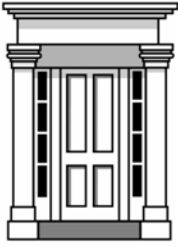


SHEBOYGAN COUNTY



HISTORICAL
RESEARCH
CENTER

The Researcher

The Newsletter of the Sheboygan County
Historical Research Center

Volume XXV Number 6 August 2015

Glenbeulah man had part in Panama Canal project

Panama Canal Trivia

- * Ships traveling between New York and San Francisco save 7,872 miles by using the Panama Canal instead of going around Cape Horn.
- * The Atlantic entrance to the Canal is 22-1/2 miles west of the Pacific entrance.
- * Due to the reclining "S" shape of the Isthmus of Panama the sun rises from the Pacific and sets in the Atlantic Ocean.
- * On August 23, 1928 Richard Halliburton transit the Canal swimming, paying a toll of 36 cents since his weight was 150 pounds.
- * The cruise ship Rhapsody of the Sea establish a toll record on 1997 when it paid 153,662.66 to cross the waterway.
- * In 1963 the Panama Canal for the first time starts operating 24 hours, thanks to the introduction high mass fluorescent lighting.
- * More than 60,000,000 pounds of dynamite was used to excavate and construct the Panama Canal.



On August 15, 1914 Atlantic met Pacific as the American ship, Ancon, a combination cargo and passenger vessel, made the very first passage through the Panama Canal, an endeavor started by the French, but completed by the Americans. A mere fifty miles in length, the canal cut across the narrowest part of Panama slashing nearly 8,000 miles off typical ocean voyages from New York to California. No longer would it be necessary to make the grueling journey around the tip of South America.

After Egypt's Suez Canal opened in 1869, a similar plan was imagined for Central America, either through Nicaragua or what we know as Panama, then still a part of Colombia. President Ulysses S. Grant sent seven expeditions to study the feasibility of such a work, but nothing came of them. French crews initiated the project and labored from 1879 to 1888 to create such a waterway, but beleaguered by malaria, yellow fever, dysen-

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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 September 7, 2015 for Labor 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.

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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. Catch us on Facebook— Updates daily.

Don't miss Sheboygan County History column in the Saturday *Sheboygan Press* or online Friday through Sunday each week.

Edwards - Did you know?

Describe early on as a post office located on Highway 42 in the town of Herman, near the Manitowoc county line. Established Aug. 31, 1854, discontinued March 31, 1902; first postmaster Edward Neuhaus, last postmaster Louis Dessauer. Named after Mr. Neuhaus, who moved there from Centerville in 1852, taking over the store conducted by a superior water power.

The Community of Edwards, What Do You Know About It?

A group of folks from the Edwards area of Sheboygan and Manitowoc Counties have been working hard to collect information on the village and surrounding area. It's time to put something in writing about this historic little burg.

Do you have anything, photos, info, stories, etc. that you would like to share? The group would love to have you involved.

Please contact Marie Schwinn at mschwinn11@charter.net or the Sheboygan County Historical Research Center (SCHRC), 920-467-4667 or schrc@att.net to share your goodies. The deadline for submission in December 1, 2015.

(Just so you know- two items are being created. 1) An enormous resource manual that contains everything collected about Edwards, its families, businesses, churches, etc. This will be available at the Research Center after the project is finished.

And 2) A publication which will condense the history and create a readable, fun document. Publication date will be sometime in 2016. It will be for sale at SCHRC.

Membership Renewal Begins in September!
Renewal forms for 2015-2016 will go into the mail
beginning 9-1-2015.
Thanks for another great year!

1897 Sheboygan Falls Baseball Team

A copy of this wonderful photo came to SCHRC from Mr. Phil Schlichting of Naples, Florida. He grew up at 618 Jefferson Street in Sheboygan Falls and is the son of Judge F.H. Schlichting and the nephew of Carlos, both very well known in Sheboygan County. Thanks Mr. Schlichting!

Baseball, America's favorite pastime, had its start locally in 1886 with the formation of the Elwell Boys, the first team in the county. The first game was played on a field near St. Clair Avenue where the John Reiss home served as the backstop.

