



Sheboygan County Historical Research Center

September 2011 – Annual Report

**It's All About You
Your History, Our Mission**



The Sheboygan County Historical Research Center was started in 1983 by a group of citizens who realized much of their local history was being thrown away and lost. The community needed a central location to store photos and documents which were collected by private citizens—resources not saved by any public entity.

So, after nearly 30 years your community has a storehouse of more than 500,000 photos and 1,000,000 documents about Sheboygan County and it's right in your backyard.

The Historical Research Center is open to the public. Everyone is welcome. There is no admittance fee. It is a great place for students and teachers, writers and reporters, historians and sports enthusiasts.

Your Historical Research Center is a great place - built by people like you and me, for people like you and me. This is a place which documents the history and lives of your town.

It's All About You.
Your history. Our mission.

September 2010

Linda Herrick, talented German genealogist, spoke to a crowd of more than 50 avid researchers and led them through the maze of German history foibles in their quest for their family history. Every month SCHRC presents a new and different class to deal with the multitude of genealogical challenges facing researchers.

SCHRC received a certificate of appreciation from RCS Empowers for work with clients. The Research Center provides a new and different way to provide opportunities for citizens with disabilities.

October 2010

SCHRC hosted a wine tasting and trivia fundraiser at the Research Center on a blustery fall evening at the end of the month. Fifty hearty guests sampled a number of great wines from The Wine House of Sheboygan Falls. Great appetizers created by Mary Risseuw accompanied the wine at each station. Volunteers entertained visitors with local history trivia. Hands-down favorite was the Border of Egypt conundrum.

November 2010

The Wisconsin Mayflower Society scanning project has come to a close. For the last four years, Tom and Gilbert Keyes and Neal and Mar Jean Buck have worked at SCHRC each week to digitize original Mayflower Society applications. The records are available for research. The Research Center was also the recipient of a complete set of Silver Books, which document the descendants of the Mayflower.

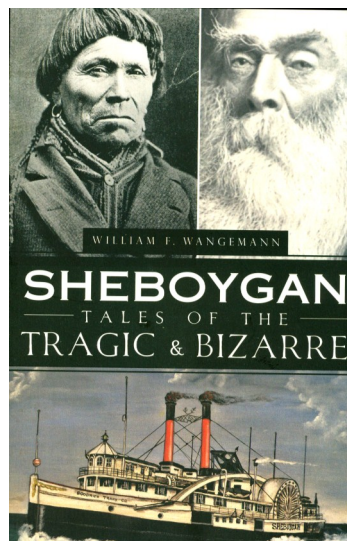




December 2010

An Irish Christmas—Our 5th Annual Celtic Christmas tea was held at the Plymouth Historical Society (PHS) in collaboration with PHS and the Sheboygan County Chapter of Celtic Women International. More than 75 people gathered to celebrate the holiday season and hear the musical group, Theiss and O'Connor, sing a mix of traditional Irish and holiday tunes.

SCHRC participated in Sheboygan Falls' Main Street Memories by inviting Bill Wangemann, author and Sheboygan City Historian, to hold a book signing at the Research Center for his newest book, *Sheboygan, Tales of the Tragic and Bizarre*.

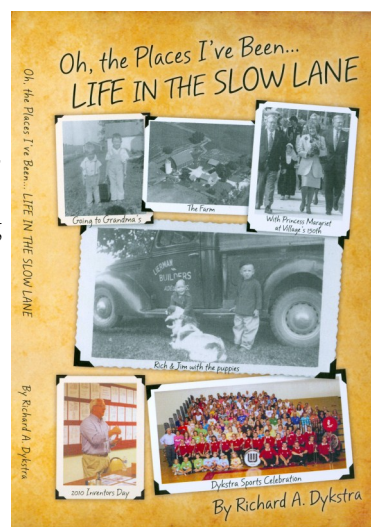


January 2011

The weather kept most of us huddled in our homes during January. Snow was abundant. Rochelle Pennington, author and columnist, braved the elements and was the Second Saturdays presenter. She reminded us of the World War I Christmas miracle—a truce- which occurred along the front lines in Europe. Her stories were taken directly from the written memories of those soldiers who participated in the events of Christmas 1914 while celebrating the great holiday with their "former enemies." It was a morning which made us all grateful for the things we had.

February 2011

The first new book of the year was *Oh the Places I've Been, Life in the Slow Lane*, by Richard A. Dykstra. Dykstra, local author and social commentator, expands upon his early life in this book of short stories. Tales deal with seemingly mundane but very memorable activities that Dykstra participated in as a child – shopping trips to Sheboygan when it took a week or more of planning (dress shopping with his Mom at Three Sisters), going to the outhouse (a two-holer in the Dykstra's case), Friday nights in Sheboygan Falls capped off with a stop at Bob's Lunch, one-room school trials and tribulations, Sundays at grandma's, the anxious anticipation of a first Milwaukee Braves game, life in the era of polio and something called Sunday Rules.



