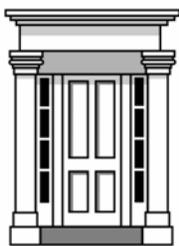


SHEBOYGAN COUNTY



HISTORICAL
RESEARCH
CENTER

Sheboygan Falls Centennial

**Saturday, July 6, 2013
10:00am Parade**

**Events at River Park
following the parade**

The Researcher

**The Newsletter of the Sheboygan County
Historical Research Center**

Volume XXIII Number 5 June 2013

*Sheboygan Falls, Wisconsin
100 Years as a City*



Sheboygan Falls started its life as the village of Rochester when Silas Stedman purchased the land on the east side of the Sheboygan River from the federal government in 1835. By 1913 the settlement grew to city-size and incorporated as such. This year we celebrate the city's centennial. What do you know about Falls' history?

A bit of history - The year 1916 was a banner year for the City of Sheboygan Falls. The privately owned power and light plant, owned and operated by the Weisse Tannery, was purchased by the city. The plant was installed in 1898 and supplied the needs of the tannery and citizens with light from dusk to 1 a.m. daily. Before this time, there was no electric street lighting system. Instead a lamplighter went around at dusk to light the kerosene lamps hung on poles. A ladder was needed to reach the lamps. Later, when lights were extended over the streets suspended from tall poles, the lamp was lowered by means of a rope and pulley. This was known as carbon lighting. Also in 1916, the construction of a city water-works system was approved. The first well was located in the city hall building on Maple Street. A total of five wells were drilled between 1916 and 1945.

Get involved. Celebrate all the good things that make up this wonderful city of Sheboygan Falls.

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 8:30am to 12:00 noon.

Closed Thursday, July 4, 2013 for Independence Day and Friday, July 19, 2013 for Day of Caring-construction.

Phone: 920-467-4667

E-mail: research@schrc.org

Website: schrc.org

Mark Your Calendars

Genealogy Classes

Mark your calendars. The classes at SCHRC take place from 1:00pm to 3:00pm on Monday afternoons.

Classes with fewer than five registered will be rescheduled.

July 8, 2013 - Newspaper Research

August 12, 2013 - Unusual Resources

September 9, 2013 - Work Day at SCHRC

October 7, 2013 - Family Tree Maker

November 11, 2013 - Military Research: Civil War and Revolutionary War

December 9, 2013 - Advanced Genealogy

2013 Evening Classes

These classes run from 5:30pm to 7:00pm

Thursday evening, July 25, 2013 -

Beginning Genealogy

Thursday evening, October 24, 2013 -

Online Resources

+++++

Summer Events

Garden Party and Ice Cream Social

Thursday, June 20, 2013

4:30pm to 7:00pm.

Dedication of SCHRC's new garden with an ice cream social. Open to the public. Special guests will receive invitations.

Volunteer Day of Caring- Library Closed

Friday, July 19, 2013

9:00am until 3:00pm

Volunteers organized by the Volunteer Center of Sheboygan County will spend the day finishing the exterior work on SCHRC's yard and building. Volunteers needed!

SCHRC Turns 30. Birthday Bash at The Bull!

Thursday, September 5, 2013

5:00pm until 7:30pm

A reunion of sorts- we invite volunteers, board members and researchers who were here at the very be-

ginning. Presentations, images, awards and great memories. Dinner and drinks. Short, short annual meeting, just because we must. Mostly fun and memories. See you there.

Go Paperless. Receive *The Researcher* via email. Save paper. Save postage and receive a more colorful newsletter. Contact Katie at research@schrc.org to sign up now.

SHEBOYGAN TAVERNS & BARS



Did you know that in 1949, the State of Wisconsin passed a law that each city could have only one tavern for every 500 population. But, taverns then in business were grandfathered in. With this law, Sheboygan could legally have 85 taverns. But, at the time Sheboygan had 143.

In the years that followed the number of taverns in Sheboygan stayed the same or went up. If Sheboygan annexed more land into the city and if there were taverns on the land annexed, they were also grandfathered in. By the mid 50's Sheboygan could legally have 85, but because of grandfathering in, Sheboygan was actually up to 156 taverns.

Scott Lewandoske is working on a book about the various bars and taverns in the City of Sheboygan since Prohibition ended in 1933. He is looking for any thing related to Sheboygan taverns, such as photos (interior and/or exterior), bar tokens, match books or any other advertising items, such as ashtrays, wallets, calendars, mirrors, pencils, coin purses, key chains, can openers, etc. to use in the book. Go to pg. 7.

