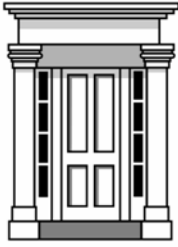


SHEBOYGAN COUNTY



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The Researcher

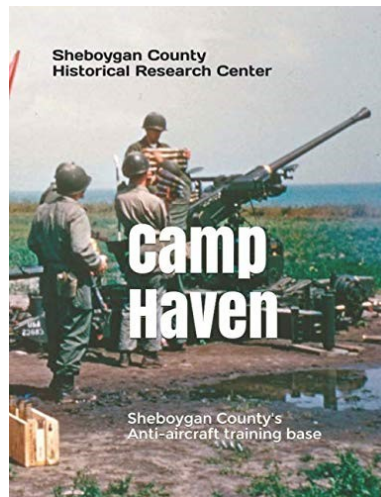
The Newsletter of the Sheboygan County
Historical Research Center

Volume XXV Number 2 December 2019

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



NEW BOOKS FOR THE HOLIDAYS



Camp Haven, Sheboygan County's Anti-aircraft Training Base, \$15.00

Situated along the western shore of Lake Michigan, just a bit north of Sheboygan in the township of Mosel is a tiny burg called Haven. Settled by German immigrants from the Moselle Region of Germany, the area was originally known as Seven Mile Creek.

Until the late 1940s, the area was strictly farmland, but because of its remote location, buffered by 118 miles of water to the east toward Michigan, it proved a suitable site for a military anti-aircraft training facility. For a decade,

from 1949 to 1959, it would be home to Camp Haven.

Troops came to Camp Haven from throughout the Midwest to train. The 109th AAA Brigade from Chicago, 800 men strong, were trained in August 1949 for coastal defense. It was the largest group of the year. The Lafayette, Indiana Journal and Courier published its annual reserve training schedule, and in 1952 had men from the 13-state Fifth Army area journeying to Camp Haven to train. The Belleville, Kansas National Guard, newly formed in 1950, sent its fourteen enlisted men and two officers to Camp Haven on its

cont. on page 8

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 December 22, 2019 through January 1, 2020 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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Program Schedule for December 2019

Second Saturdays– Journeys Into Local History
Plymouth Arts Center, 520 East Mill Street, Plymouth
9:30am to 11:30am

December 14, 2019 - John Eastberg - Over the top with Milwaukee Victorians & Great Buildings of the Cream City

Closed for the Holidays


SCHRC will be closed from Sunday, December 22, 2019 through Wednesday, January 1, 2020 for Christmas and New Years. Mark your calendar. Open again Thursday, January 2, 2020 at 9:00am.

Welcome New Members

Richard Bruinooge, Sheboygan
Joe Hand, Sheboygan Falls (sponsored by Jean Schott-Wagner)
Paul Hanson, Lincoln, NE
Mary Anne Hill, Oneida
Barb Jenkin, Spring Green
Debbie Osborn, Fond du Lac
Jim & Mary Parrish, Waldo
Rachael Patterson, Chicago, IL
Robert Timm, Sheboygan
Kerry Trask, Manitowoc
Libby Tronnes, Peoria, IL (sponsored by Steven Rogstad)
Jeffrey Vogel, Plymouth
Jeffrey Rammer Freye, Sheboygan Falls

For the book lovers in your life

New this season!



Sheboygan County Historical Research Center
518 Water Street, Sheboygan Falls, WI schrc.org

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



**“LET’S DEVELOP
OUR CENTER”**

Steven K. Rogstad
Director of Development

As we approach the holiday season, we are reminded once more that this is the time of the year that is based upon the principle of giving. We enjoy giving presents to our friends and family – watching their faces light up when they see that special gift that was selected just for them. It is also that time of year when we receive another opportunity to acknowledge the valuable work the Research Center is engaged in to preserve and teach regional history.

This year has been filled with both familiar and new programs that support the mission of the Center. There has been the nine months of our standard Second Saturdays and History on the Move. There has been the regular offering of genealogy classes to help people hone their research skills. We completed the 7th year of the Center’s annual Lincoln Seminar.