The first recorded evidence of baseball occurred when players from the Boston and Philadelphia clubs were on tour to England exhibiting the game. Based upon the basic rules of a game called 'Rounders' played in England. It was also known popularly as base and townball. In 1888, the Chicago Baseball club introduced the game to Australia, New Zealand, Hawaii, North Africa and Egypt by playing the game for a large audience.

Teams sprung up everywhere by the 1880s, but little was written down. More local research will be done.



Top Row— Edwin Wolfe, 2nd base, George Ogle, Manager, Art Hertzberg
Middle Row— Henry Schlichting, Otto, Dr. Basseuner, John Delavan Sr., Michael Deeley
Bottom Row—Louis Granold, Frank Guthiel, pitcher, Paul Schenkelberger, mascot, Charles Visser, pitcher, Edward (Oyster) McKinnon,

Anti-German Hysteria in Wisconsin

by Scott Noegel

Given the popularity of Milwaukee's German Fest and many local Oktoberfest celebrations, it is difficult to imagine a time in Wisconsin when German Americans were viewed with suspicion, even prejudice. Then again, as a descendant of German immigrants, I find it difficult to think of Germans as a minority, but they were. Indeed, glares of distrust, derision, and contempt were very real experiences for the first immigrant German communities and their descendants.

The rapid influx of so many German settlers created trepidation for some "Yankees," the term Germans used for non-immigrants, even though all the Yankees themselves had descended from still earlier immigrants. The apprehension was in part derived from the fact that Germans tended to group together in tightly-knit communities. They also gave their settlements German names and created German societies to promote their own culture. Even more concerning, they insisted upon speaking their own language, and they published many newspapers in German. Already by 1894, there were about 800 German papers being published in the United States. Of the six published in Sheboygan alone in 1895, three were in German.¹

Suspensions against Germans were heightened first during the Civil War when national loyalties were put in check. Yankees were quick to observe that most Germans in Wisconsin sided with the Democratic Party and thought of the battle as "Lincoln's War."² Germans in Washington County contributed financially, but were reluctant to send their sons. There were even protest riots, the most violent of which took place in Port Washington.³ However, in Sheboygan County, German newspapers opined that acting against the war would only reify Yankee suspicions, and so they urged Germans to enlist.⁴ The Sheboygan *National Demokrat*, dated January 11, 1861, is representative:

Honor the German! Joy is generally felt among the Germans because the German volunteers were first, it was self-explanatory that they should fight on behalf of their fatherland. Now the Germans must show that they cannot be exceeded in patriotism by natural-born Americans.⁵

Though many enlisted and fought bravely, anti-German sentiments were not assuaged. In fact, they became especially evident again in 1889, when Iowa County Assemblyman, Michael Bennett, sponsored a compulsory national education bill that aimed to force schools to teach subjects only in English. This incensed the German population who saw it as a Yankee attempt to extinguish the German language in the United States. German Catholics and Lutherans argued that it threatened their system of parochial education. However, defenders of the law saw English as "America's language" and the law as necessary to stop the degeneration of American culture.⁶ The motion was unsuccessful, but it was the first serious shot across the bow for German Americans.

A second, lethal shot came during World War I (1914-1919), when the United States was engaged against Germany. It was during this period that Germanophobia reached its zenith. One historian remarked that Wisconsin "was generally regarded as a hot bed of disloyalty and pro-Germanism. Businessmen of neighboring states talked of boycotting all Wisconsin goods and the War Department fully expected to be compelled to send troops in to quell draft disorders."⁷

In fact, there was some protest against the war, led most notably by Wisconsin Senator, Robert "Fighting Bob" La Follette, and Milwaukee's former Socialist Mayor, Emil Seidel, but the reaction against German communities far

FOREIGNERS WHO CONDUCT THEMSELVES PROPERLY TO LOSE NOTHING BY WAR MOVE

[By Associated Press.]

Washington, D. C., April 5.—Official announcement was made today that foreigners in the United States who conduct themselves properly will suffer no loss of property or liberty as a result of a declaration of a state of war.

After receiving a formal opinion

from Secretary Lansing, Secretary Tumulty today sent the following telegram on the subject to Mayor Seger of Passaic, N. J.:

"There is no danger of any foreigner who conducts himself properly suffering any loss of property or liberty by reason of a state of war, if such should be declared by Congress."

outweighed the size of the protest. The fear of German Americans loomed so large that Congress moved to assure that all “foreigners” living in the United States would not suffer repercussions during the war. The snippet on the previous page appeared in the *Sheboygan Press*, April 5, 1917.

