

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 surrounding areas. It is a repository for documents and images.

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Welcome New Members

Brad & Michele Barry — Plymouth

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SCHRC will be CLOSED for ARCHIVING April 14 to April 25

*(We will be open for the Genealogy Class
on April 14 from 1 to 3 pm)*

Program Schedule

See schrc.org or Facebook for more details.

Genealogy Seminar

at Generations, 1500 Douglas Drive, Plymouth — 9 am to 3 pm — \$25

May 19 – Join genetic genealogist Kate Penney Howard and the Research Center for a day of genealogical exploration. *See pages 10 and 11 for more information.*

Genealogy Classes

at the Research Center — 1 pm to 3 pm — \$15 for members; \$20 for non-members

Please call (920) 467-4667 to register.

April 14 – Tips and Tricks for Restoring your Old Photographs

May 12 – Land Records: Refresh Yourself on Sheboygan County Land Records and the New Online Resources Available for Surrounding Areas

Gravestone Cleaning Workshops

Please call (920) 467-4667 to register.

Sunday, May 18 – Union Cemetery, Plymouth. The Research Center will clean

gravestones during the Plymouth Historical Society's Cemetery Walk from 1 to 3 pm

Saturday, June 21 – Waldo Cemetery, Waldo from 9 to 10 am

Saturday, September 20 – Waldo Cemetery, Waldo from 9 to 10 am

Saturday, October 4 – Union Cemetery, Plymouth from 9 to 10 am

Saloon Stories

at Racer's Hall, W4408 County Road C, Plymouth, WI — 6:30 pm

This season's presentations will focus on preservation projects that have taken place within Sheboygan County. As the SCHRC will soon be introducing the mission and forthcoming activities of its new Preservation & Landmarks Committee, attendees will be able to learn about how much planning and labor goes into successful building restoration projects.

April 17 – "Robinson House 3.0: Preservation is Perpetual" by Jennifer Lehrke

May 15 – "What the Laack?! The Past, Present, and Future of the H.C. Laack Block and Hotel Laack in the Downtown Plymouth Historic District" by Jennifer Lehrke

Second Saturdays

at Plymouth Arts Center, 520 East Mill Street, Plymouth, WI — 9:30 to 11:30 am

April 12 – Lighthouse Architecture (and Penny Pinching Methodologies) with Marie Blunt

May 10 – The S.S. Christopher Columbus, Part II with Todd Gordon

Book Club

at 517 Monroe Street, Sheboygan Falls — 1 to 2:30 pm

Please call (920) 467-4667 to register.

Thursday, May 15 – *Case Closed: Lee Harvey Oswald and the Assassination of JFK (1993)* by Gerald Posner

Let's Develop Our Center

Aside from spring cleaning, this season is an appropriate time of the year to get excited about new initiatives and put fresh perspectives on projects and things we are involved with. [I should add, however, that the Center will also be conducting a little cleaning and organizing April 14–25, when it will be closed to the public to catch up on archiving work]. This Center is looking forward to a very active year.

You recently received information about our Annual Campaign. It is the major annual fundraiser for the organization. Your financial support is critical for the continuation of public programming, collection care and management, events and activities, and launching new initiatives.

The latest initiative is reintroducing preservation education and advocacy through the SCHRC's new Preservation & Landmarks Committee. The committee has already met three times and established goals for 2025, including

arranging a public workshop for owners of older and historic homes and buildings, hosting a Century Building Award event to commemorate historic structures within Sheboygan County, and producing publications that will tell the stories of buildings, districts, individuals and families, and sites that have significance or importance in the development of the county. Plans are also underway to offer special behind-the-scene tours of current preservation projects

The current season of Saloon Stories is featuring four programs of preservation-related topics to promote the committee's work. The next presentation will be on April 17 at Racer's Hall in Plymouth: "Robinson House 3.0: Preservation is Perpetual," by Jennifer Lehrke of Legacy Architecture. On May 15, Ms. Lehrke will return to discuss "What the Laack?! The Past, Present, and Future of the H.C. Laack Block and Hotel Laack in Downtown Plymouth Historic District." Details are available on the back page of the newsletter.

