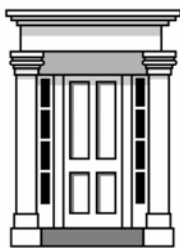


SHEBOYGAN COUNTY



HISTORICAL
RESEARCH
CENTER

This new website project
was supported by Kohler
Co. and The Perry Fund.

Check out
HISTORY AND YOU

Steven Rogstad talks his-
tory on the radio with
Terry Stevenson.

You can access them all,
right here.

Go to [schrc.org/about/
media](http://schrc.org/about/media)

Go to schrc.org/events for
the full line-up of events
over the next few months.

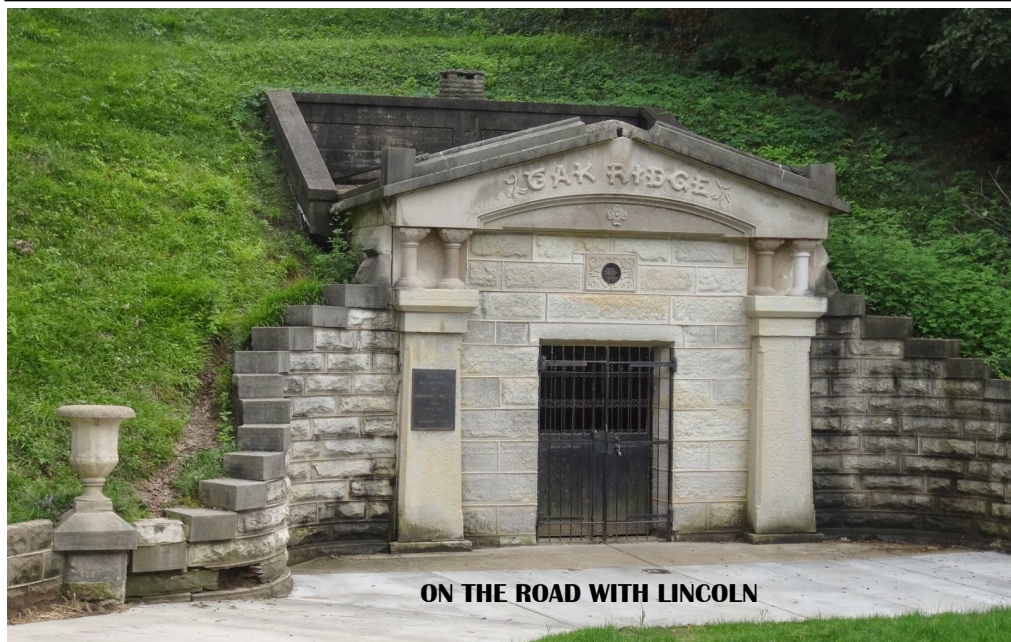
New things added every
week

The Researcher

The Newsletter of the Sheboygan County
Historical Research Center

Volume XXIV Number 5 June 2019

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



SCHRC Launches New Website

The Research Center has launched a new website. We have the same website address: schrc.org, but there is so much more information on the site. And so much more to come.

On the HOME PAGE you can see what's in the Spotlight. Right now it's the Black Hawk Symposium. You can access old newsletters under MEMBERSHIP. Under SHOP you can buy all of our great local history books, memberships and sign up for seminars and symposiums.

Under ABOUT you can find our MEDIA PAGE. There you'll find HISTORY AND YOU radio spots (all new) and YouTube videos that feature SCHRC.

New items appear every day. Soon the Sheboygan Press articles will be available as will a new weekly column - similar but online.

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 Thursday, July 4 through Saturday, July 6, 2019 for Independence Day Weekend.

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.

SCHRC Board of Directors

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**Check out
schrc.org**

**And SCHRC
on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/schrc.org)**

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.

New Members — WELCOME!

Linda Laun, Sheboygan, WI, LEGACY

Larry Schaefer of Legend Larry's, Sheboygan Falls, WI, LEGACY

Barbara Zanzig, Bothell, WA, LEGACY

Paul Connolly, Green Bay, WI - INDIVIDUAL

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Colleen Fitzpatrick, FORT WORTH, TX - FAMILY

Mark Hanson, Tucson, AZ - SUPPORTING

Ann Hoppert Keller, Sheboygan - SUPPORTING

Barry Keippel, Campbellsport - INDIVIDUAL

Connie Michaels-Lipp, Colorado Springs, CO - INDIVIDUAL

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Barbara Schirmer, Cleveland, WI - INDIVIDUAL

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Ruth Helen Stokdyk, Oostburg - SENIOR

Kurt Thuemmler, Sheboygan - INDIVIDUAL

Harold J. Ziegler, Plymouth, WI - SENIOR

Mugs for Membership Facebook campaign was a great success!

