector toys.

THE COMPANY PRODUCED THE TOYS OF EVERY CHILDS' DREAMS- COASTER WAG-ONS, SLEDS AND PEDAL CARS AND TRACTORS. HERE WE SEE GARTON EMPLOYEES, WILLIAM MOHR AND JOHN HINTZLEMAN PAINTING AT TOYS IN 1941.

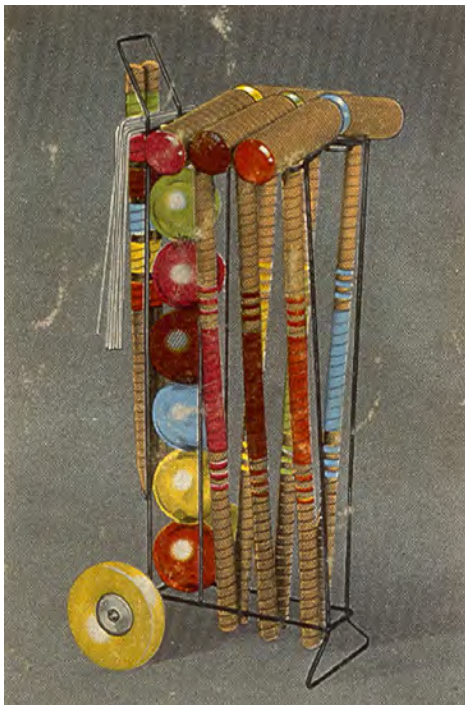


AFTER CONSIDERING A MOVE TO CHICAGO FROM ITS FIRST FIRE, THE PROPERTY ON NORTH WATER STREET AND NIAGARA AVENUE WAS PURCHASED AND A NEWER, LARGER FACTORY WAS COMPLETED. THE NEW FACTORY, SEEN HERE, EMPLOYED 150 AND WAS OUTFITTED WITH A SPRINKLER SYSTEM. A SHEBOYGAN COUNTY NEWS ARTICLE OF JANUARY 27, 1892 MENTIONED GARTON TOY CO. SET TWENTY-FIVE MEN AT WORK PREPARING FOR A FOUNDATION FOR THE NEW 4 STORY FACTORY.



SLED CONSTRUCTION AT GARTON TOY

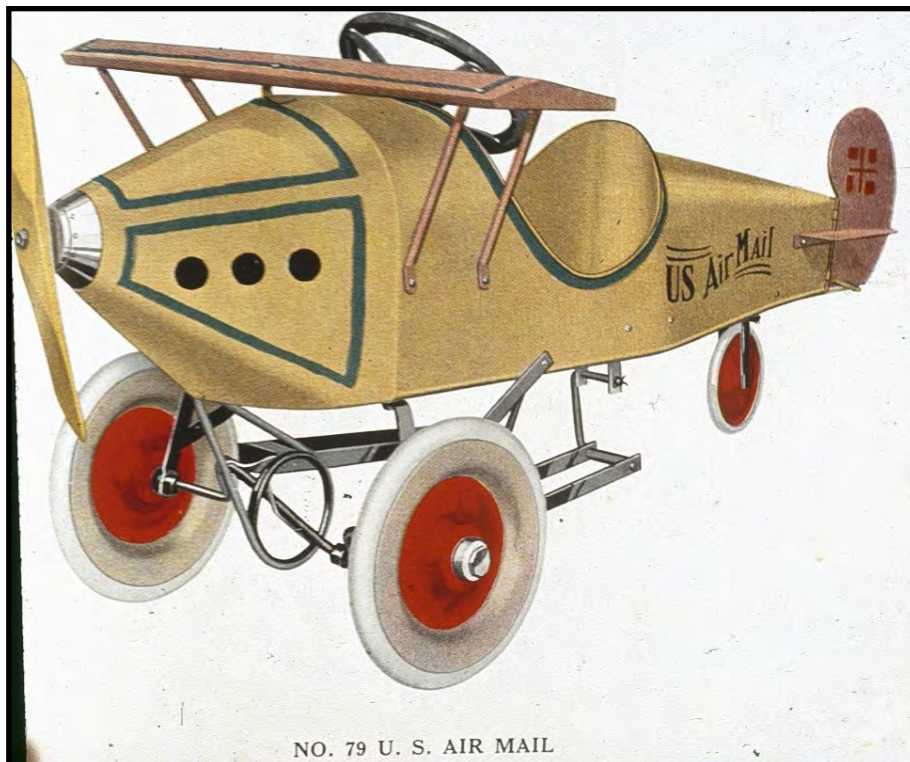
**CROQUET SET, THE KIDILLAC (1950) AND THE SNO-FLAKE
SNOW SAUCER, ALL GARTON TOY PRODUCTS**



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A SUCCESSFUL BUS TRIP TO SPRINGFIELD!

Over 30 people toured the greater Springfield, Illinois, September 17-21, marking the very first time the Center has hosted a motor coach bus tour! Attendees received substantial tours of the Lincoln Tomb, Lincoln Home, Old State Capitol, New Salem Village, current State Capitol, Dana Thomas Home, Illinois State Museum, Lincoln's Church, Illinois, and the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library & Museum. The book stores in the gift shops at the Lincoln Home and the Presidential Museum were huge hits!

I want to thank all who came along on this very first bus trip in support of the Center and its programs. Personalized Tours organized this splendid 4-day tour in such a way that we ended each day hungering for more, and looking forward to the next day! We rubbed Lincoln's nose at his tomb (a bronze bust version – not the real thing!), talked our way into Lincoln's church (which was technically closed, but we all professed to be Presbyterians), watched Lincoln movies, ate great food, read good literature, and enjoyed singing, "Battle Hymn of the Republic." It was a great time.

Many people are asking me: **"Where are we going next year?"** Well, I am already working with Personalized Tours on a **4-day bus tour to Kentucky and Indiana next fall** to see the sites of Lincoln's youth. You will be able to sign up in January. I hope you will come along to see some sites you may have never seen, learn more about the great Abraham Lincoln, and experience American history. More details will be forthcoming. I will keep you posted.

Have a great holiday season and I am looking forward to an active and enjoyable 2019!

Best Wishes,
Steven K. Rogstad
Director of Development
a.k.a. "The Lincoln Man"



SEPTEMBER 2018 SCHRC TOUR TO SPRINGFIELD, IL –ARRIVING AT ABRAHAM AND MARY LINCOLN'S HOME.



2018 SPRINGFIELD TOUR

Above: The Dana Thomas home - A Frank Lloyd Wright creation.

At right: Rubbing Abe's nose for good luck.

Lower right: Lincoln's grave - the original burial site. This was a temporary burial site until a permanent site could be constructed.

Bottom: Lincoln's cabin at New Salem village.