A few other upcoming events are worthy of note. The SCHRC Book Club will meet next on May 15 to review Gerald Posner's landmark 1993 work, *Case Closed: Lee Harvey Oswald and the Assassination of JFK*. A refamiliarization of the event seems timely and appropriate as we anticipate the release of the rest of

the Kennedy assassination papers by the federal government. If you enjoy reading books on a variety of historical subjects, please consider joining the group. It meets bi-monthly on a Thursday afternoon at the Center. If you are interested, please contact me so I can get you on an email list for the club. We are already in our second year of reading good history, so we would welcome you to join us. It's a great time, so I hope we will see you soon.

Finally, we have an impressive Genealogy Seminar coming up on May 19th. Kate Penney Howard, a genetic genealogist from Indiana, will present valuable information on the use of artificial intelligence, applications and tools, and ethics associated with genetic and genealogical research. We anticipate a sizeable audience, so register today! Details are in the newsletter. This will be an event no genealogist will want to miss.

Keep checking the SCHRC website – www.schrc.org – for updates.

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



continued from page 1

A 1927 competition, offering a \$25,000 prize to the first pilot to successfully fly non-stop from New York to Paris, was perfect for Lindbergh's adventuresome spirit. He took off from Roosevelt Field on Long Island, New York, on May 20, 1927. Flying the Spirit of St. Louis, he crossed the Atlantic Ocean landing at Le Bourguet Field near Paris. After 33.5 hours and some 3,600 miles, Lindbergh was welcomed by more than 100,000 fans in France. Though not the first to cross the Atlantic by plane, he was the first to fly it alone between two major international cities. This feat made "Lucky Lindy" one of the most famous men in the world.

Anne Morrow was born in 1906, in Englewood, New Jersey, the daughter of Dwight Morrow, a partner at J.P. Morgan, and Elizabeth Morrow, a poet and teacher. Anne enrolled at Smith College in 1924 where one of her roommates just happened to be Ruth DeYoung, future wife of Herbert V. Kohler, Sr.

Morrow and Lindbergh met in December 1927, when Lindbergh was visiting the Morrow home in Mexico City, where Dwight Morrow was the American ambassador to Mexico. The couple married two years later.

The Lindberghs' first child, Charles Augustus Lindbergh, Jr., was born on June 22, 1930. Likely because of the couple's fame and wealth, their 20-month-old son was kidnapped in the early evening of March 1, 1932. Taken from the second floor via ladder, a ransom note demanding \$50,000 was found



Charles and Anne Lindbergh

on the nursery window sill. After weeks of negotiation with the kidnapper, 11 ransom notes, and an unsuccessful ransom drop, the body of the baby was found in the woods near the Lindbergh home on May 12; he had been killed shortly after the kidnapping.

One last area connection to the Lindbergh case involved Leon Turrou, who ended up in the town of Wilson. Known as "The Crime of the Century," the arrest, trial, and conviction of Bruno Richard Hauptmann, captivated the attention of the international media for the next several years. In 1934, a gas station attendant in the Bronx, New York, got suspicious when a motorist paid for gasoline with a gold certificate. He noted the man's license plate number and notified police. The car belonged to an illegal German immigrant named Bruno Richard Hauptmann. It turned out that Hauptmann had served a three-year prison sentence

in Germany for burglary. He had used a ladder to enter a second-floor window. Hauptmann had fled to the US to avoid another trial on charges of possessing stolen tools. A young FBI agent named Leon Turrou was the officer who found \$14,000 of the Lindbergh ransom money hidden in Bruno Hauptmann's garage and talked Bruno into giving samples of his handwriting.

Leon Turrou was born in Poland and adopted by a couple who traveled extensively. Turrou was exposed to new languages and by the time he was a teenager, he could speak eight languages. He was left by his parents in the Orient at the age of 13 and from then he was on his own. While a wounded war veteran in a French hospital, he met his future wife. His wife decided to visit her mother in Siberia for two months, but in reality, the trip lasted 3-1/2 years. A massacre had occurred in the village where his wife was visiting, and all residents were reported dead. Unconvinced, Turrou got a job as an interpreter on an expedition to Russia. On arriving, he sent a messenger to the Siberian village to verify the existence of



Leon G. Turrou

graves of his family. But the messenger returned with his wife and children, seriously starved but alive. They were soon restored to health and then Turrou came back to America and later launched his career as a super sleuth.