SCHRC sponsored a quick campaign on Facebook for new members, Mugs for Membership. Eleven people met the challenge. Two others made a generous donation to Mugs for Membership. Thanks to all of you. A goal of \$400 was set. \$550 was raised in support of SCHRC.

Remember SCHRC provides access to local history records free to everyone. We receive no government support and need your support. Memberships keep the lights on and the programs coming. We need you for success.

SCHRC Board of Directors

Many thanks David Gallianetti, outgoing member of the board of directors. David served for nine years, giving many hours of service to the Research Center.

New board member, Scott Peschke, begins his service to SCHRC this June. Scott is a retire physician from Plymouth with a great love of history.

Thanks to all of our board members for their service!

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



LET'S DEVELOP OUR CENTER

Steven K. Rogstad
Director of Development

I want to ask you a personal question: What will your legacy be? Have you thought about it? Many people associate what they believe will be their legacy to their career, their role as a parent or grandparent, their service to the community or church, or the causes they are passionate about.

We are two months into our Annual Campaign, which is an excellent opportunity to consider a legacy gift to the Center. Have you considered how your legacy could be permanently attached to regional research, historical programming, collections acquisition, care and management, facility enhancements, publications, and history-related activities? Deciding to add a line in your Will that gives 10% of your estate to the Research Center would be a generous act that could transform the organization for future generations. This is a wonderful way to commemorate your family name, set aside funds for an endowment, and continue the development of your Center. Where is your estate going? I hope you will consider making plans to use some of it to benefit the Research Center.

ANNUAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

This year's goal is \$51,000. You may recall my saying back in April that we have received commitments from donors who are providing matching gifts up to that amount. We have the potential to make \$50,000 - or more- in matching monies if we raise \$51,000 from our members and supporters. To date, we have received nearly \$40,000 from our members, so let's keep the momentum going! The more money we raise ourselves, the more money we make for the Center this year! Let's think big, dig deep, and make a huge impact!

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

I am excited to report that the Center has acquired 34 new members since last December. Another 14 individuals have become members because a current member has sponsored them. That's 48 new members! Bravo to our sponsors!

Have you renewed your membership for 2019? 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 our visibility in the area. Won't you help today by giving a neighbor, friend, relative, or co-worker a membership?

MEDIA UPDATES

The Center recently launched its updated website. Please check it out at www.schrc.org. You will see regular updates on individual pages. There will also be pages for our enlarged media presence, which includes an archive of our current radio series, "History and You," on WLKN FM 98.1. We will soon be introducing videos that profile the Center's collections, events, and activities. The Center was also featured in the May 10 issue of the Sheboygan Falls News.

TAPROOM HISTORY

Over 120 people have attended the first two sessions of the Center's new program series, "Taproom History," which is being held at The Fat Cow Eatery & Pub in Sheboygan Falls. The third and final program, "Did Lincoln's Assassin Get Away with Murder? The Mummy of John Wilkes Booth," will be held on Thursday, August 15, at 6:30 p.m. We hope to see you there! What could be a better way of learning history than while eating good food and enjoying a beverage?

LINCOLN BUS TRIP

We already have 20 people signed up for our fall bus tour, October 14-17, 2019, to see the sites of Lincoln's youth in Kentucky and Indiana. A couple of added sites will be Louisville Slugger Museum, Mrs. Lincoln's childhood home in Lexington, and a dinner show at the Derby Dinner Playhouse (the Play will be Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery). Personalized Tours will be again conducting the tour. Reservations are already being accepted. Seating will go fast! Contact Personalized @920-528-7600 to make reservations.

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

Thank you for all you do to support and help develop our Research Center!

A Look Back at the Beginning Sheboygan's Very Own Chordettes



The Chordettes with Fred Waring
Sheboygan Press photo

The Chordettes were formed in Sheboygan, Wisconsin in 1946 as a barbershop quartet and by 1947 had bookings to sing all across the United States. Beginning in 1949 they were regulars on the Arthur Godfrey Show for almost four years. In 1953, they tried a different kind of music and the following year, recorded, “Mr. Sandman” a song that would reach number one on the pop charts and sell over two million copies. From 1956 to 1959, the Chordettes had a song on the top 100 chart almost every week.