One cannot over-estimate the fever of anti-Germanic hysteria that spread through Wisconsin. At first, people voiced their patriotism by removing Bach and Beethoven from concert programs and renaming streets, but soon they began to boycott German products like beer and sausage. Sauerkraut was relabeled “liberty cabbage.”⁸ Some demonstrations even turned violent. German textbooks were burned in Baraboo, and throughout Wisconsin, German citizens were attacked by random mobs for not showing enough patriotic fervor. A German Professor at Northland College was dragged from his home at midnight by a dozen masked men, taken more than a mile away to an empty field, stripped naked, and tarred and feathered. He was forced to return naked by foot through the snow.⁹ Some people were even lynched.



Pressures to join the war effort were immense, and as in the Civil War, German Americans again demonstrated their allegiance by enlisting. Nevertheless, the young enlistees could not help but feel it sadly ironic that their parents and grandparents had risked so much to find freedom in a land in which they were now politically suspect.

The fear of German Americans was not lost on the United States government for it quickly convened a Committee on Public Information (CPI). The CPI aimed to secure public support for the war by creating what they called the “Four-Minute Men.” This group consisted of more than 75,000 volunteer speakers who visited schools, churches, and town meetings to convince people of the war’s virtues. Farmers were used to pitch the message to other farm-

ers, businessmen to businessmen, and foreign language speakers to immigrant communities.

The government also enlisted the film industry, and soon there appeared a slew of anti-German films such as *The Kaiser: The Beast of Berlin* and *The Prussian Cur and Wolves of Kultur*, and even D. W. Griffith’s famous epic *Birth of a Nation*. In an age before Netflix, these silent films and their negative, stereotyped depictions of Germans reached eight million people every week.

The impact of such campaigns can be seen in the dramatic decline of German newspapers. In 1910, there were nearly 600 such papers circulating in the United States. By 1919, there were only twenty-six dailies left.¹⁰ Also abolished at this time were the last surviving German language programs in Wisconsin’s elementary schools, and by 1922 only 0.6 percent of high school students were enrolled in German.¹¹ It is during this period too that Wilhelm opted to be called William, Karlina preferred Caroline, Ludwig became Louis, and so on. The hysteria had taken its toll.



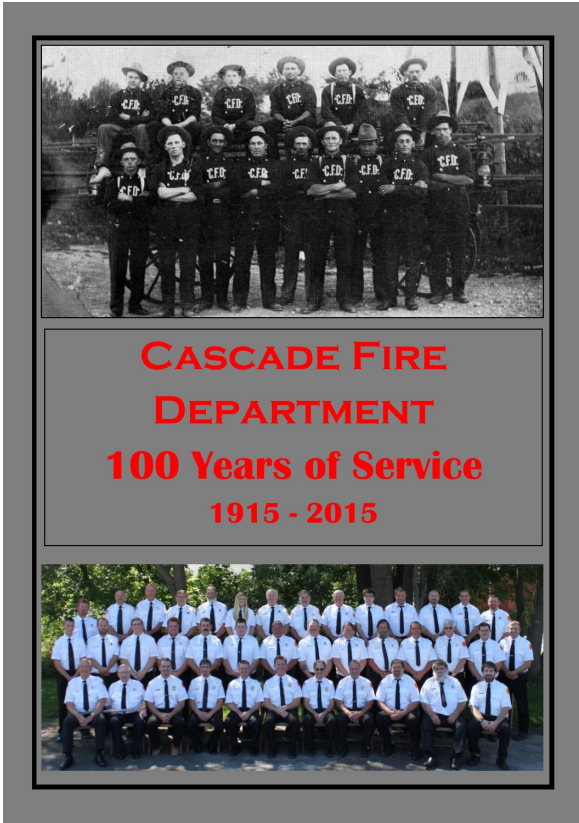
A poster from “To Hell with the Kaiser,” 1918

