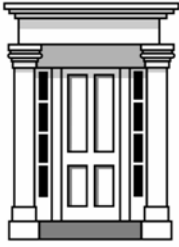


SHEBOYGAN COUNTY



HISTORICAL
RESEARCH
CENTER



The Researcher

The Newsletter of the Sheboygan County
Historical Research Center

Volume XXIV Number 4 April 2014

Annual Campaign 2014

Thank you

for being an important part of the Sheboygan County Historical Research Center's 30th year serving the community. Last year your support funded fifty-two educational programs (Second Saturdays in Sheboygan Falls and Plymouth, History on the Move in Random Lake and Cedar Grove, Genealogy in Random Lake, Sheboygan, Plymouth and so much more). Your support preserved thousands of valuable documents and photographs and helped hundreds of students to 'dig into' their own history.

In 2013 your donation preserved:

- *more than 800 images from the H.H. Laun Furniture Company of Kiel;
- *thousands of documents from the Sheboygan County Medical Society Collection with information on every doctor who served in Sheboygan County beginning in 1850 and
- *1450 images and documents from the City of Sheboygan Municipal Collection.

The Sheboygan County Historical Research Center invites you to be part of its 2014 annual fundraising campaign. History matters because it's all about you. Together, we can do even more this year to preserve our collected past.

In 2014 we ask for your help to:

- *replace the library carpeting
- *fix the library roof and
- *replace SCHRC's computer system to better organize the collection

When you are contacted by letter or by phone, please give generously. Your donation will help us reach our 2014 campaign goal of \$35,000.

**Remember, this is your history.
Here at SCHRC, it's all about you!**

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 Saturday, April 19, 2014 for Easter and Monday, May 26, 2014 for Memorial Day.

Phone: 920-467-4667

E-mail: research@schrc.org

Website: schrc.org

The Researcher is the official newsletter of the Sheboygan County Historical Research Center, 518 Water Street, Sheboygan Falls, Wisconsin.

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.

The Research Center is a sister organization to the Sheboygan County Historical Society and Museum which collects the artifacts of the county.

If you file it, it comes to the Research Center. If you dust it, it goes to the museum.

SCHRC Board of Directors

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Second Saturdays-Journeys Into Local History

April 12, 2014 - History of a Model City, Madison, Wisconsin – Erika Janik at **Sheboygan Falls Memorial Library, 330 Buffalo Street, Sheboygan Falls.** Beginning with the retreat of the Wisconsin glacier and the story of early Native American peoples, author Erika Janik narrates the journey of Wisconsin's capital city from the "center of the wilderness" to the "Laboratory of Democracy."

May 10, 2014 - Lighthouses of Wisconsin - Ken and Barb Wardius at **Sheboygan Falls Memorial Library, 330 Buffalo Street, Sheboygan Falls.** No symbol is more synonymous with Wisconsin's rich maritime traditions than the lighthouse. These historic beacons conjure myriad notions of a bygone era: romance, loneliness, and dependability. Let's take a trip around the state.

Genealogy Classes

April 14, 2014 - Family Tree Maker, Getting the Most Out of It. (at Random Lake Historical Museum, RL) 1:00pm.

September 15, 2014 - Cemeteries, Graveyards and Burial Grounds – Stories They Hold and Interpret Them. (at Sheboygan Falls Memorial Library) 1:00pm

October 13, 2014 - Military Records, How to Access Them, What to Do With Them. (at SCHRC)

November 10, 2014 - Organizing My Research: I have all this stuff, now what do I do with it? (at SCHRC)

December 8, 2014 - Photos, What We Can Learn From Them and How We Identify Them. (at SCHRC).

History on the Move

April 15, 2014 - Churches of Sheboygan County 6:00pm Cedar Grove

May 13, 2014 - Sheboygan County's First Settlers 6:00pm Cedar Grove

April Fools — From Odd Wisconsin

April 1st is a famous day for practical jokes. In 1942, restaurant owner Henry Rooney of La Crosse took great pleasure in playing tricks throughout the day on his unsuspecting customers. Reporter Jerry Moriarity of the *La Crosse Tribune* went in for breakfast that day and witnessed the following antics firsthand. Moriarity arrived and ordered pancakes and coffee. The pranks began with his knife, which when lifted exploded with a sharp crack. A smiling waiter obligingly replaced it, but the next one was equally useless. It was made of rubber.

Moriarity discovered that the butter was actually wax and the pancakes themselves had been made with cardboard. Trying to add sugar to his coffee, he found a bottomless spoon. When a real spoon was supplied, the sugar itself was rigged. Baking soda had been mixed with it to make the coffee foam up over the sides of the cup. Even the cup and saucer were pranked, with a suction cup holding the two of them together.