However, we have also introduced a few new programs that have been very well received. We offered three sessions of Taproom History at The Fat Cow in Sheboygan Falls. Around 60 people attended each session to learn about some edgy and unusual history subject. There was a bus trip to Kentucky and Indiana to visit sites associated with the life of Abraham Lincoln. In October, we saw sizeable audiences attend a German Genealogy Seminar and a Black Hawk War Symposium. The Symposium drew attendees from three states, some coming as far away as western Iowa! We anticipate the Symposium becoming an annual event. The Center will be publishing the papers delivered at the annual Symposium as part of the experience, and as a way to contribute to the literature on the subjects under discussion.

There has also been our introduction into the use of mass media. We share stories about local history on a weekly radio segment, “History and You,” which airs Monday mornings around 8:10 am on WKLN. You can also listen to these stories on the Center’s website at www.schrc.org. We are now in the planning stages for using videos and podcasts as a way to spread the word about the Center to larger and broader audienc-

es.

Of course, all of our exciting programs and initiatives – not to mention the collections care and management activities we are engaged in on a daily basis – come with a price. To meet costs, plan for the future, and keep the Center sustainable, the organization will be implementing three new fundraising activities between now and the end of the year: (1) a **“Giving Tuesday” Facebook event on December 3**, (2) an **End-of-the-Year Campaign, November 18 – December 31**, and (3) a **“Go Fund Me” Campaign, November 18- February 29, 2020**. Each of these campaigns will seek to raise funds for different projects associated with the Center.

These campaigns provide an excellent opportunity for *year-end giving*. Perhaps you have not yet contributed to the 2019 Annual Campaign. There is still time! As you celebrate this season of benevolence, please keep the Center in mind. Our good friend Justin Lorenz has once again agreed to sponsor Taproom History for 2020! Our long-time supporter and benevolent donor Jay Christopher of Christopher Farm & Gardens is sponsoring the newsletter for the third year! There are numerous ways members can sponsor and support events and new special projects. I hope you will consider sponsoring an event. *The time is NOW to act, so that your financial gift can achieve its benefit prior to December 31.*

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!

Have a great holiday season!

Sincerely,
Steve

Who Knew?

Since 1984, Canada and Denmark have fought over Hans Island by regularly visiting and planting their flag and national drink; Canadian whisky or Danish schnapps.

Winston Churchill is rumored to have smoked 16 cigars a day.

Between 1900 and 1920, Tug of War was an Olympic event.

Biography of Ira A. Bradford, Plymouth, Wisconsin Founder

David W. Bradford, PA, MBA | dbrad4d@gmail.com | October 29, 2019

Ira A. Bradford, one of the earliest settlers of Plymouth, Sheboygan County, Wisconsin¹ was born February 27, 1820 in Berkshire, Franklin County, Vermont.^{2,3} Ira was the oldest of 11 children of parents, Joseph and Persis Darrah-Bradford⁴ whose issue included James Nelson (b. 1822), Mary Ann (b. 1823), Percis (b. circa 1824), Fanny (b. 1825), Arwin Allison (b. 1828), Hiram H. (b. 1830), Loren James (b. 1833), Julia Ann (b. 1834), Hosea (b. circa 1835) and George Washington Bradford (b. 1836).

The Bradfords were Loyalists - loyal to England following the Revolutionary War.⁵ They may have been compelled to relocate north, nearer to the English controlled Eastern Townships in the Province of Quebec, Canada. Indeed, Berkshire, Vermont is within an easy walk to the Canadian border. Ira's father, Joseph was born c. 1785 possibly in Brattleboro, Windsor County, Vermont and died in Berkshire, Franklin County, Vermont in about 1835.⁶ Joseph was reportedly the son of John Bradford,^{7,8} and the grandson of Asa Bradford.⁹ Joseph had been married first to Susannah Washer (a.k.a., Hannah Eastman) before 1804,¹⁰ and by 1818, the marriage produced five children, all older half-siblings of our Ira: Charlotte (b. 1804), William (b. 1807), Charles (b. 1812), Mary (b. 1816) and John (b. 1818).¹¹ The dissolution of Joseph's first marriage, whether by death, abandonment or divorce, is unknown. Between 1818 and 1820, Joseph Bradford married his second wife, and Ira's mother, Percis (Percy) Darrah. She was the daughter of Loyalist Arthur (II) and Mary Ann Davidson-Darrah, both originally of Windham, Rockingham Co., New Hampshire¹² who had also relocated to far northern Vermont.