Colonel H. Norman Schwarzkopf Sr. (whose son would later lead the Persian Gulf War) of the New Jersey State Police was officially in charge of the investigation. Thousands of people flooded tiny Flemington, New Jersey, for the trial. The Hearst newspapers paid for a leading defense attorney, Edward Reilly, to defend Hauptmann. The evidence was against Hauptmann. Prosecutor David Wilentz presented seven handwriting experts who said Hauptmann wrote the ransom notes. Witnesses had seen him near the Lindbergh estate on the day of the crime. Woodwork authorities said the boards used in the ladder found at the crime scene had come from Hauptmann's attic and from a lumberyard near his home. Dr. John (Jafsie) Condon identified Hauptmann as the recipient of the ransom money. A

witness reported seeing Hauptmann following Condon in New York while the ransom negotiations were underway, while others said Hauptmann had used gold certificates in making purchases.

Hauptmann's claim that the ransom money belonged to Isidor Fisch, a business partner who had recently died during a trip to Germany, was not convincing in court. Defense attorney, Edward Reilly, accused the police of planting evidence and of incompetence. But he did not sway the jury, which convicted Hauptmann. He was electrocuted at the Trenton State Prison in 1936.

Overwhelmed by the paparazzi and unwanted fame and disturbed by threats made against their second son, Jon, the Lindberghs moved to Europe late in 1935 to seek refuge. They remained there until 1939 when they returned to Connecticut. After a sometimes controversial life, Lindbergh died at age 72 in 1974 in Hawaii. Ann Morrow Lindbergh lived to the great age of 94 dying in 2001 in Passumpsic, Vermont. 🍀

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Sheboygan County Historical Research Center Welcomes New Researcher, Michele Barry

Michele Barry is the newest addition to our team here at SCHRC, bringing with her decades of genealogical research experience and a deep desire to help others connect with their own family history. Recently relocating to the area with her husband—both of whom have ancestral roots in the state—Michele's curiosity and dedication make her a natural fit for our team.



Her connection to SCHRC began as a personal quest to learn more about the history of her newly purchased home. During her visit, she was struck by the staff's expertise and friendliness—an impression that inspired her to volunteer her own skills. Just a few months later, she now joins our team as a staff member, eager to provide the same exceptional service and knowledge to visitors at the library that first drew her to SCHRC.

In her free time, she enjoys spending time with family and friends, camping with her husband and dog, and traveling to new destinations.



February's Second Saturday program (left) was about Sheboygan's Brewing History presented by Bret Blizzard, the unofficial historian of Kingsbury Beer. Bret entertained a group of 60 or so with fantastic history of not only Kingsbury, but Sheboygan's Gutsch Brewing and Schreier Malting along with Manitowoc's Hottelmann, Roeff and Rahr breweries. The presentation was phenomenal only to be outdone by the question and answer session. Thanks to everyone who attended! Our March genealogy class focused on building and fixing your Ancestry.com family tree. We worked through a number of different scenarios and how to fix a that tree when it has become untidy and confusing. Multiple marriages, integrating hints, ignoring hints and name variations are just some of the reasons that trees become briar bushes. Great group – come back again!



Ken Richter and Marge Giesen scan documents for the Center. The SCHRC was recently hired to provide scanning services for two independent projects. One involves digitizing a substantial collection of records for Sheboygan County, while the other is digitizing a sizeable collection of letters, images, and documents belonging to a family in Sheboygan. Both of these projects will bring needed revenue to the organization. If you or your family, organization, church, club, or business have records, photographs, or documents you want preserved for perpetuity, consider taking advantage of the Center's scanning service. Not only will the history of Sheboygan County be preserved, but the revenue that is generated stays in the county and helps the SCHRC.



Dr. Kerry A. Trask met with members of the SCHRC Book Club on March 20, to discuss his 2007 study, *Black Hawk: The Battle for the Heart of America*. A SCHRC member, Dr. Trask has spoken at our Taproom History series and participated in the Center’s 2019 History Symposium on the Black Hawk War. Book club members had the opportunity to ask the author questions about Black Hawk as a leader, the significance of southwestern Wisconsin and northwestern Illinois to Sauk culture, the 1832 conflict called the Black Hawk War, and how the book came to be written. It was an educational and enjoyable experience. Thanks, Kerry, for giving the club your time. It was a privilege to listen to your stories and have you with us!



