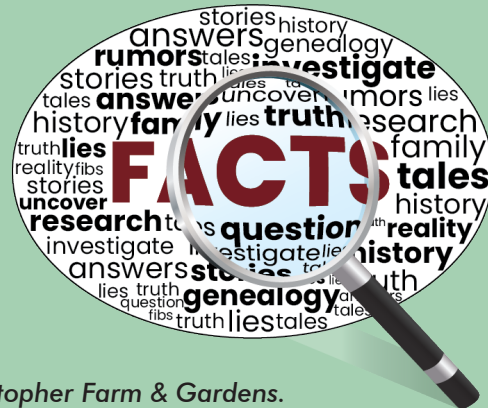


THE RESEARCHER

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
SHEBOYGAN COUNTY HISTORICAL RESEARCH CENTER

Volume XXXIII Number 5 June 2023

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



Did You Know?

Ed Berner, the owner of a soda fountain and ice cream parlor in Two Rivers, Wisconsin, claims that he was the first to serve the ice cream sundae. In 1881, a customer asked for ice cream with chocolate syrup on top, which at that time, was only used to flavor sodas. Berner began serving it on Sundays for a nickel. It was added to his regular menu after a young girl asked for the tasty treat during the week, saying they could 'pretend it was Sunday.' The name 'ice cream sundae' came about after a glassware salesman placed an order for 'sundae dishes,' the canoe-shaped glass bowl in which the sundae was typically served.

The Washington House Hotel Museum has a replica of Ed Berner's ice cream parlor.

The Discovery of DNA Made Possible by a Sheboyganite?

The discovery of the structure of DNA was reported seventy years ago and remarkably Sheboygan County has an essential connection to that breakthrough.

We all know that lions only give birth to lion cubs, cows to calves, dogs to puppies and so on for every type of living creature, but do we know how and why that occurs? The answer lies in a molecule called deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA), which contains the biological instructions that make each species unique.

A German biochemist, Frederick Miescher, first observed DNA in the late 1800s. But nearly a century passed from that discovery until researchers unraveled the structure of the DNA molecule and realized its central importance to biology.

Now you ask, how is this connected to Sheboygan County? Well, on April 25, 1953, a ground breaking paper appeared in the scientific journal Nature in which James Watson and Francis Crick, scientists at Cambridge, reported the discovery of the structure of DNA – the molecule from which all genes are made.



Professor Jerry Donohue III of University of Pennsylvania discussing his contribution to the 1953 discovery of DNA.

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SHEBOYGAN COUNTY
HISTORICAL
RESEARCH
CENTER

518 Water Street
Sheboygan Falls, WI 53085
Open Tuesday through Friday
9 am to 4 pm
(920) 467-4667
schrc.org • research@schrc.org



The Researcher is the official newsletter of the Sheboygan County Historical Research Center, 518 Water Street, Sheboygan Falls, WI 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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Visit
schrc.org!

Welcome New Members

Todd Gordon — Mequon

Randall Vogt — Sheboygan

Norbert Lohuis — Sheboygan Falls

Wayne LeClair — Sheboygan

Program Schedule

Genealogy Classes

at the Research Center, 518 Water Street, Sheboygan Falls, WI – 1 to 3 pm

Monday, June 5 – Genealogy Brick Walls: How to break through, jump over and go around. We'll work through your problems — bring your info!

Monday, July 10 – Cemetery and Grave Symbols

Monday, August 14 – Land Records

Monday, September 11 – Newspaper Research

History on the Move

at Generations, 1500 Douglas Drive, Plymouth, WI – 2 pm

Thursday, June 22 – Lost Places of Sheboygan County

Thursday, July 20 – Sheboygan County Connections

Thursday, August 17 – Cheeseville

Thursday, September 21 – Irish in the Town of Mitchell

Tap Room History

at Amore, 18 W. Mill Street, Plymouth, WI – 6:30 pm

Thursday, June 15 – Doug Dammann – Popular Civil War Misconceptions

Thursday, July 20 – John Schoenknecht – The Era of Healing Springs in Waukesha

Thursday, August 17 – Dr. Michael D. Jacobs – A Subversive Society Gets its Clock Cleaned in Sheboygan County

Annual Meeting

at Amore, 18 W. Mill Street, Plymouth, WI – 11 am to 1 pm

Friday, October 6 – Patrick Jung – Slavery in Wisconsin

History Symposium

at Generations, 1500 Douglas Drive, Plymouth, WI – 9 am to 4 pm

Saturday, November 11

Lincoln Seminar

at Generations, 1500 Douglas Drive, Plymouth, WI – 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm

Join Abraham Lincoln scholar and Sheboygan County Historical Research Center Executive Director Steven Rogstad as he dives deep into the troubled life of Mary Todd Lincoln.