Abandoning his own breakfast, Moriarity sat back and watched the other customers. One woman screamed when she found a wax fly in her milk. Another jumped when a fake spider was dangled near her face. Rubber donuts and fried cotton were served to unsuspecting patrons, exploding cigarettes shocked smokers, and a woman celebrating her birthday was given a present that burst into a shower of confetti.

Makes you think twice about going out for breakfast Friday, doesn't it?

The Wigwam Motel in San Bernardino, California



From the National Trust for Historic Preservation — More info available at preservationnation.org

Part of the fun of a road trip is to see things you usually don't see -- places that are bigger than life and stand out from the ordinary. It's one of the many reasons we travel: to have experiences not possible in our hometowns. One iconic example of this type of roadside destination is the Wigwam Village motels built in the 1930s and '40s.

The Wigwam Village was conceived in 1933 by Frank Redford of Horse Cave, Ky., when he built a cone-shaped building to hold his collection of Native American artifacts. Adding a few more similarly shaped structures a few years later around the original building designated for sleeping, he christened the compound Wigwam Village. This misnomer has been a point of contention with some Native American communities.

Redford, with his knowledge of Native American ways, most likely knew that a wigwam was a rounded hut-like structure, while his building shapes echoed the teepees of the native Plains Indians. But, as the story goes, he simply preferred the name "Wigwam" instead of "Tipi," so little thought was given to whether or not the structure's name would spark conflict.

To modern visitors, it is somewhat surprising to learn that this collection of distinctive triangular buildings is considered by some to be the precursor to the chain motel. The consistency with which these conical structures would be designed as they were increasingly built across the country was helped along by the patent that Redford was granted in 1937 for a "new, original and ornamental design for a building." Despite their eye-catching look and family-friendly appeal, once the interstates bypassed Route 66, the San Bernardino Village fell on hard times in the 1960s and '70s like most secondary road businesses.

Luckily, in the past 15 years, the future looks brighter than it has in years as Americans grow to appreciate these kitschy examples of Americana.

Log School Leaders: The Rublee Family of Sheboygan Falls

by Scott Noegel

In a previous edition of *The Researcher*, I touched upon the intellectual community of Sheboygan Falls during the early 1840s, with special attention to the progressive siblings Horace and Emeline Rublee, each of whom taught in Sheboygan County's first schoolhouse.¹

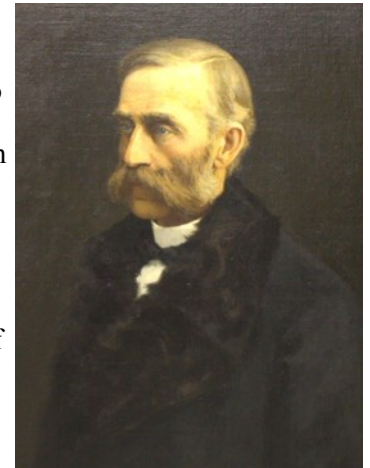
In this issue, I follow the later lives of Horace and Emeline and trace the influence that they had upon their descendants. My aim is to show that their love for literature, politics, education, and independent thinking had a profound impact that reached well beyond Sheboygan Falls.

After leaving Sheboygan Falls in 1849, Horace Rublee enrolled at the University of Wisconsin—Madison, which had been founded the previous year. A year later he returned to Sheboygan Falls, where he resumed his post as schoolteacher for two years. Afterwards, he headed back to Madison where he resumed his studies and supported himself by working as a legislative reporter for the Madison *Argus* and *Democrat*. In 1853, he quit school to devote his energy entirely to the *Wisconsin State Journal*, and soon he assumed co-ownership of the paper. It was at this time that Horace was able to combine his gift for journalism with his interest in politics. With the disintegration of the Whig party, Rublee met with other Whig members at Ripon, where on March 20, 1854, they founded the State Republican Party. Their platform aimed to promote the abolition movement and advance civic virtues and honorable conduct in politics.



In 1857, Horace married Catherine Hopkins, a native of New York (b. January 1, 1833, d. April 21, 1921). They would have three children: Katherine Rublee (b. October 8, 1858, d. July 14, 1876), William Alvah Rublee (b. March 16, 1861, d. April 15, 1910), and George C. Rublee (b. July 7, 1868, d. April 26, 1957).