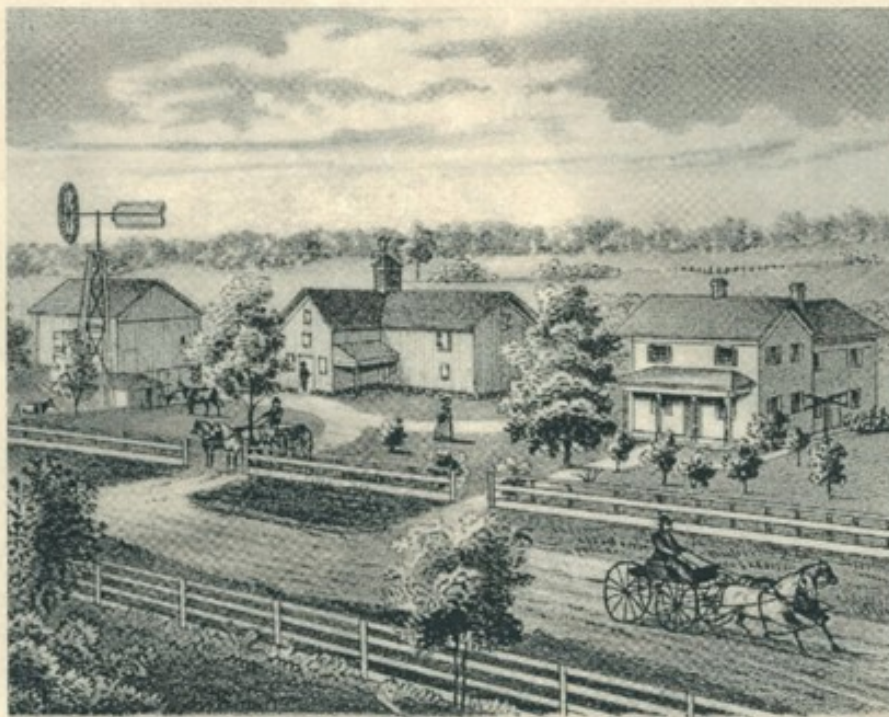
Ira's early life was difficult. Throughout his early teen years he worked his family's hard-scrabble Berkshire farm, but in about 1835, his father was killed by a falling tree.¹³ Joseph's death left nearly a dozen young orphans and a widow incapable supporting them. The experience of Ira's younger brother, Arwin Allison Bradford was typical: at age 7, and at the Town's expense, he was taken to the home of Dr. and Mrs. Webster, who never had any children of their own. They were quite exacting, and it was, of course, lonely without other children in the home, but Arwin grew to manhood and was married the day he was 21.¹⁴ Ira's experience is less clear, but at fifteen, he may have been old enough to take-on work and to live independently.

Little is known of Ira Bradford's late teen years, but he may have visited Syracuse, New York for a time, as this was the home of his future wife. This was an era of national expansion, and with the completion of the Erie Canal, opportunities called adventurous souls westward. At the age of 22, Ira was among the canal's early passengers to far-away Lake Erie. Like other pioneers, he then traveled across the Great Lakes by schooner to the eastern shores of the Wisconsin Territory,

and thereafter on foot to stake a claim in the wilderness. Ira first came to Sheboygan County in 1841 but only remained a few months when he returned to Syracuse.¹⁵ There he married Miss Sarah G. Sweeting in December 22, 1843.¹⁶ Sarah was born March 9, 1822 in Onondaga County, New York, the third of nine children of Cobb and Dorothy Magdalen Vossberg-Sweeting.

In 1846 Ira and Sarah returned to Sheboygan County and settled on a farm about two and one-half miles Northeast of Plymouth, where they remained until retirement.¹⁷ Ira's 80-acre farm was located in the eastern half of the north-western quarter of section 23 in Sheboygan County. Ira's son George owned an adjacent 50 acres to the east.¹⁸ By 1992, Ira's farm was owned and occupied by the Bill Heberleins of Plymouth.¹⁹

Ira and Sarah Bradford had 8 children.