The pressure for descendants to prove themselves as Americans increasingly subsided after the war as family structures began to change and a shift in identity took place from local to national affiliation;¹² and by World War II, the American landscape had absorbed the immigrants’ descendants so completely that the German origins of their names mostly went unnoticed during roll calls. They now were thoroughly Yankee. The Nazi regime and its atrocities guaranteed that anti-German sentiment would survive for many years, even if focused elsewhere. They also ensured that boasting one’s German heritage would be politically incorrect in

America for many years. Yet, as the decades passed, so also did the hold of older views, but along with it, a full grasp of what it was like when those of German descent faced prejudice. Consequently, for the ensuing generations like my own, beer, sausage, and sauerkraut were as American as apple pie, except during German Fest and other heritage celebrations, when steins, lederhosen, and dirndl-costumes remind us otherwise.

Endnotes

- ¹ See, *Sheboygan Centennial Celebration, 1853-1953, Souvenir Program*, p. 13.
- ² Frank L. Klement, *Wisconsin in the Civil War: The Home Front and the Battle Front, 1861-1865* (Madison, WI.: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1997), pp. 26-31.
- ³ See Lawrence H. Larsen, "Draft Riot in Wisconsin, 1862," *Civil War History* 7 (1961), pp. 421-427.
- ⁴ On religious life and attitudes towards the Civil War, see Helmut Schmahl, *Verpflanzt, aber nicht entwurzelt: Die Auswanderung aus Hessen-Darmstadt (Provinz Rheinhessen) nach Wisconsin im 19. Jahrhundert* (Mainzer Studien zur Neueren Geschichte, 1; Frankfurt am Main: Peter Lang Verlag, 1999), pp. 272-273.
- ⁵ Ehre den Deutschen! Allgemein ist die Freude unter den Deutschen, daß die deutschen Freiwilligen die ersten waren, welche sich bereit erklärten für ihr Vaterland zu kämpfen. Jetzt müssen die Deutschen zeigen, daß sie an Patriotismus sich von den eingebornen Amerikanern nicht übertreffen lassen.
- ⁶ Roger E. Wyman, "Wisconsin Ethnic Groups and the Election of 1890," *Wisconsin Magazine of History* 51 (1968), pp. 269-293 (269).
- ⁷ W. E. Morton, et al., eds., *Wisconsin Centennial Story of Disasters and Other Unfortunate Events, 1948-1948* (Wisconsin State Centennial Committee, 1948), p. 8.
- ⁸ This is reminiscent of the Republican effort to rename French fries as "freedom fries" after France expressed its disapproval of the United States invasion of Iraq in 2003. Ironically, the term "French fries" was coined to replace "German fried potatoes" during World War I.
- ⁹ The Professor was E. A. Schimler. Reported, *inter alia*, in the *Ashland Daily Press*, April 1, 1918.
- ¹⁰ The surviving newspapers eventually succumbed to the Great Depression. See Walter D. Kamphoefner, Wolfgang Helbich, and Ulrike Sommer, eds., *News from the Land of Freedom* (Ithaca, NY.: Cornell University Press, 1991), p. 26.
- ¹¹ See Kamphoefner, Helbich, and Sommer, eds., *News from the Land of Freedom*, p. 25.
- ¹² Many myths inform the mistaken view that new immigrants quickly became bilingual and that they forced or encouraged their children to learn English. Most German families had limited command of the English language in rural Wisconsin until the third and fourth generations. See Miranda E. Wilkerson and Joseph Salmons, "'Good Old Immigrants of Yesteryear' Who Didn't Learn English: Germans in Wisconsin," *American Speech* 83 (2008), pp. 259-283.



Cascade Fire Department, 100 Years of Service, 1915-2015
Now Available

In 1866 Cascade suffered a serious set back when a fire wiped out practically the entire main drag including most of its businesses. By 1872, two flour mills, a saw mill, a bank, four grocery stores, a hardware store, three shoe stores, two blacksmiths, a wagon shop, a hotel and two churches had all rebuilt making the "newer" wider main street. By the 1900 Cascade boasted a healthy business district that included wool carding, two cheese factories, two feed mills, three hotels, a post office, a physician's office and a dentist office. In 1906 a group of business men held a meeting to discuss the future of Cascade. They came up with a list of things that they thought Cascade needed to continue growing: A fire company. A good library. A good policeman. A few more houses to rent. A number of good sidewalks. A parsonage for the United Brethren Church. Home protection from so many useless peddlers. A few more sheds to keep horses under in wet weather. More people to do less trading with the large firms in Chicago. A few more men to take the ladies out riding.