George End

George End, a native of New York State, was born January 10, 1830. His parents immigrated to the United States from Alsace, France in 1828. The family moved around, finally settling in Milwaukee in 1840.

At the age of 17, George went into the dry goods and grocery business with a partner J. Phillips. They had a flourishing trade but in 1849 gold fever struck George and he was off to California to seek his fortune. He remained there until the discovery of gold in Australia. In company with others they purchased an old ship and sailed away. They arrived in 1851 after many long eventful days. He was fairly successful as a placer miner but soon decided to return home. From Australia he went to South America and then to Panama. He worked for about a year in railroad construction on the Isthmus but became ill with Panama Fever. Shaking off the fever he returned to New York and then Milwaukee.

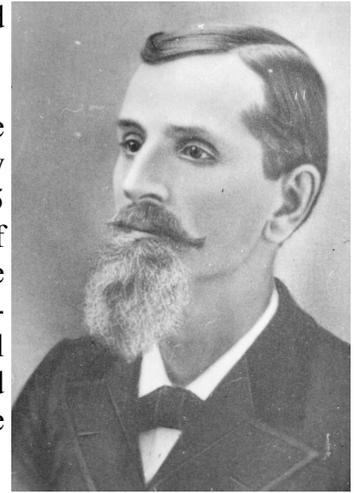
George married Anna Marie Schuler September 24, 1854, sold his share of the business in Milwaukee to his partner and moved to Sheboygan all in the same year.

Here he established a general merchandising store and when his brother, Joseph, came to Sheboygan in 1861, employed him in the store. In 1872 he sold the business to his brother and another clerk, Joseph Kent. His brother and Kent went on to enlarge the business and after Kent died in 1884, Joseph moved the business to a double store on the east side of Eighth Street.

The store became the largest and most complete mercantile store in the county and the oldest dry goods business in contin-

uous and uninterrupted business in Sheboygan.

From 1873 to 1875 he engaged in the tannery business and from 1875 to 1879 was mayor of Sheboygan. When the Bank of Sheboygan succeeded the First national Bank, End was named president, a position he held until he died.

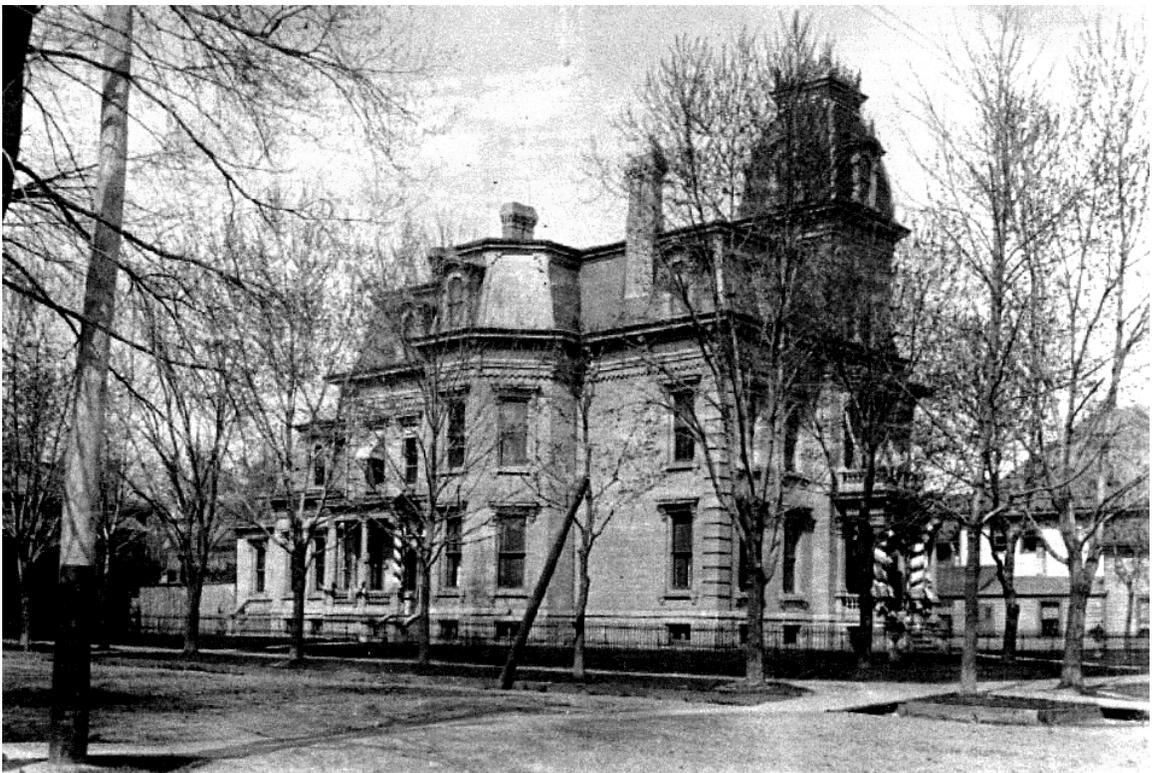


George End, 1830-1905

He helped reorganize the Sheboygan Manufacturing Company and when it was renamed the Sheboygan Chair Company was elected president.