On October 12, 1946 the Manitowoc chapter of the S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A. held their second annual parade of quartettes show at the Manitowoc Lincoln High School. The emcee was King Cole with help from “Milton (The Great) Detjen” according to the *Manitowoc Herald-Times* of October 14, 1946. One of the quartettes in this male dominated show, were the Chordettes from Sheboygan. The Chordettes received only a one-sentence mention in the article, which was found on page two, but they managed to get their picture on the front page of the paper. The *Herald-Times* caption stated, “Something new has been added-A pleasant surprise at the Parade of Quartets Saturday night at Lincoln High School auditorium was the Chordettes, four winsome girl singers of Sheboygan. Recently organized to sing ballads the barbershop way, Virginia Osborn, tenor; Dorothy Hummertsch, lead; Alice Phelps, baritone; and Janet Ertel, bass, presented “Tell Me Why” and “The World is Waiting for the Sunrise” as their regular numbers and “Lullaby” in the finale with the chorus and combined quartets.”

Ten days later, the *Press* again reported about the Chordettes entertaining at a beer wholesaler’s convention. The *Press* said, about this event, “The Chordettes, female members of the barbershop quartettes, were in Chicago on Sunday and Monday, where they sang before the National Beer Wholesalers’ convention at the Stevens Hotel. On Monday, they met Don McNeill and after being his guests at breakfast, sang for their meal,



Above is a postcard photo showing the private dining room of the Heidelberg Club. Fred Waring and the Chordettes were here for a dinner and program on March 15, 1947, before appearing at the Sheboygan Armory.
(Scott Lewandoske collection)

over his “Breakfast In Hollywood” show on Monday morning.” This was the first time that the Chordettes performed on radio.

Don McNeill’s “Breakfast Club” radio show started in 1933 and would be on radio for 35 ½ years. When McNeill retired in 1968, he had the longest running uninterrupted show in radio history. McNeill promoted Sheboygan on his radio shows, even though he was born in Galena, Illinois. But at the age of three, he moved with his family to Sheboygan, Wisconsin, where he attended St. Clement’s Catholic School and graduated from the Sheboygan High School in 1925. He was known as “Sheboygan’s Gift To Radio.” When the Chordette’s appeared on his radio show, he was living in Chicago, but his parents, Mr. And Mrs. Harry McNeill were still living in Sheboygan.

In March 1947, the Fred Waring show came to Sheboygan with the Chordettes as headliners. Tickets on the main floor of the Armory cost \$3.60. The cheap seats/nose bleed/obstructed view were \$1.20.

Following the show at the Armory on March 15th, the Sheboygan Press reported, in their Monday, March 17th issue, “Largest Crowd In History Of Armory Acclaims Fred Waring And Troupe As Tops In Shows.” The article that followed stated, “The largest audience ever assembled there since the armory was built, on Saturday night, acclaimed Fred Waring and his Pennsylvanians, the finest entertainment treat ever seen or heard in these parts.”

The Chordettes were and still are a wonderful part of Sheboygan’s history.



Lucille and Robert Matzner with son Richard (center, front) 18 months, at displaced persons' camp in Germany. Seen at center left side with baby waiting to be taken to the ship for journey to USA. (Robert, Lucille, Murray Matzner collection)

The Gift of Freedom

To immigrants who battled hunger, political turmoil, religious persecution and rough seas, Liberty Enlightening the World, aka the Statue of Liberty, was a welcoming beacon on the shores of a new life.

For many, the sight of it as they entered New York Harbor, allowed them, for the first time, to hope for freedom and a chance at something great

Yet, in truth, the statue wasn't created to provide solace for immigrants; it was created to pay tribute to the United States of America and the concept of democracy.

A gift from the French, construction faced delays from the beginning – political unrest in France and apathy in America. It took nearly two decades build. Work lasted from 1875-1885.

Joseph Pulitzer, editor of the New York World newspaper, finally took charge here in the States in 1884 and raised the needed funds to build the base.

Bedloe's Island, later Liberty Island, at the entrance to New York's inner harbor, was chosen as the site for the statue because all vessels entering the port passed by. What an impact it would have! What a view!

Frederic Bartholdi, the man hired to produce the colossus in France, created a sculpture of a woman holding a torch in her raised right hand and a tablet engraved with July 4, 1776, in her left.

Bartholdi and crew hammered large copper sheets to create the statue's "skin", a technique called repousse. A miracle of both art and engineering, the skin was mounted on a frame built by Alexandre Eiffel, of Eiffel Tower fame. He built the skeleton out of iron pylon and steel with a system that allowed the copper skin to move independently from the skeleton, a design feature necessary to deal with the strong winds it would face in the wide open expanse of New York Harbor.

Once complete, the statue was disassembled, packed in crates and shipped to New York. Arriving in June 1885, it took four months to reassemble and mount on the pedestal. Finally, on October 28, 1886, President Grover Cleveland dedicated the 305 foot Statue of Liberty in front of thousands of spectators.

