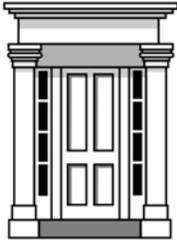


SHEBOYGAN COUNTY



HISTORICAL
RESEARCH
CENTER

The Researcher

The Newsletter of the Sheboygan County
Historical Research Center

Volume XXIV Number 1 October 2013

Sheboygan County Stained Glass Update



A church window from old St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Millersville.



In 2004, SCHRC started a project dealing with the beautiful stained glass windows in Sheboygan County churches. At the time a number of churches were in danger of being demolished. We felt it imperative that these churches be documented.

The project began with a survey or census of churches and buildings with stained glass – we discovered 114 sites, far more than anticipated. But, the good news is that more than forty of the buildings have been photographed inside and out with special care given to the stained glass windows.

The project is ongoing. At present we have two volunteers working on photographing the remaining structures. This project is expected to last another three to five years. All the photos have been entered into the collection. A book documenting the windows in Grace United Church of Christ in Kohler is in the works. A book documenting a cross section of the windows will be created as we get closer to the end of the project.

(The image above is from Our Lady of Angels Church, Armstrong.)

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 November 28, 2013 for Thanksgiving.

Phone: 920-467-4667

E-mail: research@schrc.org

Website: schrc.org

His Fond Hopes Have Dwindled

Assaying Jeweler Puts a Pin in His
Dream of Easy Wealth

Sheboygan Press, no date given

The most disappointed man in the entire county of Sheboygan today is beyond the peradventure of a doubt John Kuemmet of the town of Wilson who yesterday was under the impression that he had discovered a Klondike on his farm.

Several days back while ploughing his field with the smiling sun shining resplendent in the heavens, shedding his effulgences on things all about the terrestrial globe, filling it with scintillating splendor, even to the darkest corners, John stumbled over a piece of rock about a foot square and several inches thick. John at first was disposed to say something not to be found in a Methodist minister's lexicon, but when he noticed the brightness of the rock as the glittering molecules returned the smile of the sun, his eyes began to bulge out in amazement and wonder.

Stealthily looking around to see that he was unperceived John picked up the rock, hid it for safety under his vest and then ran to his home to make further investigations. His wonder and surprise grew as he noticed tiny yellowish streaks meandering through the substance under observation. He thought he had discovered gold. Taking a friend into his confidence he went back to the field of discovery and found that there was more like it. Hitching up his fastest team he started for town, going to the German bank to make a deposit of his find. But, here he met his first reverse. The bank was not in a position to accommodate him, having had no provisions for an

assaying office. John was directed to take his burden to W. A. Pfister and get his opinion on the subject. As soon as Mr. Pfister saw it he began to disillusionize the discoverer of the Wilson gold mine, in spite of his insistence that the stuff glittered when the sunlight struck it. It took considerable time to convince John that this find consisted of mica and iron pyrites and that his monopoly stock company of \$10,000,000 capital at ten cents a share was an air castle. But at last slowly and disgruntled he wended his way homeward, sore at his luck, taking his find along with him.

Every jewelry shop in the city has specimens of iron pyrites brought in by people from all parts of the county who were under the impression that they had discovered an easy road to wealth, but thus far none have grown rich by their finds.

Iron pyrite, known as fool's gold, was also known as German gold, due the large number of German's who thought they'd gotten rich with the ersatz stuff.

Sheboygan Press, Sat. May 6, 1939

Leon Turrou Recalls Nabbing Bootleg 'King'

*Ace Man in Lindbergh Case
has fond memories of
Black River*

By Walter J. Pfister

"Sheboygan? I'll remember Sheboygan as long as I live because that's where I made my first arrest of any importance as a member of the FBI."

It was Leon Turrou speaking—the man who found the Lindbergh ransom money in the Hauptmann garage, who helped put the finger on Pretty Boy Floyd and Richetti in

the Kansas City massacre, who a year ago exposed the Nazi spy ring and was one of the chief witnesses responsible for the conviction of the spies. His life has been in peril at least 100 times, but he always managed to escape death.

Turrou wrote "Confessions of a Nazi Spy" which was based on his personal expose' of the case and was filmed just recently under his technical supervision. The occasion for the interview was a press conference at the Schroeder Hotel in Milwaukee Friday for newspaper men . . .

"I don't recall the man's name, but he was supposed to be a killer and bootlegger from Springfield, and we picked him and his woman up in a sand dune area just outside of the city. I don't recall the date either, but off-hand I'd say it was in the spring of 1930 and as I remember it the man had faked his death somewhere in Illinois, but the department believed him still alive and traced him to Sheboygan."

Subsequent investigation disclosed that Mr. Turrou's memory is pretty good because the Press files disclose that on March 9, 1930 a group of FBI agents arrested one Herman Davis, alias Albert Blewett and Helen Clark, alias Bessie Spaulding, at a cottage at Black River near Lake View. Davis was a former "King" of the bootleggers of southern Illinois and was making moonshine at Black River as well.

He had been a fugitive from justice for a year or more. He had endeavored to give the impression that his enemies had done away with him and the Clark woman by leaving a note saying that he was "taken for a ride". A body was found in the Sangamon River shortly after the disappearance and identified as Davis' . . . But the G-men persisted and Mr. Turrou "got his man" here a year later.