March 2011

Research Center launched its 2011 Annual Campaign – **Over 500,000 Served!** - The Research Center has always provided research experiences for college and high school students, but increasingly it serves National History Day competitors and rapidly emerging home school groups. Students can work with and actually touch primary source documents. They see and hear the voice of a lonely Civil War soldier through his handwritten letters home. They feel a young woman's excitement through her diary entry about her first day teaching school. They begin to understand the politics and depth of emotion of an event like the Kohler Strike of 1954 when they see the frightened or angry faces in stark black and white images or read the emotional interviews of a striker or Kohler executive. These precious experiences happen right here at SCHRC every day.



April 2011

Marine historian Brendon Bailod packed the house at Second Saturdays as he explored the history, mythology and archeology of the legendary and tragic Lake steamer Lady Elgin. Lost in 1860 off Illinois with over 400 lives, the disaster remains the deadliest sinking in Great Lakes history. The talk provided a glimpse into the lives of the many different classes of people who were on the ship and reviewed her role in Wisconsin's Civil War politics.



May 2011

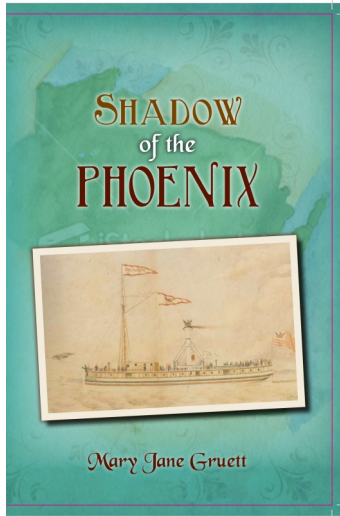
Collection News—New research collections came by the carload as people did their spring cleaning. One great collection came from Fred T. Beisser, photographer and sports reporter for the Sheboygan County News. This great collection includes photos, negatives, news articles, letters and so much more— all about Sheboygan County and Sheboygan Falls, in particular. Thanks to the Beisser family for the donation.

June 2011

Assoc. for the Advancement of Dutch-American Studies
The eighteenth biennial AADAS conference was held at Lakeland College and hosted by the Sheboygan County Historical Research Center. More than one hundred people from all over North America and Europe

attended the first AADAS conference to be held in Wisconsin! The conference theme was “Past and Present: The Importance of History for Dutch-Americans.”

Yvette Hoitink, seen above on the screen, participated as a presenter via Skype from the Netherlands. Unable to be physically present, she gave a fascinating presentation and answered many questions from eager AADAS participants.



July 2011

Shadow of the Phoenix-SCHRC published its first childrens’ novel. This historical novel, written by Mary Jane Gruett of Oostburg, tells the story of a surviving child of the Phoenix disaster in realistic terms of the era. Though difficult at times, Derk Van Vliet, a young lad from Winterswijk, Gelderland, The Netherlands survives and begins a new life in America. Local artist Jenna DeTroye contributed three beautiful drawings for the book.

A Needed Facelift– The Millhouse was given a beautiful makeover by Rob Bevans and his staff of Sprayco from Oostburg. The house is, once again, a beautiful white and this time sports a deep green front door making. More changes are coming– landscaping and new signage.



August 2011

Interns from Lakeland College have been great additions to SCHRC’s staff. Last school year we were fortunate enough to have two students from Lakeland College, Alyssa Abbott and Paul Parchert. This year we have Beau Bradshaw, a triple major in history, criminal justice and psychology, who is interested in everything. You will see Beau’s work in upcoming newsletters. You’ll also see Adam Mauer’s work in the newsletter. Adam, a recent graduate of Concordia University with a degree in history and a new volunteer, will also help fill the newsletter with items of great interest. Articles on the WPA, Civilian Air Patrol and Broughton-Sheboygan Marsh will be forthcoming.

Website- Phase one of SCHRC’s new website—www.schrc.org—came online in August. Thanks to the guys from Dynamic Develop for moving this project along. SCHRC staff is now cleaning up the first phase and jumping right into phase two which will get important research indices and information online and available for researchers.

SCHRC began working with LTC’s newest students-participants in the brand new horticultural program. They will overhaul the sidewalks and yard around the research center. This should be a great collaboration. Stay tuned.

“History teaches everything including the future.”



SCHRC Research Statistics

Six paid personnel and 86 volunteers staffed the SCHRC during fiscal year 2010-2011. Volunteers totaled more than **13,500 hours** of volunteer time in service to the Research Center. These hours do not reflect the hundreds of extra hours spent participating in outside activities, either at home or at public functions.

