



# The Researcher

The Newsletter of the Sheboygan County  
Historical Research Center

Volume XX Number 4

April 2010

## Local History Expo

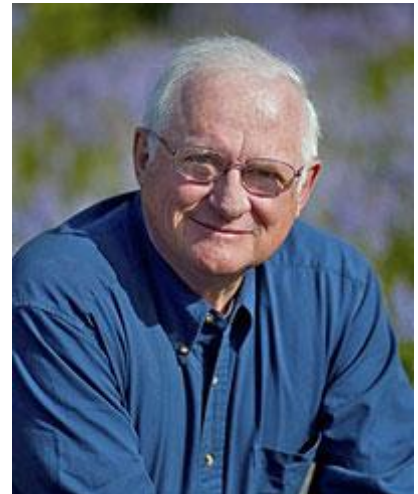
The Sheboygan County Area Historical Community is sponsoring the second Local History Expo at Range Line Inn, at 170 Range Line Road, Kohler, Wisconsin, on Monday, May 3 from 3 PM to 7 PM as a fund raiser for each of the co-hosting organizations. This event will highlight special guests and local history with each organization having a display of their accomplishments and current projects.

From the 2009 Local History Expo, Rick Bernstein from the Wisconsin Historical Society, wrote these comments. This event "was by far the best history fair I have ever attended."

Special guests this year include Ellsworth Brown, the Director of the Wisconsin Historical Society, John Broihahn, Wisconsin State Archeologist, Lance Herdegen, Civil War author and speaker, Jerry Apps, popular author and speaker about Wisconsin history and music provided by the Sheboygan based Michael Lee Ammons and the Water Street Hot Shots. The cost of tickets is \$21 and can be purchased from any of the co-hosting organizations.

Ellsworth Brown, Director of the Wisconsin Historical Society since 2004, will attend for the afternoon. He enjoys the grass roots efforts of local historical societies, meeting the people involved and is looking forward to seeing the progress of local projects.

John Broihahn, Wisconsin State Archeologist since 2004, will be hosting a display and making a presentation at 4 PM. He has taken part in many research projects across the state, including explorations of Wisconsin's earliest residents, investigations into the State's lead and zinc mining and more recently explorations of farmsteads and homesteads in Wisconsin's northern forests. John will be discussing the Wisconsin Historical Society's recent investigations at several sites including cutting edge research on Wisconsin's historic shipwrecks.



Jerry Apps



John Broihahn

The Sheboygan County Historical Research Center is located at 518 Water Street  
in Sheboygan Falls. Open Tuesday through Friday, 9:00am - 4:00pm  
and Saturday, 8:30am to 12:00noon.

Phone: 920-467-4667

E-mail: [schrc@att.net](mailto:schrc@att.net)

Website: [www.schrc.org](http://www.schrc.org)



Lance Herdegen

Lance Herdegen is the recognized expert as speaker, author and editor of many books on Wisconsin's Civil War Brigade. His latest book, *Those Damned Black Hats! The Iron brigade in the Gettysburg Campaign*, has won an Army Historical Foundation Distinguished Writing Award. He is the former Director of the Institute for Civil War

Studies at Carroll University and presently works as historical consultant for the Civil War Museum of the Upper Middle West at Kenosha. He will be hosting a display, have books for sale and be making a presentation at 5 PM.

Jerry Apps, born and raised on a Wisconsin farm, is Professor Emeritus at University of Wisconsin, Madison and the author of more than 25 books. He is a popular speaker with endless stories of Wisconsin farm life, cheese factories, one-room country schools, Ringling Brothers Circus, Wisconsin Breweries and much more. He will be hosting a display, selling his books and making a presentation at 6 PM.

*Michael Lee Ammons and The Water Street Hot Shots* are a hard working traditional blues string band. They draw from the acoustic musical styles of the 1920s and 1930s with a repertoire that includes old-time blues, ragtime, novelty and "hokum" party music. They will be playing from 4:30 to 6:30.

The co-hosting local historical community provides a wide spectrum of collection, preservation and public programming activities. From the major development being planned for the Wade House Historic Site to the unique challenges of Centreville Settlement's Lutze Housebarn to the innovative "Third Saturday" programs of the Sheboygan County Historical Society, there will be much to see and learn at this year's Local History Expo.