Anne Lapinski, Archivist and Event Coordinator for Christopher Farm & Gardens, presented a riveting program on “The J.W. Christopher Transportation Collection: Preserving the Art of Dining by Land, Air, and Sea” at the March 20th session of Saloon Stories. She brought for display and examination numerous artifacts from the Christopher Collection, including dishes, serving platters, teapots, coffee cups & saucers, and other dishware that was used on American luxury trains in the late 19th and early 20th Century. She also displayed an original conductor’s hat and chimes that were used to announce dinner time to passengers. Ms. Lapinski is a member of the SCHRC’s Preservation and Landmarks Committee. A special thanks to Jay Christopher for sharing artifacts from his collections with us.

Passenger Pigeons – From abundance to extinction

When Europeans began exploring North America in the 17th and 18th centuries historians estimate there were 3 to 5 billion passenger pigeons. Yes, that really is billion. They made up, perhaps, 40 percent of the total North American bird population. Each spring flocks migrated from the South to the Midwest, making the return journey in the fall, darkening the sky with their passing. A flight over Columbus, Ohio, in 1855 prompted the following eye-witness account: “As the watchers stared, the hum increased to a mighty throbbing. Now everyone was out of the houses and stores, looking apprehensively at the growing cloud, which was blotting out the rays of the sun. Children screamed and ran for home. Women gathered their long skirts and hurried for the shelter of stores. Horses bolted. A few people mumbled frightened words about the approach of the millennium, and several dropped on their knees and prayed.”

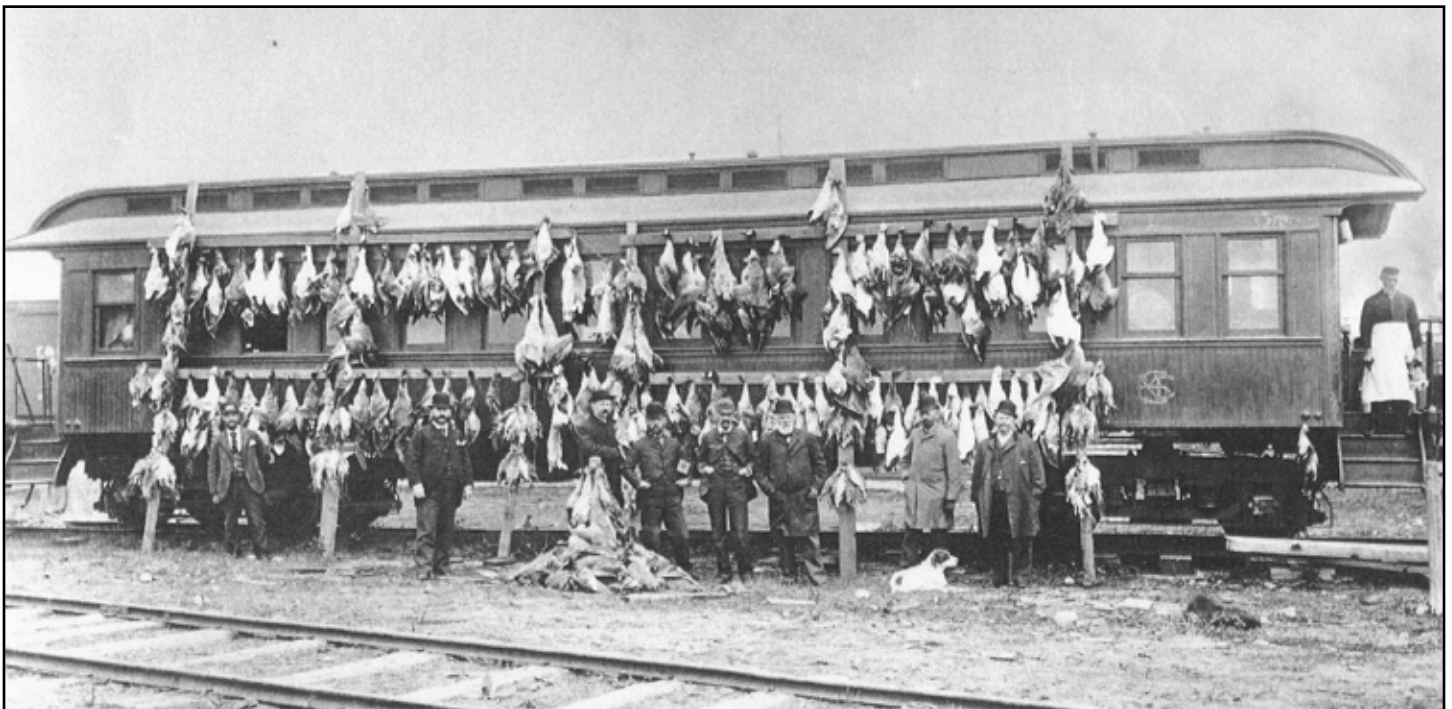
Passenger pigeons would fly and nest as huge groups. John James Audubon, famed naturalist, recorded a flock flying at sixty miles an hour that passed overhead continuously for three entire days, and upon finding their roost he found the ground covered in two inches of bird droppings.