Tuesday, August 22 – Childhood and Motherhood

Tuesday, August 29 – Lincoln Marriage

Tuesday, September 5 – Civil War First Lady

Tuesday, September 12 – Assassination and Widowhood

Lincoln Bus Trip

to Springfield, Illinois

Join the Sheboygan County Historical Research Center and Abraham Lincoln scholar, Steven Rogstad, on this four-day excursion to historic Springfield, Illinois. Listen to Steven's captivating commentary and visit the sites where Lincoln lived, worked, and was buried. See our website at www.schrc.org for more information.

Monday, September 18 to Thursday, September 21

Let's Develop Our Center

We are in the midst of our 40th Anniversary year. It has been a busy year so far with numerous events and activities. As we prepare for the final half of the year, here are some items worth mentioning:

Bus Trip. We have received many requests to schedule another bus trip to Springfield, Illinois. The Center conducted the first one in 2018, which we followed up with a trip to visit the Lincoln sites in Kentucky and Indiana the following year. Due to the pandemic, we suspended bus trips. However, we now have a fine tour scheduled for Monday, September 18 through Thursday, September 21. Every person that signs up for the trip will receive a complimentary copy of my book, *Lincoln Among the Badgers: Rediscovering Sites Associated with Abraham and Mary Lincoln in Wisconsin*. You can find out

more information about this trip at www.schrc.org, or by calling Personalized Tours at 920-528-7600.

Lincoln Seminar. It has been three years since the Center last hosted its Lincoln Seminar. In preparation for our bus trip to Springfield, where we will tour multiple sites associated with the Lincoln family, I will be presenting a 4-session course on "Mary Lincoln: A Troubled Life," on 4 consecutive Tuesday evenings - August 22, August 29, September 5, and September 12, 6:30 – 8:30 pm. The class is free and open to the public, and will take place at Generations, an Intergenerational Center, 1500 Douglas Drive in Plymouth.

New Videos. Have you seen the Center's new video series? If not, please check them out by going to our website – www.schrc.org – click on the Media Page, then scroll down to Videos. We will be profiling various aspects of the Research Center this year, including photographs, documents, events, activities, people, services, and ways to volunteer. The videos are also available on our Facebook page, plus on our very own YouTube Channel! You can go to YouTube and search for "SCHRC." If you hit "subscribe," you will automatically receive the latest videos.

Taproom History. We just completed our Saloon Stories series and will enter upon our summer offering of Taproom History this month. Doug Dammann of the Kenosha Civil War Museum will discuss "Popular Civil War Misconceptions" on June 15; John Schoenknecht will present the fascinating story of "The Era of Healing Springs in Waukesha" on July 20; Dr. Michael Jacobs will describe how a "Subversive Organization Gets Its Clock Cleaned in Sheboygan County" on August 17. Please be advised that the series will be changing venues this summer and taking place at Amore, 18 Mill Street in Plymouth. Thanks to Alan Bublitz of Amore for being interested in our programs and offering to be our Taproom History host!

Sponsorships & Digitization Project. The Center is always looking for individuals and organizations to sponsor events and projects. A current project that requires funding (\$23,586) is the digitization of our media collection, which includes 142 VHS video tapes, 205 audio Cassettes, and 26,800 feet of Reel-To-Reel films. Once digitized, they can be uploaded onto the website for easy access for researchers. Can you help us?

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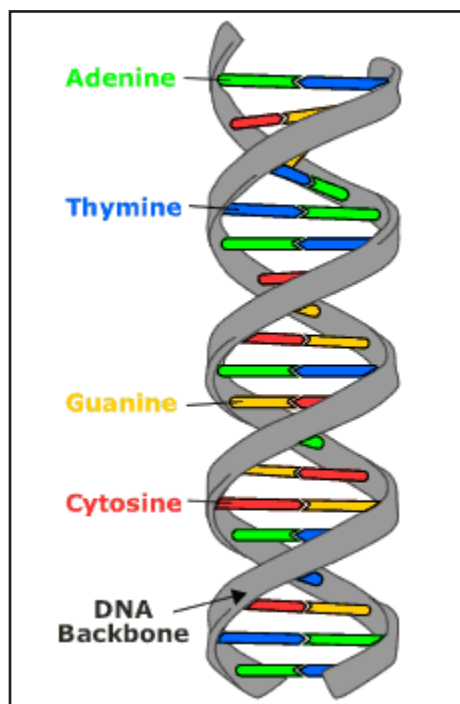


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Crick and Watson used model building to reveal the now famous double helix of DNA, but they had struggled for years to get it right. As early as 1938, Florence Bell and William Astbury thought it was shaped like a comb. By 1951 Rosalind Franklin and Crick and Watson had determined it was a helix, but with three tightly twisted strands with the bases sticking out. It wasn't until theoretical and physical chemist, Jerry Donohue III, pointed out in the spring of 1953 that they were using the wrong structures for the nitrogen bases, and that a different scenario for the structures would form the needed hydrogen bonds. They changed the previously thought 18 degree screw to a 36 degree screw, doubled it and fit the bases in between. With that valuable contribution, Watson and Crick soon after discovered the famous double-helix of DNA.