RESIDENCE OF IRA A. BRADFORD, SEC. 23, PLYMOUTH TP. 1875



Six Sons of Ira A. Bradford

Their first-born, Helen (b. circa 1844) does not appear in the 1850 US Census,²⁰ but George W. (b. 1845), DeWitt A. (b. 1848), Charles Martin (b. 1850), Frank I. (b. 1852), Celia J. (b. 1855), Morton E. (b. 1857) and William N. (b. 1861) all lived to adulthood.²¹ All 6 of the Bradford sons were seasonal teachers²² and they were ardent abolitionists²³ and family legends holds that the family taking-in runaway slaves and assisting them reach safety at the Canadian border.

As the Civil War loomed, 1 in 9 Wisconsin residents (half of eligible voters) served in the army,²⁴ and the Bradfords of Plymouth, Wisconsin were no exception. With the knowledge that his farm was in the hands of his older sons, Ira Bradford enlisted in the Union Army on 28 Feb 1864.²⁵ For the times, he was an "elderly" 43, and with him, he took his 15-year-old son, DeWitt as a drummer boy.²⁶ Ira and DeWitt joined Company E, 36th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry and together they drilled at Camp Randall in Madison before the 36th mustered-in.

The 36th Regiment saw extensive service in the east, remaining near the nation's capital for the duration of the war. Its service included countering demonstrations, service in the Appomattox campaign and the Battle of Hatcher's Run.²⁷ Of its original and reinforced complement of 1,024 men,

the regiment lost 342 during service. Seven officers and 150 enlisted men were killed. Three officers and 183 enlisted men died from disease. Though depleted, the remaining men of the 36th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry had the satisfaction of witnessing Confederate General Robert E. Lee surrender at the Appomattox Courthouse as the Civil War drew to a close.²⁸

One of Ira's letters from the height of the War was published in *The History of Plymouth*:

We arrived at Washington the night of the 14th of May 1864, tired, hungry and dirty, crowded into a filthy building which had been used for a rebel prison. As it was Sunday, we had two good night's rest on the bare prison floor. Our rations were spoiled pork, fair bread and what was called coffee, though it could not be proven by Co. E. Nothing but bad thoughts about the Colonel. May 16th went by boat down the Potomac to Belleplaine; left a number of our men in Washington sick. 17th, we drew rations of powder and lead, spoiled meat and hard bread, started for the wilderness, marched all day, until two the next morning 18 hours, without rest or refreshment; and it was that style of marching and building breast-works till the first day of June, when four companies of the 36th (Co. E included) made a charge upon rebel works and retreated with a loss of 35 men in each company. I find that June 8th at Cole Harbor, Co. E had 24 men fit for duty. July 22d, Co. E was short 75 men and I was short 75 lbs. of my usual weight; on the 22nd I left the Co. sick; returned to the regiment January 1st, 1865, and staid [sic] till the war was over; returned home July 7, 1865.²⁹



Sgt. Ira A. Bradford (1820-1895)

Ira Bradford was discharged 27 Jun 1865 and returned as a sergeant.³⁰ With him, he brought a fellow soldier, Dick Forbes. Forbes was a man who had no recollection of his past, and he spent the rest of his life with Ira and family, working on the farm. Occasionally he would grab up a pitchfork, go out in a field and perform the manual of arms as he had done as a soldier. Dick Forbes is buried on Ira Bradford's lot in Union Cemetery in Plymouth.³¹ Ira, his son, DeWitt and Ira's brothers, Hiram and Arwin all survived the conflict.³²

Ira also returned with a never-ending case of dysentery and a disposition changed for the worst.³³ One family story of Ira's irascible character holds that he disapproved of Pauline Kenter, his son George's second wife. When Ira visited there one time, he called Pauline a "kraut" and she slapped him across the face with a piece of wet wash, and that breach was never healed.³⁴

Another letter from Ira to his nephew Charles speaks of weather, farm life and Ira's heartbreak following the death of his youngest son, William (punctuation and capitalization added):

Plymouth, Jan 27th, 1884.
Charles Bradford.