It was while raising his young children that Horace served as the Wisconsin State Librarian (1856-1858) and Curator of the Wisconsin Historical Society (1857-1871). He also became the Republican Party Chair from 1859-1869, and in 1868, while running as a candidate for the U.S. Senate, he served as delegate to the Republican National Convention. In 1869, President Ulysses S. Grant appointed Rublee as Minister to Switzerland, a post that he held with great success until 1876.² Sadly, while living abroad, Horace and Catherine suffered the loss of their daughter Katherine, who died of diphtheria while in Dresden, Germany.



Painting of Horace Rublee
by Ralph Clarkson

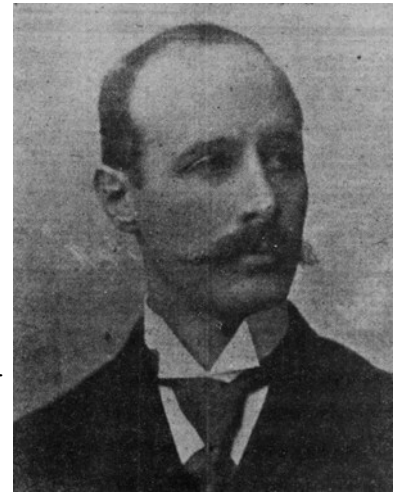
After returning to the United States, Horace served an additional three years as Chair of the Republican Party. In 1878, he went east to assume the editorship of the *Boston Advertiser*, but he returned a year later, at which time he purchased, and became the editor of, the Milwaukee *Sentinel*. He kept this position, not always without controversy³, and lived among Milwaukee's fashionable elite until his death on October 19, 1896.

¹Horace and Emeline came with their mother Martha (nee: Kent) and sister Catherine (b. August 6, 1838, d. September 11, 1856) to Sheboygan Falls from Berkshire, Vermont in 1840, a year after their father, Alva, had arrived. Another sibling Jane Lucy Rublee (b. August 20, 1842, d. August 17, 1898) was born in Wisconsin two years before their father Alva died (May 13, 1844). She married James Van der Made (b. October 1, 1836, d. December 28, 1900), and they moved to Minnesota. After Alva's death, Martha Rublee married Adonikam Farrow, her husband's business partner and settler from Maine (b. 1801, d. June 2, 1865). The Rublee and Kent families have a long and distinguished intellectual pedigree in New England. Their ancestors include town representatives, theologians, legislators, and judges. The photograph of the Sheboygan Falls schoolhouse appeared in Carl Zillier, *History of Sheboygan County, Wisconsin, Past and Present*. Vol. 1 (Chicago: S. J. Clark, 1912), pp. 134-135.

²Rublee was instrumental in getting the United Kingdom to settle on the *Alabama* claims and in establishing an international gold standard. The Minister position forced him to sell his portion of the *Wisconsin State Journal*.

³Many German Catholics and Lutherans attacked Rublee's *Sentinel* for its support of the controversial Bennett Law and what they felt to be its secular view on matters of religion. According to his wishes, he was cremated and his ashes were interred beside his daughter at Forest Home Cemetery in Milwaukee. His home in Milwaukee still stands at 1223 North Prospect Avenue.

His two surviving sons lived equally influential lives. William Rublee was sent east to attend Phillips Exeter Academy in New Hampshire. Afterwards, he attended Harvard University and he graduated in 1883 with a degree in French and German. He then entered Harvard Law School, finishing in 1885. William then returned to Milwaukee and worked as a political editor for the Milwaukee *Sentinel*, soon becoming its Vice President and Director. On June 6, 1890, President Benjamin Harrison appointed Rublee as Consul General of the United States to Prague (then in Bohemia). He retired on November 9, 1893.



*William A. Rublee*⁴

On October 7, 1896, William married Katherine Smith Rogers (b. October 4, 1878, d. May 19, 1959) in Milwaukee. The couple had three children: Horace Rublee (b. September 11, 1898, d. September 12, 1985), Alva Frances Rublee (b. February 11, 1905, d. July 12, 1910), and Laura Christine Rublee (b. May 13, 1908, d. May 6, 1986). It is during this period that President McKinley and later Theodore Roosevelt appointed him as Consul General at Hong Kong (March 2, 1901), Havana, Cuba (September 15, 1902),⁵ Vienna, Austria (March 26, 1903), and then again at Hong Kong (May 17, 1909). Sadly, William Rublee died while in Hong Kong at the young age of forty-nine.⁶



Juliet Barrett Rublee

The following year, Victor Morawetz invited George to New York to practice law in his firm, which then counted J. P. Morgan as its chief client. Morgan was in the process of creating U.S. Steel. By 1901, shrewd investments allowed George and Juliet to retire in their early thirties. They moved to Europe where they enveloped themselves in European elite society; George even became the King of Sweden's favorite tennis partner. When they left Europe in 1904, George returned to practice law with Morawetz. A few years later, the couple purchased a home in Cornish, New Hampshire, which at that time was associated with the Cornish Art Colony, and considered the "American Athens," an artistic and literary mecca.