The largest recorded nesting was in Wisconsin in 1871. A conservative estimate of the nesting area was 850 square miles, and estimates put the number of nesting pigeons at 136 million. With as many as 100 nests in a tree, the weight sometimes caused branches to fall off and trees to collapse.

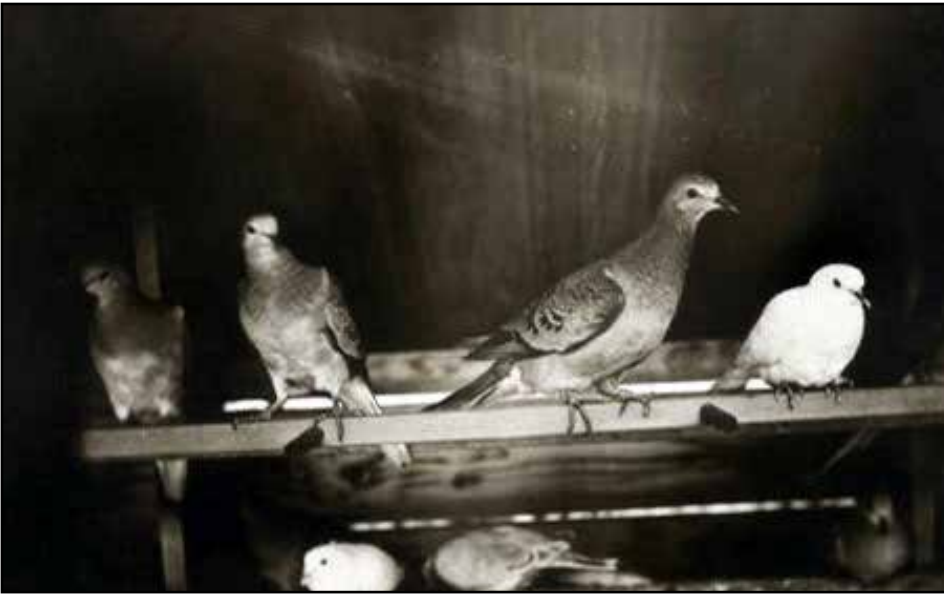
So, what happened? In the late 1800s pigeon hunters followed flocks around the country via rail, searching for nesting grounds. They put their bounty in barrels and then refrigerated box cars and shipped them east. Squab was a tasty delicacy. Operating on an enormous scale, hunters crammed tens of thousands of birds into boxcars. Hunting of passenger pigeons decreased their numbers, especially since they laid only one egg a year.

All this coincided with an explosion in logging, which began destroying the habitat of pigeons just as hunters were destroying the pigeons themselves.

Deforestation of the land played a huge part in their extinction. The birds fed voraciously from the tree nuts of mature beech and oak forests. A Detroit newspaper in the late nineteenth century described the squabs as having “the digestive capacity of half a



A rail car and hunters with their catch on a North Dakota pigeon hunt, circa 1890s.



A group of captive Passenger Pigeons 1896. Part of a group of pigeons that lived in captivity in the aviary of Professor C.O. Whitman, professor of Zoology at the University of Chicago.

Museum. They had come from the Carl Benninghaus collection, but because of safety concerns from arsenic used during the taxidermy process, they were removed from the collection in the 1990s and sent to a facility more able to deal with such issues.