George and Anna Maria had eight children, two dying in infancy and Clara, Marie (Gustav Schrage), Sarah (William Braasch), Annie (Ray Nye), Katherine (Arthur Winter) and Joseph W. George died July 18, 1905. His brother Joseph died October 22, 1905.

The George End home, a magnificent example of Second Empire architecture, located at Seventh Street and Wisconsin Avenue in Sheboygan, was later the home of the Elks' Club.



“The Founding of Johnsonville”

Scott Noegel

They were fortunate. When Peter Mog and his brother-in-law, Friedrich Jacob Nohl, arrived to claim their “Congress Lands” on February 1, 1846, there had been no frost or snow that year. Sensing their timing was good, the two had left Milwaukee, where they had been living, and made their way entirely on foot to what later would become Johnsonville. Meanwhile, Maria Magdalena, Friedrich’s wife and Peter’s older sister, stayed behind. The trek was no easy task. From Milwaukee to Green Bay sprawled a primeval forest that had existed for tens of thousands of years. In 1812, the United States government had converted the prehistoric north south “Indian trail” into a military road, but it was barely wide enough for a wagon.

When they arrived they immediately began clearing timber to build a log cabin on Peter’s land on the hill just east of the Sheboygan River. In fact, they were the first settlers to fell a tree in the whole region. After completing the cabin, Peter and Friedrich returned to Milwaukee by foot and disposed of their properties. They then purchased a yoke of oxen, supplies to last a number of months, and a hand-made lumber wagon rigged with a cover, and set out with Maria for their new home. After several arduous weeks they finally arrived, only to encounter many sleepless nights, as descendants would recall.

Their first night in the wilderness, before they could sleep, they were obliged to build a fence. After this the men took turns staying up and keeping fires burning to protect the wild oxen from the wild beasts, such as wolves, bear, lynx, wild cats, and panthers, which infested the woods, until a barn could be built... After they provided for protection of the oxen, their next move was to blaze trails toward the Sheboygan River and other lowland such as marshes, which were burned over and were (*sic*) grass and hay grown (*sic*). Here the cattle were pastured. They also blazed trails to the nearest white settlers, about three or four miles away.¹

When they arrived to occupy their homestead they found unexpected neighbors. An Indian village of some fifty Winipyagohagi (i.e., “Winnebagos”) was encamped on the west side of the river. The tribe was eager to meet them, and they frequently “came across in their birch bark canoes called Tsche Mah; and visited with the white settlers...”² They proved incredibly helpful.

...down at the river the Indians had a friendly pow wow for the arrival of pale face settlers... The Indians were very friendly and showed them how they plant Indian corn, (ma-dam-a-na-bu), in each hole or hills they put in a chunk of sucker, which done remarkable well, also showed them planting potatoes and various vegetables.³

They were so close with the Native Americans that they and their children learned their languages and hunting customs. They also respected their knowledge of medicinal plants. Above all, they were tolerant and learned from their way of life. A brief incident passed down in the family is illustrative. One time a tribal member had quietly helped himself to a dried ham that Peter had hung out on his property. Neighbors urged Peter to take action against the thief, but he did not regard it as theft since he felt that, as was their custom, whoever took his ham needed it and would bring something back to him in kind. This turned out to be correct, as the tribesman soon returned with fish and furs in gratitude.

1 See the *Plymouth Herald*, July 26, 1924. The typographical errors for “where” and “grew” are original.

2 The *Plymouth Herald*, July 26, 1924.

3 See the memoirs of Friedrich and Maria’s son, William George Nohl, in the Wisconsin State Historical Society. The broken English reflects his German tongue.

As was the case for Peter, Friedrich, and Maria, the earliest Wisconsin settlers depended on the First Peoples for survival. Without their knowledge of the region's flora and fauna and the massive forest that engulfed them, they might not have made it. Moreover, neither of them had been farmers. Peter and his sister Maria, came from a line of vegetable oil mill refiners in Sargenroth, in the Hunsrück region of the Rhineland. Friedrich was originally from Pleizenhausen, but he had purchased a vineyard in Alsace-Lorraine, before emigrating. So both of them had to learn the farmer's craft from scratch. Moreover, there was no one to help them with their work.