Under the William Taft administration, George Rublee worked with Louis Brandeis (namesake of Brandeis University), but his allegiance to the new Progressive Party severed his relation to Brandeis, a Democrat, and so in 1912, George became a speechwriter for President Roosevelt. Two years later he became an important lobbyist for anti-trust

legislation. He persuaded Woodrow Wilson to support a portion of the Federal Trade Act that empowered the commission to prosecute unfair methods of competition. Wilson nominated George Rublee as one of the first five Commissioners, but the Congress blocked the appointment for political reasons. Not long afterwards, Wilson made Rublee a member of the Federal Trade Commission. George's wife Juliet was equally progressive. On May 19, 1914, she served as the Grand Marshal for the Congressional Union for Woman Suffrage's march on Washington.



George Rublee in 1914, courtesy of the Library of Congress

Continued in the June 2014 newsletter

⁴The photograph appeared in the *Minneapolis Journal*, March 8, 1901.

⁵He replaced Edward S. Bragg, four-time Congressman and former Wisconsin Governor, perhaps most famous for commanding the Iron-Brigade during the Civil War. Rublee's salary for the Havana post was about \$7000 per year, roughly \$183,000 today.

⁶He died on April 15, 1910 of peritonitis. His wife remarried to Elias Fassett Dunlevy (b. September 12, 1861, d. May 10, 1939). They moved to California where they had a daughter, Deirdre Dunlevy (b. June 27, 1912, d. March 28, 2005). The family then moved to Denver, Colorado.



With rough going and poor fishing at Lake Winnebago in January of 1962, more ice fishermen were trying their luck on local lakes. At one point fifty cars dotted the ice, seen here, at Crystal Lake in Sheboygan County. The perch were running very well at Crystal and catches ran as high as fifty per man on good days. the ice was approximately 20 inches in depth at the time.

Fisheree Lore Runs Deep on County Lakes

originally run in the Sheboygan Press

FISHEREE. Dictionaries don't even recognize it as a word, yet we Wisconsinites know exactly what it means. It means ice fishing and fun, a chance to breathe the cold, clean winter air, to spend time outdoors with family and friends, and to relax, perhaps, with a twelve ounce cold one.

As we enter the first weeks of March, the annual fisherees are done for 2014 and the shanties and trucks must come off the county's still ice-covered lakes within days. But happily, the colossal fish stories remain and the enthusiasm for next year begins to build almost immediately. But what do we really know about the history of ice fishing and fisherees?

Wisconsin ranks second nationally in fishing popularity and that certainly doesn't change as winter seals the lakes under ice. Ice anglers catch 14 million fish across the United States during the winter fishing season. This winter of 2013-2014, when the ice deepened to more than 3 feet, has been an outstanding year.

Sheboygan County ice fishing traditions run deep on many of its seventy-two lakes. Fisherees are held annually on Lake Ellen at Cascade and Crooked and Long Lakes on the Fond du Lac County line. There is also the Four Lakes Fisheree sponsored by the Crystal Lake Sportsman's Club, which involves Crystal, Little Elkhart and Elkhart Lakes and the Sheboygan Marsh. Thousands of people participate in the fishing contests every year.

Ice fishing in Wisconsin dates back to well before the arrival of European settlers when American Indians chopped holes in the ice in order to spear fish to supplement their winter diets, but was virtually non-existent among European settlers until the 1880s. Even then it took the lean years of the Great Depression to bring it into the mainstream. The first fisherees or large scale fishing contests started in the 1950s and 1960s. Curiously the term 'fisheree' seems



Ice shanty photo taken in the mid-1920s. The 6' bar between the shovel and the axe is a "spud" used with the axe to make the hole in the hole in ice and the pole coming from the top of the shanty is likely a "pickerel spear".

to be a regionalism used predominantly in the Upper Midwest, but most commonly in Wisconsin.

Throughout Wisconsin during the cold winter months, frozen lakes are dotted with fishermen and their ice shanties. Historically, two basic tools have been used to make holes in the ice, the spud and the auger. A spud is a rod used to chip a hole in the ice that isn't very thick. An auger is a corkscrew-like device with a cutting blade that operates like a drill to make a hole in the ice. This is where Sheboygan County meets ice fishing and the fish-eree. The most common ice auger found on Midwest lakes is the Jiffy Ice Auger produced by Feldmann Manufacturing and Engineering of Sheboygan Falls. It is frequently the prize for the biggest fish at local derbies.