Wade House Historic Site, one of ten sites operated by the Wisconsin Historical Society, will highlight the programs, summer camps and major events on their schedule. The Lutze Housebarn restoration and the community oral history project, both projects of Centreville Settlement, are some of the most unique projects in Wisconsin.

The Sheboygan County Historical Research Center archives are an incredible resource for family genealogy and other local history resources that include an estimated 500,000 plus photos. Plymouth Historical Society has in recent years restored an historic building, continues to install new exhibits and has a full schedule of events during the year. Random Lake has restored the Nowak House and rents additional space for museum exhibits and monthly programs. The New Holstein Historical Society has recently completed the excellent restoration of the Timm House and has developed a number of events in their season.

Each of the participating organizations is dedicated to collecting and preserving local history and educating the families of today and the future. The total membership of co-hosting organizations is estimated to be well over a 2,700 members. Members support their organizations with time, talent and financial resources.

Area historical societies, over the course of a year, provide tours and full day student education programs creating unforgettable learning experiences for many thousands of area students. Societies provide summer and seasonal events, programs, historic trades training, historic games and sports opportunities, presentations, summer camps, volunteer opportunities, historic archives, collect oral and video histories, support numerous historic preservation projects, historic reenactments, demonstrations, historic meals that guests prepare and enjoy, historic movies, hands-on opportunities of all kinds, special events too numerous to mention and much much more.

Other displays will include Rick Bernstein of the Wisconsin Historical Society. He will host a display featuring the work of other local history organizations across the state and major projects within the historic sites and other Society divisions. Scott Lewandoske will host the Sheboygan Preservation Committee display as they continue their work to identify historic properties in Sheboygan.

Range Line Inn will provide a tasty buffet meal from 4:30 to 6:30 as part of the ticket price to attend this event.

To attend this event, purchase tickets in advance from the Research Center before April 24 if possible. Tickets are \$21 and include admission to the Local History Expo exhibits and programs, the opportunity to meet the special guests, a tasty buffet ham dinner with dessert and four hours of period music.

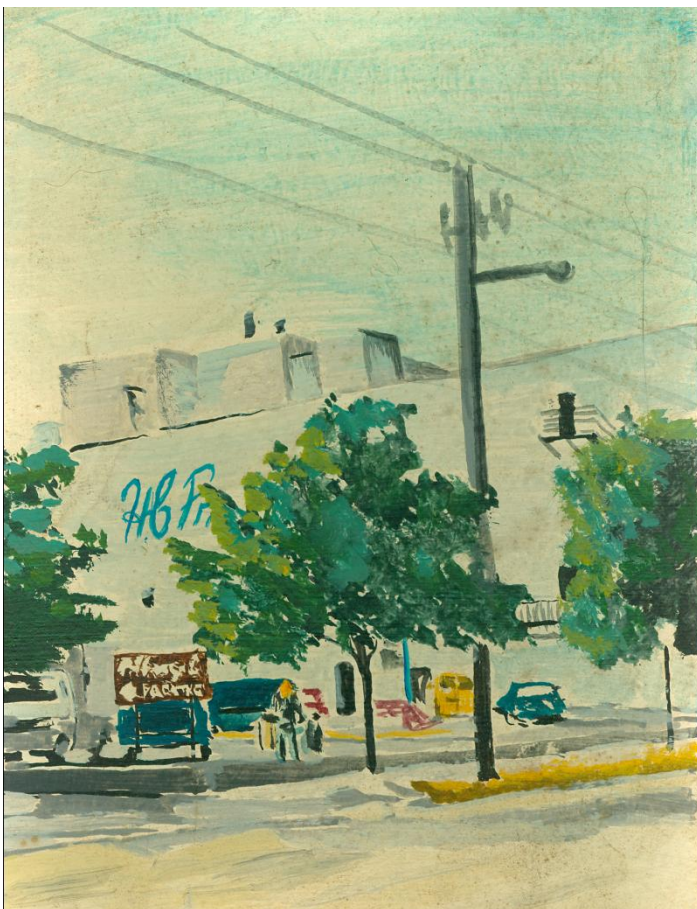
## **Second Call: Sheboygan County's Ethnic Food Heritage: A Cookbook and Historical Memoir.**

Weiner schnitzel like Grandma used to make? What's your family's favorite kugel recipe? How many variations on hutspot (kecta to some!) does your family make? Baklava, anyone?