Then, in 1847, a year after they founded the settlement, a wave of immigrants, many from Lippe Detmold, came and took up a number of properties in the region. The rapid arrival of so many people made life in the forest more interesting and it increased the work force available for communal projects. Since Peter and Friedrich owned the only pair of oxen in the region, they loaned them to the colonists who worked their lands in exchange. Sometimes they did not have their oxen for months at a time.

Working with the colonists required a certain degree of sensitivity. The Lipper settlers were a deeply religious colony that sought to escape persecution for their opposition to the union of the German Reform and Lutheran Churches in Germany. Yet, Peter and Friedrich did not belong to the church.⁴ In fact, they came to America primarily for economic reasons. Moreover, like many German immigrants to Wisconsin, they sought not religious freedom, but freedom from religion.

Such people were known as Freidenkenden, "free thinkers." Indeed, it would be a mistake to think of early Wisconsin as populated solely by the pious. A couple of historical anecdotes from early Sheboygan County are rather telling. When a new pastor arrived in the Rhine Township in 1859, one farmer greeted him by saying, "We don't need any priests; we are in a free country!"⁵

Another bemoaned the very presence of pastors:

In Germany they were our bosses, but here we are. What does he do for the four hundred dollars? During the week he teaches and beats our youngsters, and on Sundays he preaches to us for an hour. And besides, we are all young fellows and have lots of children. For every christening he gets two dollars. And then he brings along with him to the christening his entire family, and when they are ready to drive home, he is given a sack of potatoes or apples, a ham, a winter sausage [Mettworst], a rooster, or a drake. That's surely enough for his work⁶

In most regions in early Wisconsin the freethinker movement was not an organization, per se, but rather a loose affiliation for folks who rejected what they felt to be the intrusion of religious institutions into matters of personal life. Free thinkers held a wide variety of divergent philosophical viewpoints and many later would belong to fraternal organizations like the Turnverein and Freemasons. Many free thinkers, like Peter and Friedrich, were not atheists. In fact, they continued to follow some church traditions, such as baptism, to avoid stigmatization in the community. They simply did not participate in church life. To be sure, they were not the only free thinkers in the village, but they were a minority.

⁴ The memoirs of William Nohl record that Friedrich felt the settlers from Lippe made too much of their religiosity. As he apparently put it, "they never get over it" (p. 2).

⁵ See J. H. A. Lacher, "Rev. Louis Von Rague's Experiences in Sheboygan County," *The Wisconsin Magazine of History* 10 (1927), pp. 435-452, citation on p. 438.

⁶ Lacher, "Rev. Louis Von Rague's Experiences in Sheboygan County," p. 445.



Despite such differences, Peter, Friedrich, and Maria got on very well in the community, as they had with the Winipyagohagi. In fact, six years after founding the settlement, Peter Mog married Friedericka Wehrman, one of the Lipper colonists.

After their marriage, they built a new home and barn on Peter's land adjacent to the Sheboygan River. There they had eleven children, two of whom, sadly passed away as youngsters. Friedrich and Maria Nohl would have ten children of their own, seven of whom would survive into adulthood.

Within a decade, the two couples watched their settlement transform into a German village with a general store, saw mill, blacksmith shop, butcher shop, school,⁷ and no less than three saloons, the latter of which led the villagers to name their town "Schnappsville."⁸

Members of the Lipper colony also built a church southeast of the village just west and across the street from the town's civil cemetery.⁹

Continued on page 7.

Peter and Friedericke Mog



Johnsonville, ca. 1909, looking east across the Sheboygan River. Courtesy of the SCHRC. The Mog residence is on on the left. The Nohl residence is just up the hill behind the trees.

The land that Peter and Friedrich saw when they first arrived quickly became a distant memory, but life was now less isolated and less difficult. The risks they took to immigrate and to settle a homestead in the middle of an ancient forest had paid off. They had learned to negotiate their own beliefs and principles in a world of unanticipated religious diversity. They did well for themselves, they had fulfilled the New World dream, and they now were raising their children in a vibrant young community. They were fortunate.¹⁰

⁷ Peter and Friedrich donated the land on which the school was built in 1850. It sat between their settlements and continued in operation until June 9, 1966.

⁸ However, the United States government strongly encouraged them to name their town after President Andrew Johnson.