In looking over my pocketbook I find a letter from you dated Dec 10-82. [I] received another last week dated Jan 20-84 and now I will take a little time & answer the two. [I] am very glad to hear from you [and] would very much like to see you - also your mother, as your father was a small boy when I left Vt. I have but little recollection how he looked but always heard a good report of him (in Boston). [T]he man, P.K. Smith got acquainted with him & got the 200 dollars for me. [He] was buried last week [on the] 24th. [He] died rich a retired merchant. [W]ell I see I am getting old; was born Feb 27th 1820 will be 64 next month have been on this farm 38 years and have 80 acres. [I] had 120 acres but gave George my oldest son 40 acres. [H]e has 80 acres across the road & we work the farm together. [W]e buy our wood and draw it six miles this winter. We keep 32 head cattle, six horses & a few sheep [and] 20 cows [to] sell the milk to [the] cheese factory [plus] raise some calves make some butter [I]n all, [its bring[s] us in nine hundred dollars. [B]esides hogs & grain, all told [we will make] about 15 hundred dollars this year. But wear of machinery & poor hired help at large wages leaves but small profits. 97 dollars of taxes to pay - sometimes more. [W]ell I [also] knock around and do some work yet but cannot work as I used to. [W]e was offered 75 dollars per acre for our farm 160 acres but did not sell. [Our] land is a good piece in this county but cheaper west & north. I have two sons in Clark County [who] have 80 acres [and] can buy land there for 7 to 8 dollars per acre - wild & heavy timber. Chas. M. & Morton E. Bradford [have] address[es] [at] P.O. Spencer, Marathon Co. Wis. north west 150 miles from here. One son Frank Bradford P.O. address [at] Shopiere, Rock Co., Wis. [Frank] has a wife and one child runs a farm at halves; 160 acres all prairie no timber [to] clear. [He makes] about six hundred a year. Dewitt A Bradford has a wife & one child [and is] Principal of Hartford High School at about nine hundred a year P.O. Hartford, Washington Co., Wis. [I]n regard to farms I refer you to them. [Y]ou will see I am alone here on a farm. [My] family [is] all gone but a wife, 62 years old & poor health. [M]y youngest Son died May [18]82. [He] was a teacher [and died] at the age of 21 years. [He] had taught 3 years [and] was smart, [but] over done it [with] study & teaching. [He] took to bleeding to the lungs & died in 4 1/2 months. [H]e, Willie is in heaven. I hope to meet him where there is dying & tears are wiped from all faces. I never have tried to get rich like some men but have lived for my family. [I] began very poor have got a good home [and] am worth about six thousand dollars. [I]f I am prudent, it will last me till I go over the river of death. [I] must close soon. Pardon me for not writing before & excuse this poor letter. Please write me when convenient.

[V]ery truly your uncle.

Ira Bradford.

[Addenda squeezed in upside down].

Time was 30 years ago, a young man by strict attention to business could grow up with the country & make property.

[B]ut it is no better now than any other old country. Young men are going West and the girls won't marry. Well my best respects to your wife & mother also to your dear Self.

I. A. Bradford.

[B]ut little snow yet. [We] use sleighs but thin snow drifted badly. [It's been] cold 20° to 20° below. [Y]es, [I] did read of the shipwreck you spoke of. I don't hear from Canada relation. Do you? As I am the oldest, my Brothers are all alive as far as I know. [S]o good bye Charles. [W]rite soon.

District Box 27 Plymouth Wis.

I.A.B.

In 1886, Ira (66) and Sarah Bradford (64) sold the farm and moved to the City of Plymouth to live with Alice Mary (Mrs. Charles) Lindvall, a daughter of their son George by his first wife, Ann Breeze.³⁵



Sarah G. Sweeting-Bradford

Six years later, an ailing Sarah passed away on October 10, 1892³⁶ only to be followed in three years by her husband, Ira on April 24, 1895.³⁷ His funeral was from the house and conducted by H. P. Davidson Post G. A. R. of which he was a member. Ira was buried 2 days later in Section B, row 16, Union Cemetery, Plymouth, Sheboygan Co., WI.³⁸ Rev. G. B. Hubbard conducted a short service at the house. His son Charles and his brother H. H. Bradford of Iron Mountain, Mich., and his grandsons, Elmer and Willie and granddaughter Alice were present at the funeral.³⁹

To view endnotes and sources, see the entire paper online at schrc.org/collections/onlineresources or stop at SCHRC and read it there in the Bradford file.