The origin of the power ice drill began in 1948. A friend of Marvin Feldmann's, who loved to ice fish, but dreamed of never again having to hand-turn an auger through two feet of ice approached Marvin to craft a product that could cut through ice quickly and easily. Feldmann designed a gear box and clutch that would let a two-cycle engine power an oversized drill bit.

Marvin's invention went through a number of iterations before he succeeded in developing a product that could cut through the ice, with engine power, in a reasonable fashion, but by 1951 the Jiffy Power Ice Drill came into being. Fifty were produced that first year. Today, Feldmann Manufacturing produces around 20,000 units per year. The machines have become more powerful and lighter through improved technology, but remain the industry leader.

Gone are the days of the overturned bucket, the willow fishing rod and hand drill, replaced by sonar and GPS and deluxe fish shanties, but the camaraderie and appreciation of Mother Nature's winter beauty remains. Next year why don't you try a fisheree? It might be fun!

The Sheboygan County Historical Research Center has very little information on ice fishing in the county. We would love to have you share what you know about the topic. Photos, posters, stories, etc. are wanted and the older the better.



Marvin Feldmann and an early Jiffy Ice Drill. Image taken circa 1950 on the Walter Hueppchen farm in Plymouth.

On This Day: April 14

1865 - (Civil War) Lincoln Assassinated

On the evening of April 14, 1865, President Abraham Lincoln was shot while watching a play at Ford's Theatre in Washington, D.C. Although no Wisconsin troops were on hand, former Wisconsin governor Leonard Farwell was in the theater and rushed to warn Vice President Andrew Johnson of an impending attack.

1953 - Milwaukee Braves Debut

On this date the Milwaukee Braves made their official debut in Milwaukee, at the newly constructed County Stadium. They defeated the St. Louis Cardinals, 3-2, in 10 innings. Bill Bruton hit the game-winning home run. [Source: Milwaukee Journal Sentinel Online]

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This is the first color image ever produced and seen in Wisconsin. It was printed from an 8 x 10 glass plate negative.

C. G. Winscher was the photographer.

It is preserved by the Sheboygan County Historical Research Center.

It is preserved by your generosity and support.

Project Support Opportunities

| Project | Total Budget |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| Computer System The Historical Research Center needs a much more robust system in order to adequately manage the vast collection available to the public. Replacement of our outdated computers will do a number of things, 1) Improve work flow and increase productivity, 2) Improve processing and organization of collections, 3) Improve access to digitized collections for researchers and employees, 3) Improve backup and long-term storage of digital collections. | \$35,650 |
| Library Roof replacement The center portion of the library roof has a couple leaks. After 30 years it needs to be replaced. | \$10,000 |
| Library Carpeting The library carpeting is wearing in general and after 30 years it needs to be replaced. | \$6,000 |
| Repair of Dumbwaiter The dumbwaiter needs general servicing and a bit of repair. | \$1,000 |
| Second Saturdays Sponsors are needed for each of our 9 Second Saturdays. | \$250 per speaker, \$60 refreshments |
| History on the Move Sponsors are needed for each of our 8 new History on the Move programs. | \$100 per session |
| Genealogy Classes Sponsors are needed for each of our 9 genealogy classes each year. | \$60 per class |
| Ancestry.com Subscription | \$300 1 year subscription |
| Newspaperarchive.com | \$200 1 year subscription |
| Fold3 Military Database | \$80 1 year subscription |

Sponsors are needed for the three online research resources listed above. These help expand our research capabilities in order to better serve you.

All project sponsors will be recognized at the sponsored event(s)
and in our newsletters and annual reports.

They will also be honored at our August End of Summer event.

Project Support and Sponsorship Form

I have chosen the following project (s) to support:

Buildings and Grounds

1. Computer System Replacement — \$35,650

2. Library Roof — \$10,000

3. Library Carpeting — \$6,000

4. Dumbwaiter Repair — \$1000

Outreach and Education

1. Second Saturdays _____ \$250 per speaker _____ \$60 refreshments

2. History on the Move _____ \$100 per session (8 sessions)

3. Genealogy Classes _____ \$60 per session (10 classes)

4. Ancestry.com subscription _____ \$300 1 year subscription

5. Newspaperarchive.com _____ \$200 1 year subscription

6. Fold3.com Military Database _____ \$80 1 year subscription

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Name for sponsorship _____

For questions, please call 920-467-4667 and speak to Beth. We welcome your support.