An ethnic cookbook highlighting the rich traditions of Sheboygan County is planned for publication by Christmas 2010. We'd love to see your family's favorite recipes and the traditions behind them. Has your recipe been adapted for American taste buds, or is it still the way your immigrant ancestor made it? Is there a story behind why or when the dish is served? We will provide historical information on the various immigrant groups and are counting on you for your favorite recipes and the traditions behind them.

Please be sure you've checked the measurements, ingredients and directions before you submit them! If you're interested in participating in selection and review of recipes, please let us know!

Call 920-467-4667 and ask for Mary Risseuw if you have questions. She can also be reached at [maryr.schrc@att.net](mailto:maryr.schrc@att.net).



## **Prange's Department Store, A Cornerstone of Sheboygan Life**

Mention the name Prange's and no matter your age from 40 to 90 you should have a personal memory of the legendary Sheboygan department store. Whether it was the annual animated Christmas windows, the due bills, the x-ray machine in the shoe department or escalators. Think hard and remember the small things, something unusual about the store.

The Sheboygan County Historical Research Center, 518 Water Street, Sheboygan Falls, Wisconsin is collecting personal stories, memories and photos for a publication about Prange's. Employees and customers alike are encouraged to participate in this enjoyable historical scavenger hunt.

You can send your memories in writing to SCHRC. You can speak to someone at SCHRC on the phone or in person to share your memories. We're looking for photos of Prange's activities, interior store images, images of Christmas windows and Christmas activities or employees. Soooo-- we encourage the public to share information as soon as

possible. Photos and other information can be scanned at the time of your visit to SCHRC, but making an appointment is encouraged. Please call 920-467-4667 for an appointment or further information. Deadline is July 1, 2010.



**“Get in the Habit,  
Support the Research Center”  
Annual Campaign**

Here are the Top Five Reasons to make a gift to the Research Center (SCHRC):

5. You will find a suitable home at SCHRC for those old boxes of newspapers and scrapbooks that you found in Grandma’s attic. 235 people donated material in 2009. Remember, before you throw valuable paper information away, call SCHRC.

4. SCHRC sponsored 53 public programs in 2009. This included the ever popular *Second Saturday’s* program, an interactive local history lecture series held monthly at the Sheboygan Falls library. Open to the

public and free of charge, *Second Saturday’s* topics have included: Garton Toy Company, the Sheboygan Marsh, Civil War and the Underground Railroad in WI.

3. More than 300 collections were processed in 2009 adding over 10,000 new images and 100,000 pieces of historical paper further filling the 9,000 square foot building. This addition brings SCHRC’s collection total to 450,000+ images and 1,000,000+ documents - all dealing with Sheboygan County and eastern Wisconsin.

2. Our bookstore contains over 61 local history books, most by local authors and all about Sheboygan County. Topics include, WWII - The Home Front and The Ultimate Sacrifice, Sheboygan Firsts, the Elkhart Lake Road Races and so much more

1. Your Research Center is the only local history archive in Wisconsin that is open 5 days a week - 52 weeks of the year and it is located in your backyard, Sheboygan Falls.

Please don’t forget. Give Generously.