This wonderful book, filled with photos, trivia, information on the department and the village is now available for \$7.00 plus tax and shipping if needed.

A product of the 100th anniversary of the department, it is a good read and makes a wonderful reference tool. Call 920-467-4667 or see schrc.org to order one for your family.

tery, flooding, landslides and political unrest, they called it quits. The French flag was lowered for the last time in December of 1888. The dream lay dormant for the next sixteen years.

Beginning in 1901, a series of rapid-fire events led to the creation of what was once called “one of the seven wonders of the modern world.” After the assassination of President William McKinley, Vice President Theodore Roosevelt entered the White House and quickly declared his support for an isthmus canal.

In 1903, Panama declared independence from Columbia. The United States formally recognized the Republic of Panama two days later, and deployed Navy ships to protect the new country's autonomy. The Canal Treaty was signed in November of 1903, giving the United States rights to build a canal for an annual payment of \$250,000.

On March 3, 1904, the United States Army Core of Engineers arrived in Panama with President Roosevelt giving them orders to “make the dirt fly.”

As the largest engineering project of its time, the Panama Canal was an intricate system of locks, dams, lakes, and excavations. Designed to lift ships through Panama's rugged mountains and lower them into shallow coastal bays, it stretched from Atlantic to Pacific and across the continental divide.

A project of this magnitude needed hundreds of smart, well-trained engineers, and Edward F. Sinz, a native of Glenbeulah, was one such talent. Born in 1883, Sinz studied engineering at the University of Wisconsin where he crafted a plan to drain and develop the Sheboygan Marsh, an experience which would later serve him well.

Beginning about 1905, and over the next three years, Ed wandered back and forth between Panama and Sheboygan County working on the “Big Ditch”. He even brought his new bride, Agnes, to live in the Canal Zone where they enjoyed the lifestyle of the skilled workers; lives filled with pleasant social and cultural events, good medical facilities and multiple amenities, a world apart from those available for the common West Indian worker.

Ed and Agnes left Panama for good in September 1908 returning to the U.S. for a brief time where Sinz formed a partnership with Jerry Donohue and his engineering and surveying company. But, soon after the Sinz family left for Cuba, where he worked on the Cuba Eastern Railroad (now the Guantanamo and Western). Following the Spanish American War, many railroads, including the Cuba Eastern, were built in Cuba with money from American investors. The family returned again to the United States in January 1911.

This time (1912) Sinz did a bit of surveying in the county while, once again, with his associate, Jerry Donohue. His work is on file at the Sheboygan County Surveyor's office. Never one to stay anywhere for too long, Sinz left the Donohue Company in 1913 and moved to Central Aruirre, Puerto Rico, about twenty miles south of San Juan. There, he worked at a sugar refinery for many years.

One last move came in the 1930s when Sinz retired to Crystal River, Florida where he lived for the next thirty years. He died there on October 29, 1968 at 85.

American involvement in the construction of the Panama Canal lasted ten years from 1904 to 1914 and cost American taxpayers \$352,000,000.00. After years of wrangling, control of the canal was transferred back to Panama in December 1999, but, it was an accomplishment that turned America into a global superpower. And one young man from the wilds of Glenbeulah had a hand in its creation.



Edward F. Sinz, native of Glenbeulah, Wisconsin and engineer on the Panama Canal project. (SCHRC Collection)

New Holstein's very own Edward Schildhauer played a part as well!

From the New Holstein Historical Society—Edward Schildhauer (August 21, 1872 – May 24, 1953) was a chief electrical and mechanical engineer on the Panama Canal project. Edward was born in New Holstein, Wisconsin, the eighth child of German immigrants Joachim and Dorothea (Kuehl) Schildhauer. Edward's father Joachim left Germany in 1852 and visited his family in Brazil. Some people in Brazil told Joachim that Wisconsin was a great place to move to, and Joachim ended up settling in New Holstein.