Nov. 11, 1967



PURCHASED BY MILWAUKEE FIRM — The three-story former Montgomery Ward building in the 800 block of N. 8th St. has been sold to the Bockl Corp., Milwaukee, which plans to divide the structure into two or more

stores and completely remodel it. The building has been vacant for seven years, despite its key location in the heart of Sheboygan's downtown area.

Milwaukee Firm Purchases Montgomery Ward Building

The former Montgomery Ward department store building at 821 N. 8th St. — vacant since the nationwide chain closed it seven years ago — has been sold to a Milwaukee real estate company.

Sale of the three story brick building in the heart of Sheboygan's business district was disclosed today by the principals involved.

They included George Bockl, president of the Bockl Corp., Milwaukee, purchaser; William Kohl, president of Kohl Realty Co., Sheboygan, which built the store in 1936, and Richard Gottsacker, president of Gottsacker Real Estate Co., which handled the transaction for Kohl.

Purchase price was not disclosed.

Bockl plans to create "two or more retail stores" on the first floor of the structure, possibly locating another in its basement.

Gottsacker will handle local leasing for the Milwaukee firm.

"Bockl is negotiating with two retail chains with Triple A ratings (the highest rating) as tenants," Gottsacker said today.

"We are going to look for local tenants," he added.

Remodelling Planned

Bockl said his firm "will remodel the building so it will add to the eye-appeal of Eighth

Street. We are interested in putting the best tenants in it."

The firm has been successful in Milwaukee in restoring about 15 older buildings.

"Eight years ago we entered into a program of aiding and strengthening the economic stature of smaller cities by taking older buildings in these cities and putting them to their best and highest use," he observed.

"One of the main reasons this sale was able to be consummated," Gottsacker pointed out, "is the action by the city to vacate Lincoln School (immediately east of the old Montgomery Ward building) and the city's indication that the old Lincoln School site will be converted to parking," he pointed out.

Even after Montgomery Ward vacated the building when it changed its Sheboygan operations from department store to mail order, the building figured prominently in the Sheboygan business district's future.

In 1963 and 1964 the Holman Realty Co. conducted intensive efforts toward putting together a "package" of properties in the north half of the 800 block of N. 8th St., as the location of a new J. C. Penney Co. department store.

The Montgomery Ward building would have been razed if the Holman firm had been suc-

cessful in negotiating the deal.

Joseph Holman, head of the firm bearing his name, was not able to tie the package together, and Penney's joined the Sears Roebuck Co. in announcing plans to locate in the new Memorial Mall Shopping Center on Kohler Memorial Drive.

Now, with downtown revitalization in the planning stages, the old Montgomery Ward building's 36,000 square feet of floor space apparently will again be put to use.

The year the retail chain vacated it, the building had an assessed valuation of over \$200,000. Since it has been vacant, the assessment has fallen to \$100,000.

March 27, 1940

New 1940 Montgomery Ward



Eliminating stooping is an improvement that has been achieved in the design of the new 1940 Montgomery Ward refrigerators as reflected by the Supreme model pictured above. More convenience features are designed into the new models with provision for safer storage of foods requiring varying degrees of humidity.

Four Frigid Zones Feature Ward's 1940 Refrigerators

Montgomery Ward, featuringer of the refrigerator's Food full food protection by means of four frigid zones, introduces its new 1940 refrigerators for the home on a platform of "lovelier kitchens for all housewives," and by stressing economies both with respect to initial investment and cost of operation. The local Montgomery Ward store is at 821 N. Eighth street.

The "lovelier kitchens" platform is based on a new cabinet design which combines appearance and utility in streamline models in which "waist high" storage space eliminates stooping and a sleek Dulux exterior is heat resistant and won't chip or crack.

The four frigid zones in the new model include frozen storage for ice cubes, frosted foods and desserts; cold storage for meats and beverages; maximum general storage and humidified storage for fresh vegetables.