**FYI-** Photo Restoration and Preservation

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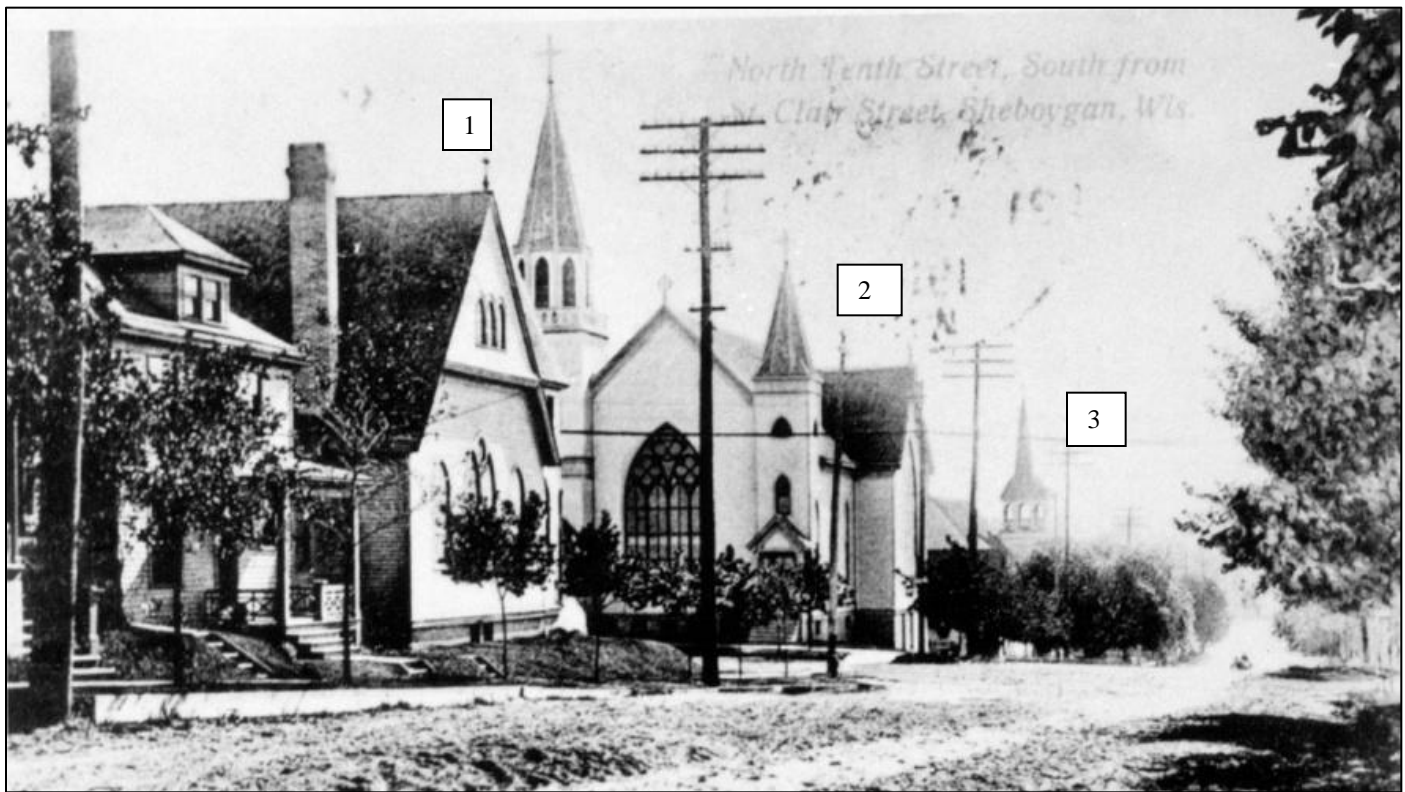
**Kiel Area Historical Society Events**

May 15, 2010- Open House (1:00pm to 3:00pm) Show and Tell- Painting- Rosemary Mohnsam

June 12, 2010- Open House Show 1-3 and Tell- Red Hat Society

July 17, 2010 – Open House and Show and Tell- Quilting, Faye Konen and Michelle May

August 14, 2010 – Open House - German Translations- Nancy Zimmermann



**Further information concerning this postcard was requested by a number of members. It is a view of North Tenth Street from St. Clair Avenue looking south across Erie Avenue in Sheboygan. Circa 1910. This view of the image was cropped to better fit in this article- only the bottom was shortened.**

### **1. German Baptist Church- Bethel Baptist Church**

The German Baptist Church of Sheboygan was organized on March 8, 1891 with nearly thirty members, all families coming to Sheboygan directly from Germany. . This congregation, later known as Bethel Baptist Church, built its church on the northeast corner of Erie Avenue and North 10<sup>th</sup> Street in 1892. A.C. Weeks was the architect for the project. The main building was 32 x 42 and had two small wings. The foundation and basement were of brick and the superstructure of wood. Seating capacity was about 300. This church building was used until 1971 when a new facility was built on the far south side of Sheboygan at 2411 County Trunk EE. The building housed the Body Shoppe for years until a terrible fire made it unusable in 2008.