DNA's discovery has been called the most important biological work of the last 100 years, and the field it opened may be the scientific frontier for the next 100. In 1962, Watson and Crick won the Nobel Prize for physiology/medicine because of this DNA research.

Jerry Donohue III was born on June 12, 1920, in Sheboygan, Wisconsin, the son of Jerry Donohue, of Donohue Engineering fame, and Leila Marian Bishop. A 1937 graduate of Sheboygan High School he received his Bachelors (1941) and Masters (1943) degrees from Dartmouth College. He earned his Ph.D. in 1947 at the California Institute of Technology under Linus



DNA Double Helix

Pauling, one of the most influential chemists of the 20th century.

Throughout his life Donohue's research focused on crystal structures and hydrogen-bonding. In 1952, he was given a Guggenheim Foundation grant to study at Cambridge University in England for 6 months. Interestingly, while at Cambridge Donohue shared an office with Francis Crick and James D. Watson.

From 1959 to 1960, Donohue, accompanied by his wife, Patricia Schreier Donohue, and two children, Terrance and Nora, spent a year at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich, Switzerland, studying applications of quantum mechanics.

In 1962, Donohue was named Assistant Professor of Chemistry at the University of Southern California where he continued to

specialize in hydrogen-bonding. In 1966, Donohue joined the chemistry faculty of the University of Pennsylvania as the Rhodes-Thompson Professor of Chemistry.


Jerry Donohue III retired from his Penn position because of ill-health in 1985, and died that same year from cancer at the age of 65. He was survived by his wife, Patricia Schreier, also a native of Sheboygan and their two children, Terrence and Nora.

Donohue's papers are housed at Pennsylvania University's Archive and Records Center. You can see his correspondence with Crick and Watson online at <http://profiles.nlm.nih.gov/ps/access/SCBBND.pdf>.

You can also find more information on Jerry Donohue and other famous Sheboygan County residents at the Sheboygan County Historical Research Center. 🍀

**A GAME OF WHIST:
AN ALLEGED SHEBOYGAN CONNECTION TO
ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S ASSASSIN**

by
Steven K. Rogstad
Racine, Wisconsin



This address was delivered at
the 2022 Annual Meeting of the
Sheboygan County Historical Research Center
in Plymouth, Wisconsin, on October 7th, 2022.

**Now available in the bookstore
and online at www.schrc.org!
"A Game of Whist: An Alleged
Sheboygan Connection to
Abraham Lincoln's Assassin"
By Steven K. Rogstad**

Sheboygan County Historical Research Center Welcomes New Treasurer, Gerald Van De Kreeke

Gerald Van De Kreeke is the managing shareholder at the Certified Public Accounting firm of Van De Kreeke & Associates, S.C. which he started in 1975 and has offices in Sheboygan and Port Washington.

His practice includes income tax planning as well as tax compliance services for individuals and businesses.

Gerry taught for the University of Wisconsin Colleges and has conducted numerous seminars on business planning and tax issues over the years.

He is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee where he received his accounting degree. Gerry is licensed by the State of Wisconsin. He is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Wisconsin Institute of CPA's.



Gerry previously served on the Board of the Sheboygan County Historical Research Center and has been quite active in several other community organizations including the Sheboygan Rotary Club and its Foundation, "Fresh" Meals on Wheels of Sheboygan County, he has served on the Weill Center Board and its Endowment Board, the Bookworm Gardens Endowment Board, the RCS Empowers Board and the U.W. Sheboygan Foundation Board. In addition he serves as the President of the Sheboygan Board of Water Commissioners, a position he has held since 1980.

In his spare time he and his wife, Sharon, enjoy his son's family including their two granddaughters. Gerry enjoys genealogy, watching all sports and traveling when he can.

Beth Dippel Retires

This past February, former Executive Director Beth Dippel retired after a long and distinguished career at the Research Center. For over 25 years Beth served in a number of roles, including volunteer, staff worker, executive director, and director of operations. She is widely recognized for her articles on various aspects of county history that have appeared in area newspapers for many years, and for numerous books she authored on behalf of the Research Center. She began working as Director of Development in 1998 and took over as Executive Director upon Rose Rumpf's retirement in 2002. Through the years she saw the SCHRC grow into a leading organization in eastern Wisconsin that assists individuals who research the histories of families, buildings, communities, and other aspects of county and regional history. We congratulate Beth on her many achievements throughout her tenure at the Center, her passion for local history, and her unwavering dedication to the organization. We wish her the best of everything in retirement!



graciously donated the banner that hangs on the Mill House to commemorate our 40th Anniversary!