The smart, stainless steel cov-

er, where meats are kept, can be used as a serving or loading tray. Twin Food Fresheners, for vegetables, slide out like drawers. Glass shelf covers seal the moisture in.

Wide, roomy shelves in the Montgomery Ward models are bar type to prevent food from tipping and spilling, and also are adjustable and removable.

Supreme and some Deluxe model Montgomery Ward refrigerators for 1940 come equipped with four matched oven-ware dishes in Delphinium blue. They can be used to bake in or for frozen desserts.

REFRIGERATOR HELPS

Refrigerators help make pies. Using cold fat and ice water makes the pastry easier to handle than using soft fat. Chilling blended fat and flour before the liquid is added gives a flaky crust, and chilling the pastry dough before rolling makes it easier to roll out.

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The Chordettes of Sheboygan



maiden training session. Their two weeks in August were spent training on the .50 caliber and 40mm guns. For the next ten years, Camp Haven provided training, education, entertainment and drama for the area. This book tells the story of the camp through photos, memories and news articles.

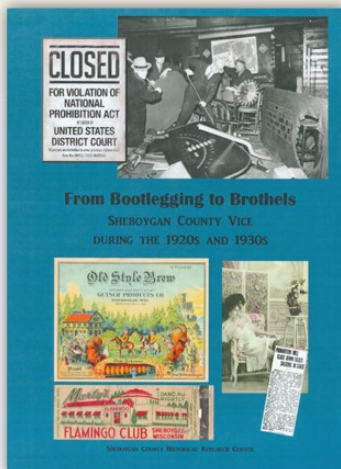
The Chordettes of Sheboygan by Scott Lewandoske

Mr. Sandman, Lollipop, Pink Shoelaces and the list of number one hits goes on for Sheboygan's most famous homegrown musical group, The Chordettes formed in Sheboygan, Wisconsin in 1946 as a barbershop quartet, by 1947 they had bookings to sing all across the United States. In 1949, they appeared in a contest on the popular Arthur Godfrey Show and soon after worked as regulars on Godfrey's variety shows for almost four years.

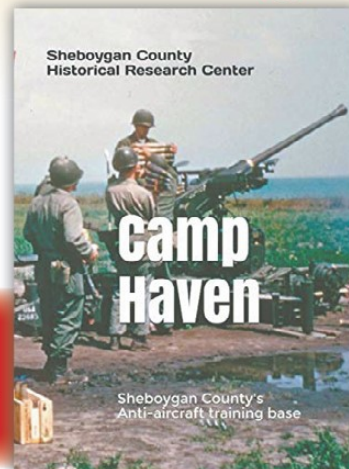
By 1953, they decided to try a different kind of music and the following year, they recorded, "Mr. Sandman" a song that would reach number one on the pop charts and sell over two million copies. From 1956 to 1959, the Chordettes had a song on the top 100 chart almost continuously.

A new book, now available, from the Sheboygan County Historical Research Center \$15.00 tells the story of the Chordettes from their high school days in Sheboygan through 2004.

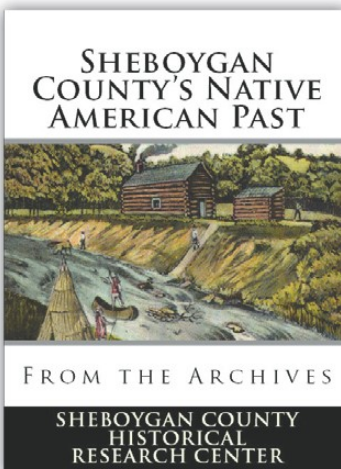
Locally Themed Books about Sheboygan County



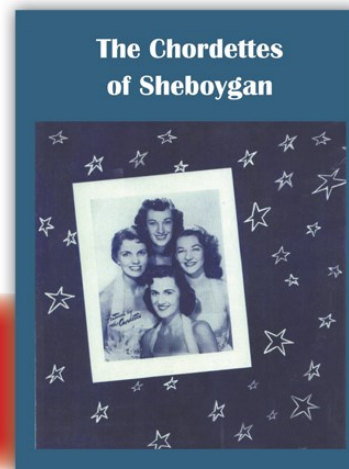
**From Bootlegging
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