### **2. Immaculate Conception**

A new parish was organized in July, 1903 by a group of Lithuanian immigrants who wanted Mass said in their own language. They purchased a building which formerly housed the Church of Christ Divine Science for \$6,000. Located on the southeast corner of Erie Avenue and North 10<sup>th</sup>, it was remodeled into a Catholic Church and given the name Immaculate Conception. The first pastor was Rev. Casimir Ambrozaitis. This building served the parish until the mid-1950s when it was decided that expansion of the parish at the current site was deemed impossible. The entire parish was moved to a piece of undeveloped land bounded by Humboldt, Wilson, Henry and South Fourteenth Streets. Groundbreaking for the new building was held on March 30, 1959. The first Mass was celebrated on February 2, 1960.

### **3. Hope Reformed Church**

In 1891 a group of people from Holland, also wanting services in their own language, rented a building which was known as the Zion House. In 1893 their first church was built on the northeast corner of Ontario Avenue and North

10<sup>th</sup> Street. This is the third church in the photo (steeple seen at center of the photo). The congregation worshipped there for 40 years. In February of 1938 a new church, located on North 6<sup>th</sup> Street and Ontario Avenue, was dedicated. This property was the site of the former home of Judge William Henry Seaman.

## Sheboygan County's Lone Confederate Soldier

submitted by Scott Lewandoske

James M. Logan has a claim that no other Civil War veteran in Sheboygan County can claim. Logan is the only Civil War veteran buried in Sheboygan County who served in the Confederate Army. Born in Georgia he served in a regiment from that state. Logan came to Plymouth on October 14, 1897 and rented a room at the Wisconsin House (City Club) while working as a salesman for the Domestic Yeast Company of Sheboygan.

According to the Plymouth Reporter of October 21, 1897 "Logan ate supper and sat around rather quietly the balance of the evening, taking a long nap, in one of the chairs of the bar room. At about eleven o'clock he retired leaving word to be called at six o'clock in the morning. The call was given at the appointed hour, but Mr. Logan failed to put in an appearance at the breakfast table. About eight, the proprietor went upstairs and looked through the transom of a side door. He saw Mr. Logan lying on the bed, partially dressed, apparently dead. After a bit of a delay, Marshall A. J. Wolf was notified, who with Justice M.M. Gilman, Dr. C.R. Nutt and the proprietor opened the door. They were horrified to find the man dead."

The article went on, "A tumbler on the stand in the room showed that the man had been using carbolic acid, no bottle, however, being in evidence. A search of the room and his person revealed the fact that he had but three cents on his person, several order, collection and expense books and a number of envelopes addressed to his wife. The cause of suicide can only be surmised, as he left no explanation of any kind. An empty bottle, having held carbolic acid was later discovered in front of Harrington & Corbett's store, the old Adams Rexall Pharmacy, right opposite from the windows of his room. It is supposed that he emptied the contents in the tumbler and hurled the bottle across the street. The poison was not purchased in the city and it is believed that the deed was premeditated.

A coroner's jury was called and listened to the evidence, concluding that "Death was caused by carbolic acid administered by his own hands." Logan's body was sent back to Sheboygan, where he was laid to rest in Wildwood Cemetery.

Note: Carbolic acid was used frequently in suicides in the last two centuries. Easily procurable, it had a great sedative effect and killed quickly. It was highly favored for use in Nazi death camps.

**Please note the change in operating hours for SCHRC. Summer Hours start early this year. But, if you are from out-of-town and have a conflict with our summer hours, please call and schedule an appointment for Saturday afternoon or Monday. We will be glad to accommodate you and your group.**

Also, please email SCHRC so we can get you on our update list. You'll be notified of new programs, reminded of what's upcoming or just kept current with daily events. You'll receive an email once every week or two with new- no need to respond and no obligation. Just sharing good news. Also, check out our Facebook page- new items each week.