The statue may have been designed to shine a light on democracy, but America's immigrants claimed her as their own. By 1914, she welcomed some 22,000,000 refugees.

Those famous words written in 1883 by Emma Lazarus grace the base. "Give me your tired, your poor/Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free." Her simple sonnet captured the spirit of the monument. That very spirit is evident in words written by two of our own immigrants.

Robert Matzner, a refugee from Poland and a resident of Sheboygan, remembered the first glimpse of his adopted country in 1949. "We approached New York harbor in early December. It was a dark night, around two o'clock in the morning. The docks were quiet and not in operation at that time. The Statue of Liberty came into view. The giant lady was wrapped in complete darkness, but her face was illuminated by the bright electric torch, which she held in her right hand.

The upper decks (of the ship) were crowded with a mass of people who came to see the statue. The ship was slowly gliding past, and everyone gazed upwards at her face in complete silence. It was a magic moment, which we DP's (displaced persons) savored, while coming face to face with Lady Liberty. This lady up there, she looked really nice. It was like a dream."

Dr. Arved Ashby, longtime physician at the Sheboygan Clinic, himself an immigrant from Estonia, wrote about his first encounter with Lady Liberty. "I remember that morning in August of 1951 when our old military transport ship, the General Blatchford, reached New York harbor. I was pressed against the ship's railing by the crowd of immigrants behind me. My eyes were fixed on the blurred horizon when suddenly the morning fog lifted, and the Statue of Liberty appeared majestically out of the mist. The harbor was bustling with ships. Their horns filled the air like a cacophonous symphony for the skyscrapers, their windows ablaze in the morning sun. . . It was an unforgettable moment! After years of intermittent hope and disappointment, it had become reality. I was full of high hope and exhilaration."

So on this Independence Day 2019, it is fitting to remember a quote from the July 4, 1986 edition of the New York Times at the time of the statue's restoration, "Architects and engineers created her form, but millions of immigrants and their children and grandchildren who heard their stories created her spirit."

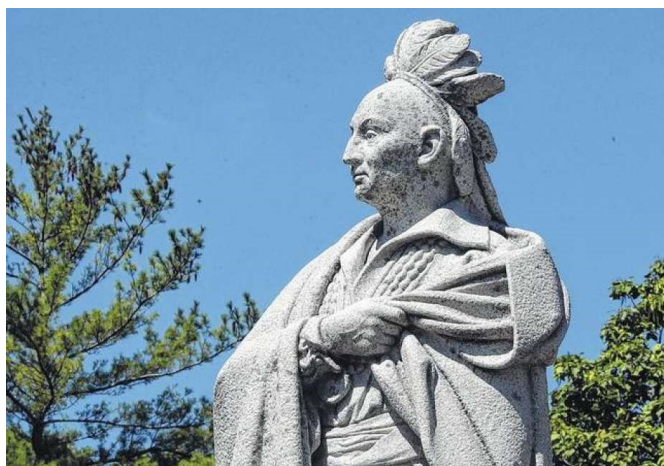


Dr. Arvid Ashby

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BLACK HAWK WAR SYMPOSIUM

“Dissolving Myths & Legends: Rivalries, Allies, Histories & Cultures that Shaped the Black Hawk War”

This one-day symposium (Nov. 2, 2019) will feature four well-known scholars discussing different aspects of one of Wisconsin’s most interesting historical events. **Suitable for all learners. This is not an academic conference.** Held at the Plymouth Arts Center, the day lasts from 9am to 3pm.

Speakers include: Dr. Patrick Jung of MSOE, Dr. Kerry Trask, ret. UW-Manitowoc, Dr. Libby Tronnes, Bradley University and Steven K. Rogstad.

The Black Hawk War was brief but bloody war from April to August 1832 between the United States and Native Americans led by Black Hawk, a 65-year-old Sauk warrior who in early April led some 1,000 Sauk, Fox, and Kickapoo men, women, and children, including about 500 warriors, across the Mississippi River to reclaim land in Illinois that tribal spokesmen had surrendered to the U.S. in 1804. The band’s crossing back into Illinois spurred fear and anger among white settlers, and eventually a force of some 7,000 mobilized against them.

SEE SCHRC.ORG/EVENTS/BLACK-HAWK-WAR-SEMINAR FOR MORE INFORMATION. THERE IS A FEE \$\$.