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**Edward Schildhauer, Panama
Canal engineer from New
Holstein, WI.**

In 1906, he was appointed to the Panama Canal enterprise as a mechanical and electrical engineer and spent nearly a year in Washington D.C. designing plans for the canal. He had to design the canal system from scratch because no other systems of this type had been built at that time. Edward and his wife arrived on the Isthmus of Panama in September 1907 and he was employed on the project until 1914. He is credited with the complete design of the opening and closing machinery system for the gates on the canal.

During World War I Edward was a munitions firm executive. Edward then took part in the design of aircraft from 1919-1924. From 1924 until his retirement in 1931, Edward was the vice president of the Allied Chemical and Dye Corp.

In 1946, Schildhauer became president of the Los Angeles County Republican Assembly and in 1948 he became the treasurer of the California Republican Assembly. He served as a delegate to the 16th district of California for the 1948 national Republican convention. Edward lived in Los Angeles for 17 years.

Edward Schildhauer died at the age of 80 in Los Angeles, California on May 24, 1953. He is buried at the New Holstein City Cemetery in New Holstein, Wisconsin.

2015 Fall Program Schedule

All programs are open to the public

The Lincoln Series with Steven Rogstad Returns

Sheboygan County Historical Museum—3110 Erie Avenue, Sheboygan.

Wednesday, October 7, 2015: Abraham & Mary Lincoln's Psychologies of Death - 6:30 to 8:30pm

Saturday, October 10, 2015: Spiritualism & Seances in the White House - 9:30 to 11:30am — SS Museum

Wednesday, October 14, 2015 - 6:30 to 8:30pm

Hour 1: Lincoln's Dreams, Omens & Portents of Impending Death

Hour 2: Ghosts Abide: Lincoln's Ghost and Paranormal Events Associated with the Assassination

Wednesday, October 21, 2015: The Plot to Steal Lincoln's Corpse - 6:30 to 8:30pm

(Genealogy Classes) Kiel Library

511 Third Street, Kiel

7:00pm to 8:30pm

Thursday, September 24, 2015 - Using Maps in Genealogy

Thursday, October 22, 2015 - Writing Your Family History

(History on the Move) Cedar Grove Public Library

131 Van Alton Avenue, Cedar Grove

6:00pm to 7:30pm

Tuesday, October 13, 2015 - History of Postcards

Tuesday, November 10, 2015 - Great Surveys and Great Surveyors of Sheboygan County

(History on the Move) Lakeview Community Library

112 Butler Street, Random Lake

1:00pm to 2:30pm

Thursday, September 3, 2015 Buchen and Baum's Tour Through Sheboygan County, 1944

Thursday, October 1, 2015 Random Local History

Thursday, November 5, 2015 Sheboygan County Connection, Part 3

Thursday, December 3, 2015 Sheboygan County Connection, Part 4

(Genealogy Classes) SCHRC

518 Water Street, Sheboygan Falls

1:00pm to 3:00pm \$10 members, \$15 non-members

Monday, September 14, 2015 Finding Your Way: Locating and Using Maps in Your Research - Advanced

Monday, October 12, 2015 Advanced Class on Using Census Reports

Monday, November 9, 2015 Vital Records, Birth, Death and Marriage Records

Monday, December 14, 2015 Use of Obituaries in Research - Advanced

Second Saturdays— Journeys Into Local History

Made possible by funding from the John and Hilda Holden Memorial Fund

Plymouth Arts Center, 520 East Mill Street, Plymouth - **all except October, 2015**

9:30am to 11:30am

September 12, 2015 Clark Kidder - The Brave Journey of an Orphan Train Rider

October 10, 2015 Steven Rogstad - Spiritualism & Seances in the Lincoln White House

(Change of venue - to be held at the Sheboygan County Museum, not the PAC)

November 14, 2015 Jerry Apps - Wisconsin Agriculture: A History

December 12, 2015 John Eastberg - Grand Avenue Mansions and Milwaukee's Beer Barons

January 9, 2016 Jessie Garcia - My Life with the Green and Gold - Packer Stories

February 13, 2016 Erika Janick - Giving Them What They Want- Quack Medicine

March 12, 2016 Terri Yoho and Carolyn Lee - Ruth De Young Kohler
and the Legacy of the Kohler Foundation

April 9, 2016 Emily Rock - Harry Houdini and his Legacy in Wisconsin

May 14, 2016 Gary Hess - Frank J. Hess and Sons Cooperage