**Wanted-- writers, researchers and topics for our 2010 Time Lines magazine. Please contact Beth at schrc@att.net.**

**Breweriana- Plymouth resident, Todd Nelson, is interested in local brewing items and all things "beer". He will buy, sell or trade. If you're interested, call him at 920-980-6329.**

## Focus on the Collection

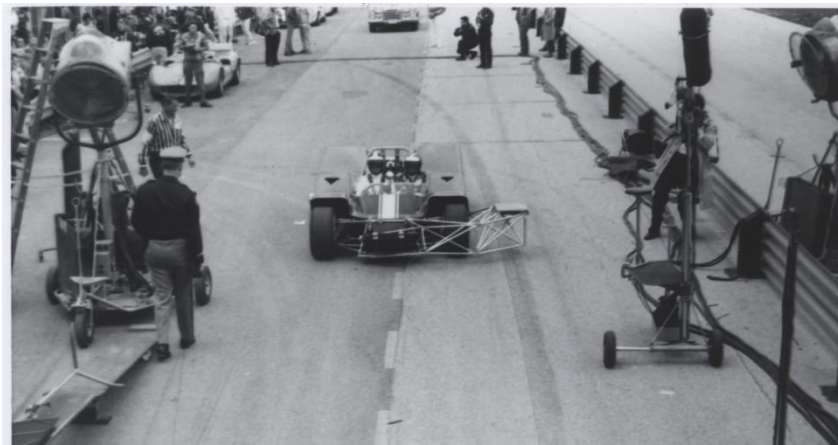
Each month many new items are entered into the main collection at the Research Center. These new items are all donated by individuals concerned with preserving Sheboygan County's history. They range from photographs and records for individuals and families to business history, sports and other interesting topics. We will focus on a couple of those new collections.

### "Winning" 1969 Movie

**Cast:** Clu Gulager, David Sheiner, Joanne Woodward, Maxine Stuart, Paul Newman, Richard Thomas, Robert Wagner, Toni Clayton

**Plot:** Frank Capua is a rising star on the race circuit who dreams of winning the big one--the Indianapolis 500. But to get there he runs the risk of losing his wife Elora to his rival, Luther Erding, and strains the relationship with his stepson.

**Images:** Filmed in Elkhart Lake, Plymouth and Parnell this series of 52 photos, color and black and white documents a small part of the filming of the movie. Part of the Peter Laun Collection. Most unidentified.



### City of Sheboygan Public Works

This series of photos documents much of the building of the public works in the city of Sheboygan- most are 1930s, 1940s and 1950s. The photos cover the building of bridges, parks, streets, etc. The photo below was taken at the time of the rebuilding of the 8<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge in 1930s. This view looks south from the north shore of the Sheboygan River at the C. Reiss Coal building. This series of bridge rebuilding consists of 15 photos.



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### Local History Calendar (Note Program Change)

Saturday, May 8, 2010

Wisconsin Vietnam War Stories

Wisconsin Public Television

A Wisconsin Public Television representative will be the speaker for the final 2009-2010 Second Saturdays presentation. A number of projects by WPT will be introduced along with accompanying publications. Telling emotional stories that haven't been heard before, Wisconsin Vietnam War veterans recount their experiences in television documentary coming to WPT in late May. Wisconsin Vietnam War Stories will feature dozens of veterans from all regions of Wisconsin who reflect on their memories of the Vietnam War and their experiences during and after the war.

#### Genealogy Classes

May 10, 2010 – Full Day Experience – **Research Field Trip to Wisconsin Historical Society in Madison** – Cost and Travel Arrangements Pending. **Class Size Limited.** \$\$\$\$ to be determined.

June 14, 2010 – 1:00pm to 3:00pm – at SCHRC - **Research Outside the United States**- Mary Risseeuw.

July 12, 2009 – 12:30pm to 4:30pm – **Field trip to Luxembourg-American Cultural Society in Belgium, Wisconsin** – Tour and Research Afternoon- **Class Size Limited.**