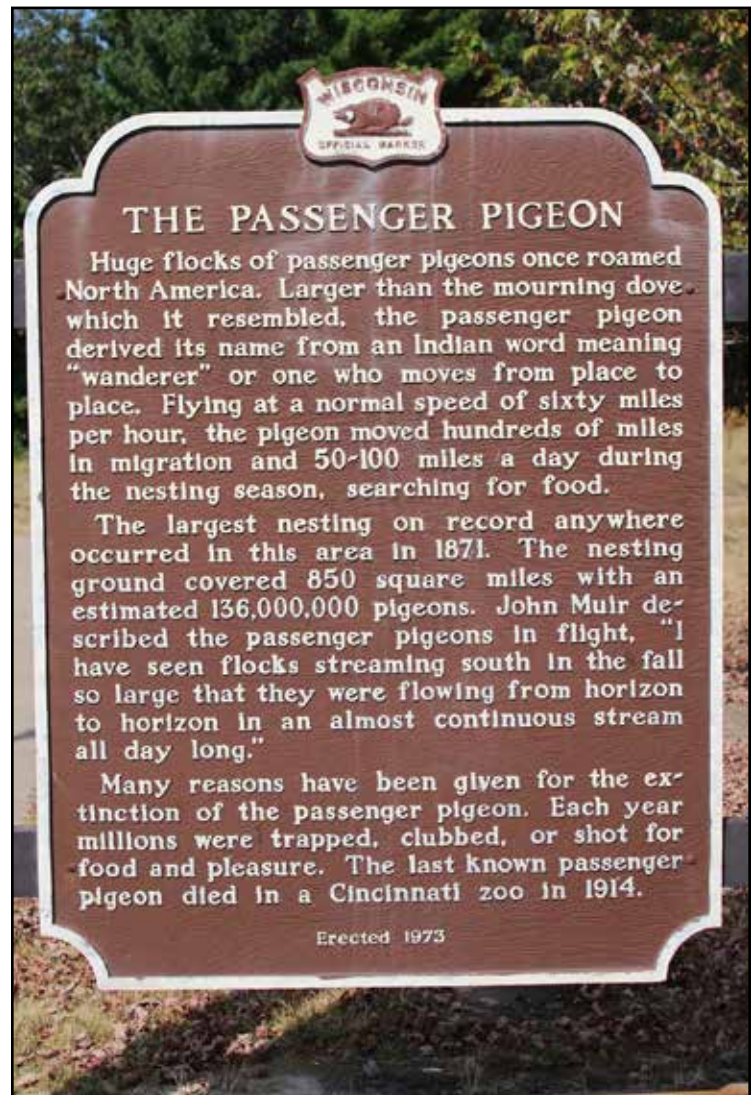
Excessive hunting, loss of habitat, and overpopulation of the birds themselves created a perfect storm which ended a species. All that remains of the once abundant birds in Wisconsin is a monument in Wyalusing State Park on the Mississippi River. 🍃

dozen 14-year-old boys.” Once the forests were cut down, the food source disappeared.

In their wake, passenger pigeons left behind stripped fields and ravaged woods. Their droppings, which coated branches and lay a foot thick on the ground, like snow, proved toxic to the undergrowth and fatal to the trees.

The abundance was misleading. In 1900, a boy in Ohio shot a passenger pigeon out of a tree with a twelve-gauge shotgun, killing what was probably the last wild member of the species. A small captive population remained at the Cincinnati Zoo, including a pair named George and Martha. By 1910, Martha was the sole survivor. Officials offered a thousand-dollar reward for a mate, but on September 1, 1914, the last passenger pigeon in the world died.

The last live bird seen in Sheboygan County, as noted in a diary entry, was in the town of Mitchell in the 1880s. A January 3, 1930, Sheboygan Press article noted that the Smithsonian was home to thirty-five to forty stuffed passenger pigeons including Martha. A Milwaukee Sentinel article from February 2, 1933, reported that the Milwaukee Public Museum owned just one pair. In 1963, a Sheboygan Press article highlighted the pair of pigeons on display at the Sheboygan County



The Wisconsin Historical marker at Wyalusing State Park commemorating the Passenger Pigeon.

GENEALOGY SEMINAR

MAY 19, 2025

LOCATION

Generations, 1500 Douglas Drive,
Plymouth, WI 53073

TIME

9 am to 3 pm

COST

\$25

Join the Research Center and Genetic Genealogist Kate Penney Howard for a day of genealogical exploration.