The Research Center membership numbered **1197 members** for the 2010-2011 fiscal year. Newsletters were mailed six times per year, some as exchanges to other historical organizations, some to friends and the remainder to our loyal members.

During the past year more than **3612 people visited** the Center to do research, purchase books and tour the historic Millhouse. Researchers came **from 30 states, Canada, England, the Netherlands, Mexico and Germany.**

Friends of the Center donated items for **250+ different archival collections.** Our librarian cataloged 163 items including 65 genealogies.

The research staff answered **625 written queries** from across the globe. The SCHRC website received on average 100 hits per day. Staff answered upwards of **10200 e-mail questions.**

Thanks to Our Donors and Supporters

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Jennifer Lehrke—Retired
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Sharon Winkle
William Wagner
William Wangemann—Retired

2010-2011 Staff

Beth Dippel, Director
Mary Risseeuw, Development Director
Kathryn Jeske, Lead Research Assistant
Katie Reilly, Executive Assistant
Donald Lau, Research Assistant
Edward Kaminsky, Reserch Assistant

Recommended Budget 2011-2012	Budgeted 2010-2011	Actual 2010-2011	Budgeted 2011-2012
Revenues			
Direct Funding:			
Annual Campaign	\$30,000.00	\$22,405.00	\$31,000.00
Foundations/Grants	\$35,000.00	\$15,260.00	\$45,000.00
Memberships	\$35,000.00	\$15,172.77	\$35,000.00
Supporting Orgs.- SCHS	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00
Mission Support	\$30,000.00	\$13,818.19	\$30,000.00
Memorials and Bequests	\$25,000.00	\$3,265.80	\$5,000.00
Project Support	\$10,000.00	\$5,670.00	\$10,000.00
Business Sponsorship	\$5,000.00	\$500.00	\$5,000.00
Total Direct Funding	\$173,500.00	\$79,591.76	\$164,500.00
Special Events:			
Local History Expo	\$2,200.00	\$613.00	\$2,000.00
AADAS Conference	\$26,000.00	\$15,031.63	\$0.00
Fundraiser #1	\$1,250.00	\$940.60	\$3,500.00
Fundraiser #2	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$3,500.00
Fundraiser #3	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,350.00
Fundraiser #4	\$7,500.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00
Total Special Events	\$49,950.00	\$16,585.23	\$15,350.00
Sales and Services			
Book Sales-Store	\$15,000.00	\$10,793.10	\$15,000.00
Book Sales- Web	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00
Book Royalties	\$850.00	\$181.84	\$250.00
Photo Sales-Store	\$1,500.00	\$434.40	\$100.00
Photo Sales-Web	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
Collection Sales-Web	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Misc. Sales -Web	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Postage In:	\$350.00	\$132.96	\$350.00
Copier Usage	\$2,000.00	\$1,685.59	\$1,500.00
Query Service-Store	\$2,500.00	\$2,191.98	\$2,500.00
Query Service-Web	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
German Translation	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$250.00
Register of Deeds	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Cem. Photos	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
Exhibit Services	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Total Sales and Services	\$24,050.00	\$15,419.87	\$32,650.00
Outreach:			
Genealogy Classes	\$2,500.00	\$3,622.00	\$3,500.00
Speaker's Bureau	\$350.00	\$0.00	\$250.00
Second Saturdays	\$2,000.00	\$1,750.00	\$3,750.00
Irish Programming	\$500.00	\$264.89	\$500.00
Annual Meeting	\$1,760.00	\$718.00	\$1,300.00
Total Outreach	\$7,110.00	\$6,354.89	\$9,300.00
Miscellaneous			
WI Dept of Revenue Refund	\$250.00	\$356.60	\$1,000.00
Miscellaneous	\$0.00	\$13.06	\$0.00
Interest Income	\$0.00	\$1,951.52	\$1,500.00
Miscellaneous Total	\$250.00	\$2,321.18	\$2,500.00
Total Revenue	\$254,860.00	\$120,272.93	\$224,300.00

Expenditures

Operations:

Wages	\$135,000.00	\$95,376.23	\$135,000.00
Payroll Taxes	\$9,200.00	\$7,804.74	\$9,200.00
Employee Benefits	\$15,000.00	\$8,964.00	\$8,300.00
Workmen's Comp Ins.	\$600.00	\$546.00	\$650.00
Unemployment Surcharge	\$0.00	\$83.34	\$0.00
Errors and Omissions Ins.	\$910.00	\$910.00	\$1,000.00
Staff Education	\$300.00	\$113.60	\$300.00
Dues and Subscriptions	\$625.00	\$620.37	\$650.00
Equipment Rental- Copier	\$2,196.00	\$2,020.56	\$2,200.00
Equipment Maint.- Copiers	\$2,478.00	\$4,768.25	\$3,000.00
Postage and Delivery	\$5,000.00	\$4,756.54	\$5,000.00
Professional Fees- Auditors	\$4,500.00	\$4,300.00	\$4,500.00
Professional Fees- Website	\$7,500.00	\$3,235.00	\$3,000.00
State of WI- Regis Fee	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$54.00
State of WI - Vendor's License	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$20.00
State of WI - Raffle License	\$0.00	\$29.00	\$25.00
Internet Expense- High Speed	\$360.00	\$583.10	\$1,000.00
Computer Repairs	\$325.00	\$379.31	\$500.00
Equipment Repairs- DW, RP	\$500.00	\$229.69	\$1,000.00
Network Installation and Equip.	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,500.00
Office/Archival Supplies	\$5,000.00	\$3,451.65	\$3,000.00
Office Equip- Computers	\$3,000.00	\$649.49	\$5,000.00
Office Equip-Other	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,950.00
Bank Charges- Checks, etc.	\$150.00	\$270.50	\$150.00
Credit Card Charges-Paypal Fees	\$0.00	\$60.00	\$500.00
Total Operations	\$192,694.00	\$139,201.37	\$187,499.00

Building:

Lawn Care	\$300.00	\$167.43	\$200.00
Snow Plowing	\$1,500.00	\$1,502.15	\$1,500.00
Liability/Fire Insurance	\$3,000.00	\$1,515.00	\$3,000.00
Building Repairs	\$5,000.00	\$6,113.65	\$7,000.00
Housekeeping	\$150.00	\$307.61	\$250.00
Telephone	\$780.00	\$976.43	\$1,500.00
Gas	\$1,800.00	\$1,437.31	\$1,800.00
Water and Electric	\$2,650.00	\$2,690.32	\$2,650.00
Total Building	\$15,180.00	\$14,709.90	\$17,900.00

Special Thanks to

Dynamic Develop and Jason Irish, Trevor Irish, James Grunewald and Ross Fale for their work on our website.

Sheboygan Falls Mutual Insurance Company for sharing parking spaces.

Zimmermann Printing for printing local history projects at great rates.

Sheboygan Falls Memorial Library for sharing their meeting room for programs and classes.

Plymouth Historical Society and the Sheboygan County branch of Celtic Women International for partnering for our Irish Christmas Tea.

Plymouth Review, Falls News, The Sounder and the Sheboygan Press for running our press releases.

Bob Harker and everyone at Sheboygan County Historical Museum for being supportive and fun role models and partners in this history adventure.

Thank You

Special Events:

Local History Expo	\$1,100.00	\$242.00	\$500.00
Dutch/AADAS	\$22,000.00	\$6,924.23	\$0.00
Fundraiser #1	\$250.00	\$58.93	\$500.00
Fundraiser #2	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Fundraiser #3	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Fundraiser #4	\$2,500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Legacy Society	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Special Events	\$28,600.00	\$7,225.16	\$2,500.00

Mill House:

Book Publishing	\$4,000.00	\$1,204.22	\$4,000.00
Book Purchases	\$600.00	\$5,519.41	\$4,000.00
ISBN/Bar Code Expenses	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
Book Design Assistance	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
Photo Department	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Mill House	\$4,800.00	\$6,723.63	\$8,200.00

Sales and Services:

Query Service	\$2,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
German Translation	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Register of Deeds	\$100.00	\$65.00	\$250.00
Cem. Photos	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Exhibit Services	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Services	\$2,700.00	\$65.00	\$250.00

Development:

Tours	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Public Relations/Promotion	\$200.00	\$872.85	\$1,520.00
Board Education	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Annual Report	100.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Annual Campaign	450.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Total Development	\$1,250.00	\$872.85	\$2,020.00

Outreach:

Genealogy Classes	\$150.00	\$700.00	\$150.00
Speaker's Bureau	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Second Saturdays	\$2,500.00	\$1,129.82	\$2,500.00
History on the Move	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Irish Programming	\$400.00	\$375.00	\$375.00
Meeting Expense	\$0.00	\$660.03	\$1,300.00
Miscellaneous	\$0.00	\$201.34	\$0.00
Total Outreach	\$3,300.00	\$3,066.19	\$4,325.00

Miscellaneous:

Misc.	\$0.00	\$64.52	\$0.00
Total Miscellaneous	\$0.00	\$64.52	\$0.00

Total Expenses	\$245,824.00	\$171,928.62	\$222,444.00
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Employer ID#- 39-1550801 We are a 501 (c) 3 non -profit organization.