⁹ The church, now the Saron United Church in Christ, purchased the cemetery for one dollar on December 18, 1930. Previously, the church considered it unholy ground. Many gravestones at the civil cemetery record names that are not found in the early church books.

¹⁰ Peter Mog died on January 30, 1895. He was buried exactly fifty years to the day after he and Friedrich arrived to build their homestead.

Scott Noegel is the great-great grandson of Peter Mog. Currently, he is Professor of Ancient Near Eastern Studies and Chair of the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilization at the University of Washington in Seattle. He recently completed a book entitled *A Pioneering King: the Mog, Eckardt, Fohl, and Noegel families of Wisconsin*. He now is writing a book on the history of Johnsonville. Those with stories and photographs relating to Johnsonville are encouraged to reach him at snoegel@uw.edu or (hm) 206-367-7787. Photo credits: Jane Kreutzer for the photograph of Peter and Friedericke Mog.

SHEBOYGAN TAVERNS & BARS

Continued from page 2

If you have any Sheboygan bar items that Scott can borrow or buy, please contact Scott via email at Sheboygan history@bytehead.com or at 452-5709 or the Research Center at 467-4667. Items such as matchbooks and bar tokens can be scanned and returned. For larger items, pictures can be taken.



Items such as bar tokens were made out of brass, aluminum, wood, and plastic. Plastic tokens come in all shapes sizes and colors.



A 1941 Chevrolet is shown parked near Tappers Tavern. This picture was taken in June 2012.

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City Hotel, Sheboygan Falls, Northeast corner of Maple and Broadway

Scott Lewandoske Collection



Garden Party and Ice Cream Social
Thursday, June 20, 2013
4:30pm to 7:00pm.

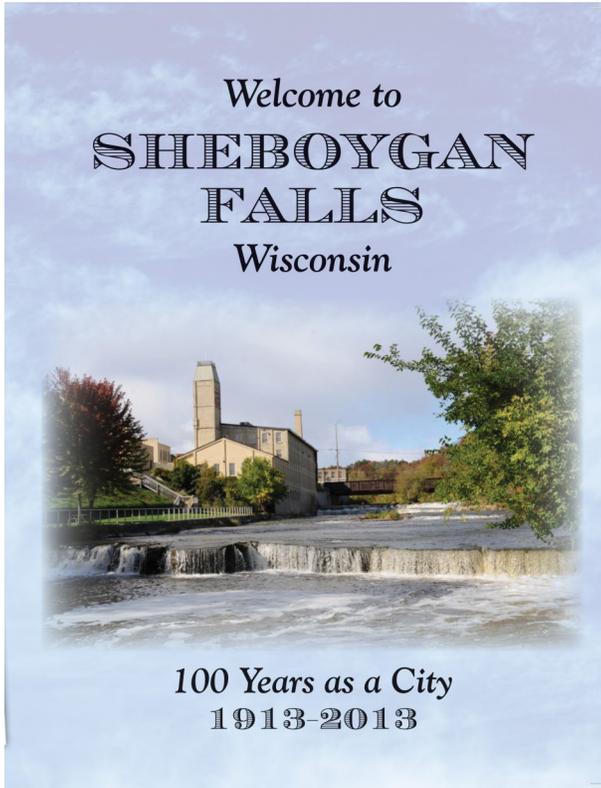
Join us for the dedication of SCHRC's memorial garden. Last summer LTC's horticultural technician class reworked the Center's historic garden into something we now call *historic modern*. Dozens of people and companies helped.

As part of the thank you we will celebrate with an old fashioned garden party and ice cream social. Ice cream will be provided by South Pier Parlor of Sheboygan. Sugar free ice cream will be available. This is not to be missed.

The event is open to the public and especially members and friends of SCHRC.

Special guests and donors will receive invitations prior to the event.

Please call 920-467-4667 for more information.



New Publications

Welcome to Sheboygan Falls, Wisconsin, 100 Years as a City, 1913-2013 will be ready for the city's July 6-7 celebration. It is an update of the 1976 Bicentennial book.

Cost per book is \$15 plus tax and shipping if necessary.

Stay tuned to Facebook and the newspaper for release date.

Jacob's House by Frederick Zitzer talks of his German family's immigration from Russia to the United States.

The village of *Lugovaya Gryaznukha*, known as Schulz by the colonists, was one of the first 104 colonies formed by the Germans following Catherine the Great's invitation for settlement on the Russian steppes. Schulz was founded on the meadow side of the Volga River, on September 8, 1766. There were 29 families at that time. All were of the Lutheran faith.

Cost per book is \$22 plus tax and shipping if necessary. This book has color illustrations.

It will be available for sale by June 15, 2013.