Kate Penney Howard
Genetic Genealogist



Register at schrc.org
or scan the code



Kate Penney Howard is a genetic genealogist, specializing in brick wall work, HighRoH, and endogamy. During a bout with cancer, she discovered that she loves sharing her knowledge with other genealogists. She is intentional about addressing injustice and myths in her presentations. Kate has presented at Rootstech, East Coast Genetic Genealogy Conference, the International Congress on Medieval Studies, and NAAP/RTK's Untangling Our Roots. 2025 speaking engagements include Rootstech, Ohio Genealogical Society 2025, and Ontario Ancestors Webinar Series, as well as local library and genealogical society gatherings. Kate studied vocal music and earned a Master of Divinity from Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis in 2011 and has been a pastor in Fort Wayne since her ordination in 2012.

FOUR SESSIONS:

- Let Tech Work For You: Harnessing the Power of Apps and Tools
- Using Artificial Intelligence to Amplify Your Genealogical Work
- Genetic Genealogy, Empathy, and the NPE Community
- Facts and Fables: Crafting Your Family Narrative

See the backside for session descriptions

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SHEBOYGAN COUNTY
**HISTORICAL
RESEARCH
CENTER**

518 Water Street
Sheboygan Falls, WI 53085
(920) 467-4667

FOR MORE INFORMATION

VISIT WWW.SCHRC.ORG



MORNING SESSIONS:

Let Tech Work For You: Harnessing the Power of Apps and Tools

Are you encumbered with boxes of papers left to you by dear Aunt Madge? Have your grandchildren shown interest in your research, but they want to see information on their phones? Do you struggle with filling in the rest of the story ("the dash") between a person's birth and death? Not sure you're ready to trade in your pencil for a stylus, but you want to know more? This class is for you!

Using Artificial Intelligence to Amplify Your Genealogical Work

Dipping your toe into AI can be a daunting experience. Let's explore how you can improve your research, extract more data, transcribe, translate, and creatively leverage tools and resources available to tech-embracing genealogists.

AFTERNOON SESSIONS:

Genetic Genealogy, Empathy, and the NPE Community

"NPE" is what happens when a person takes a consumer DNA test and discovers that their biological parent or parent is "Not the Parent Expected." It's often a shock for individuals, and the discovery can trigger conflict and rejection both in the family they were raised with, and in their biological family as well. We will explore the history and culture surrounding how we identify family, and how consumer DNA testing has re-framed these concepts. Students will gain insights into the challenges faced by those experiencing NPE, developing empathy and practical skills for supporting individuals through this often turbulent journey of self-discovery. The course aims to equip participants with the knowledge and sensitivity needed to approach genetic surprises with understanding and grace.

Facts and Fables: Crafting Your Family Narrative

Our personal identity is comprised of facts, lore, and DNA. How do we navigate that well, effectively honoring our family history, even when faced with inaccuracies, embellishments, or outlandish fabrications? From deciphering the truth behind mythical ancestors to understanding the significance of half-remembered tales, we will grapple with the importance of preserving family stories. By addressing the challenge of reconciling truth and myth within family histories, this class empowers attendees to shape their family's identity with clarity and integrity, discerning fact from fiction, and preserving the essence of their heritage while embracing the complexities of their ancestral past.

*Lunch is on your own. A cafe is located within
Generations and other restaurants are close by.*

Register at schrc.org
or scan the code





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 Historical Research Center
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 Sheboygan Falls, WI 53085



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SHEBOYGAN COUNTY HISTORICAL RESEARCH CENTER PRESENTS

SALOON STORIES

HISTORIC PRESERVATION


<p>FEBRUARY 27</p> <p>"Plymouth, Wisconsin: The World Capital of ... Italian Cheese?" by Jennifer Lehrke</p>	<p>APRIL 17</p> <p>"Robinson House 3.0: Preservation is Perpetual" by Jennifer Lehrke</p>
<p>MARCH 20</p> <p>"The J.W. Christopher Transportation Collection: Preserving The Art of Dining by Land, Air, and Sea" by Anne Lapinski</p>	<p>MAY 15</p> <p>"What the Laack?! The Past, Present, and Future of the H.C. Laack Block and Hotel Laack in the Downtown Plymouth Historic District" by Jennifer Lehrke</p>

EVENT LOCATION




W4408 County Road C
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