2019 - 2020 SCHRC Program Schedule

All programs are open to the public. Most are free of charge.
See schrc.org and our Facebook page for more information

Taproom History

Thursday, August 15, 2019

Fat Cow Pub

6:30 to 7:30pm

Did Lincoln's Assassin Get Away with Murder? The Mummy of John Wilkes Booth

Genealogy Classes

518 Water Street, Sheboygan Falls

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

Monday, September 9, 2019 Finding and Using Church Records

Monday, October 14, 2019 Mapping the Course for Your Great Ancestral Hunt

Monday, November 11, 2019 Using Ancestry.com and Family Search (location to be announced)

Monday, December 9, 2019 Mastering Online Newspapers Resources (location to be announced)

Monday, January 13, 2020 Work Day

Monday, February 10, 2020 Work Day

The Lincoln Lectures - The Lincoln Douglas Debates

Tuesdays, October 1, 8, 22, 29

Sheboygan County Historical Museum

3110 Erie Avenue, Sheboygan, Wisconsin

6:30pm to 8:30pm

On the Road With Lincoln Bus Tour

Monday through Thursday, October 14 - October 17, 2019

This bus trip will take the group to the sites of Lincoln's youth in Kentucky and Indiana. A couple of added sites will be Louisville Slugger Museum, Mrs. Lincoln's childhood home in Lexington, and a dinner show at the Derby Dinner Playhouse (the Play will be Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery. Reservations are already being accepted. Seating will go fast! Contact Personalized @920-528-7600 to make reservations.

For more information go to schrc.org/Events.

German Genealogy Seminar

Finding our German Ancestors in Europe with Antje Petty of Max Kade Institute

Saturday, October 19, 2019 9:00am to 3:00pm

Plymouth Arts Center

\$45 members, \$50 non-members

Register online at schrc.org or call SCHRC or send in the registration form.

Black Hawk War Symposium

Saturday, November 2, 2019 9:00am to 3:00pm

Plymouth Arts Center

\$50 fee Register online at schrc.org, call SCHRC or send in the registration form.

Second Saturdays- Journeys Into Local History

Plymouth Arts Center, 520 East Mill Street, Plymouth

9:30am to 11:30am

September 14, 2019 - Richard Bennett - Raising the Alvin Clark from the depths of Green Bay

October 12, 2019 - Jake Heffernan - Lighthouses of Door County

November 9, 2019 - Jerry Apps - The Quiet Season: Remembering Country Winters

December 14, 2019 - John Eastberg - Over the top with Milwaukee Victorians

January 11, 2020 - Steve Daily - Chudnow Museum of Yesteryear

February 8, 2020 - Dave Kuckuk - Maywood Now and Then

March 14, 2020 - Mystery Speaker - Myths and Lies in History

April 11, 2020 - Jack Mitchell - Wisconsin on the Air, 100 years of public broadcasting

May 9, 2020 - Chad Lewis - UFOs of Wisconsin including Dundee

German Genealogy Seminar - Saturday, October 19, 2019

“Finding Our German Ancestors in Europe”

A Workshop for Genealogists sponsored by SCHRC

9:00am to 3:00pm

\$45 members/\$50 non-members

Plymouth Arts Center, 520 East Mill Street, Plymouth

Our speaker for this workshop is Antje Petty. Antje is the Associate Director of the Max Kade Institute for German-American Studies at the University of Wisconsin in Madison. She shares the resources of the Institute with the community through lectures and workshops and has done extensive research on German-speaking immigrant families.

Session I “All I know is they were from Germany”

Session II “Lives lived and documented”

Session III “Finding documents from German-speaking Europe”

Session IV “Working with historical German documents”

This workshop is normally given only in Madison. We are lucky to have it here in Sheboygan County.

For more information, see our website, schrc.org/events/germangenealogy. You may register online or by calling SCHRC at 920.467.4667. Or you may mail your check to SCHRC, 518 Water Street, Sheboygan Falls, WI 53085.

On the Road with Lincoln Bus Tour

Abraham Lincoln Heritage Trail

The Early Years

October 14th - 19th, 2019

Join the Research Center and Abraham Lincoln expert, Steven Rogstad, on this four-day excursion along the Lincoln Heritage Trail. Listen to Steve’s captivating commentary as you explore the places in Indiana and Kentucky where Lincoln spent his youth. Visit President Lincoln’s birthplace, his early childhood home and the Lincoln museum. Tour Mary Todd Lincoln’s elegant family home and the Henry Clay estate in Lexington, KY. See how Louisville Slugger bats are made and enjoy a dinner performance at the Derby Dinner Playhouse.

Activity level is average. This is a new trip, with exciting and interesting Lincoln stops plus much more

For more information go to schrc.org/events. Contact Personalized @920-528-7600 to make reservations.

REGISTER NOW!