SHEBOYGAN COUNTY HISTORICAL RESEARCH CENTER PRESENTS 2023

TAPROOM History

AN HOUR OF LIBATIONS, LAUGHTER & LEARNING

JUNE 15 AT 6:30
DOUG DAMMANN
"POPULAR CIVIL WAR MISCONCEPTIONS"

JULY 20 AT 6:30
JOHN SCHOENKNECHT
"THE ERA OF HEALING SPRINGS IN WAUKESHA"

AUGUST 17 AT 6:30
DR. MICHAEL D. JACOBS
"A SUBVERSIVE SOCIETY GETS ITS CLOCK
CLEANED IN SHEBOYGAN COUNTY"

Free & Open to the Public



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Research Success Stories

"I live in St. Michael, Minnesota and I recently retired. I had been wanting to get to Sheboygan for quite a few years to research the Ralph and Charlotte Ross line of the family and to visit the cemeteries. I finally got the chance this past month and it was well worth the six hour drive. I had emailed ahead of time with a few names and dates, and when I arrived, Richard had already started a folder for me and another identical folder for any future researchers that may visit down the road. He gave me a quick tour of the records available and then we got to work.

As soon as I walked in I could tell it was going to be a positive experience, everyone was so friendly and helpful and the atmosphere was so very relaxed. When a question arose I felt I could just ask it aloud and staff and volunteers chimed in to help me. I went there with the expectation of finding vital record dates, obituaries and cemetery information and we found those and so much more. They suggested I look for church and land records as well. Finding those records opened up a whole new line of inquiry and I found a Ross sibling that I didn't even know about prior to the visit. We found more than I thought we would, and with their help, more than I would have dreamed of finding on my own. What's more, they continue to help me via email as new questions arise.

It was a fantastic couple of days in Sheboygan Falls..."

— Colleen Curran

Subscribe to our

You Tube
channel!



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We are still in the midst of our Annual Campaign, which is the Center's major annual fundraising event. If you have not already given, please consider a meaningful gift this year to help us celebrate four decades of preserving county history.

Keep checking the website and stay informed of everything that is happening with the organization.

As always, thank you for all you do to support and help develop our Research Center!

Sincerely,

Steven K. Rogstad
Executive Director
steverogstad@schrc.org

2023 – 2024 Second Saturdays

**9:30 am at the Plymouth Arts Center
520 East Mill Street, Plymouth**

September 9 – Diaphones with Jake Heffernan

October 14 – Sewer Socialists of Wisconsin with Tracie Grube-Gaurkee

November 11 – Life in the Past Lane: A History of Stock Car Racing in Northeast Wisconsin with Joe Verdegan

December & January – Off for the holidays

February 10 – S.S. Christopher Columbus with Todd Gordon

March 9 – The Shipwrecks Abiah and the I.A. Johnson with Steve Radovan

April 13 – Small Town Wisconsin: Fun, Surprising, and Exceptional Road Trips with Mary Bergin

May 11 – T.C. (Theodore Caspar) Lutz, His Role as the Central Contractor in the Building of the Key Maritime Settings for the 1893 Chicago World's Fair with Tom Lutz

After a 3 year absence, the Sheboygan County Historical Research Center is proud to announce the return of the

Lincoln Seminar

Mary Todd Lincoln: A Troubled Life

Join Lincoln scholar and Sheboygan County Historical Research Center Executive Director Steven Rogstad as he dives deep into the troubled life of Mary Todd Lincoln.

August 22

Childhood and Motherhood

August 29

Lincoln Marriage

September 5

Civil War First Lady

September 12

Assassination and Widowhood



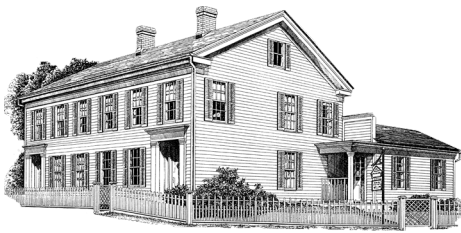
**FREE &
Open to the Public!**

**Tuesdays from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm
Generations
1500 Douglas Drive, Plymouth**

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Please call
(920) 467-4667
to reserve
your seat.



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SEPTEMBER 18 – 21, 2023

*Lincoln
Bus
Trip*

**SPRINGFIELD,
ILLINOIS**

Join the Sheboygan County Historical Research Center and Abraham Lincoln scholar, Steven Rogstad, on this four-day excursion to historic Springfield, Illinois. Listen to Steven's captivating commentary and visit the sites where Lincoln lived, worked, and was buried.

TOUR STOPS INCLUDE

- Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum ✓
- Old State Capitol ✓
- Current Illinois State Capitol ✓
- Lincoln Home National Historic Site ✓
- Lincoln's New Salem Historic Site ✓
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