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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Turrou was an orphan his father dying two months before his birth and his mother dying at his birth. He was born in Poland and adopted by a couple who traveled very much. Turrou was exposed to new languages and by the time he was a teenager he could speak 8 languages. He was left by his parents in the Orient at the age of 13 and from then on was on his own.

While a wounded war veteran in a French hospital he met his future wife. After the Armistice they married and had two children. His wife decided to visit her mother in Siberia for two months, but in reality the trip lasted 3 1/2 years.

A massacre had occurred in the village where his wife was visiting and all residents were reported dead. Unconvinced, Turrou got a job as an interpreter on an expedition to Russia. On arriving he sent a messenger to the Siberian village to verify the existence of graves of his family. But, the messenger returned with his wife and children, seriously starved but alive.

They were soon restored to health and then Turrou came back to America and later launched his career as a super sleuth.

Leon G. Turrou



Legacy Society News

Special thanks go to our newest Legacy Society members, Ronald Laack, Janet Radue and the Sheboygan County Medical Society. Thanks for your support!

New Membership Year Has Started

The Research Center's new membership year began September 1, 2013. Sometime within the month of August you received a letter asking you to renew your membership. Please know your membership is valued and the dollars you give make possible critical services at SCHRC.

- Membership dollars pay for educational programs, collection preservation, storage materials, daily operations, special projects, building maintenance and upkeep and much more.
- Membership dollars help the Research Center support our community.
- Membership dollars create a vibrant and thriving organization.

We need you to #1 Renew now; #2 Consider increasing your membership level; #3 Consider making an added donation.

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.

His head had been cleft with an axe from behind, and his brains were nearly gone.⁴ His bloodied shirt had been pulled up over his head as if to drag his mangled remains out of site.⁵

After his body was positively identified, District Attorney, Jeremiah H. W. Colby was immediately summoned and he quickly rendered a verdict of “Murder by some person or persons unknown.”⁶ Yet, there was insufficient evidence to warrant any arrests, until a few days later when it became obvious that George Egloff had fled town. Soon he was traced to Milwaukee, arrested a few miles west of there⁷, and brought back to Manitowoc Rapids aboard the steamer Detroit. Then Gustav Eichoff was arrested, apparently in Centerville. Judge Timothy O. Howe was summoned from Green Bay, and he arrived on September 22nd on the steamer Samuel Ward.⁸ From September 26th to November 26th, Howe interviewed twenty-five of Gerken’s neighbors and five relatives of the accused. He also heard from Dr. Abram W. Preston, Manitowoc’s first surgeon.⁹ On September 29th the Grand Jury found a Bill of Indictment against the accused, but since the two parties were not prepared for trial, the Judge deferred the case until November 26th, when Howe heard from more witnesses, including Mrs. Gerken.

Meanwhile, Egloff and Eichoff had been secretly boring one of the timbers in their cell, and on the night of November 28th, they squeezed out of their cell, carefully placed the timber back in place, and slipped into the wilderness.¹⁰ News of their escape traveled throughout the State. Egloff was described as a man of five feet, seven and ½ inches, with dark brown hair and gray eyes. He was last seen wearing corduroy pants and a striped hickory shirt. Eichoff was said to be six feet tall with black hair, grey eyes, and a Roman nose, and wearing dark pants and a dark brown dress coat.¹¹ To assist their capture and delivery the Sheriff offered a \$100 reward.

They were never caught. In fact, they were never seen again until thirty-five years later (ca. 1886), when one of them (we are not told which), returned to the scene of the crime for a few hours visit. Nevertheless, no arrests were made: ““grass having grown over the affair.””¹²

Indeed, life went on. Research reveals that no other members of the Eichoff and Egloff families remained in Centerville.¹³

⁴ The indictment, the clerk’s costs, and a list of witnesses and witness fees (i.e., 16.5 cents per mile traveled, 50 cents for court attendance) are archived at the Cofrin Library, University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, #CF1-X98. They state that Gerken had been struck in the back of the neck and side of the head with gashes five inches wide and three inches deep.

⁵ Since Wilhelm was heading home after the event, he must have taken (what is today) North Avenue east from the Eichoff property and then Center Road south to get home. This means that the murder took place on Center Road on the bridge that crosses Centerville Creek, just before one gets to East Washington Avenue. This was the only bridge on the way to Gerken’s home, in his day and in ours. The Creek appears on all of the plat maps.

⁶ Colby (b. January 14, 1821, d. May 11, 1853) was the first practicing attorney in Manitowoc County and the first burial in the city’s Evergreen Cemetery. He died of tuberculosis at the age of thirty-two.

⁷ One of the witnesses called to testify in the case was Peter Klaus, a French immigrant who lived in Greenfield, just west of Milwaukee. Likely this is the home in which he was found. Egloff too was a French immigrant, so there might have been a family connection.

⁸ Howe (b. February 24, 1816, d. March 25, 1883) served as a Wisconsin Senator from 1861-1879, and as the United States Post Master General from 1881-1883.

⁹ At the time, Preston (b. February 3, 1822, d. December 13, 1864) was living in the same home as Attorney General, Colby. Both men were from New Hampshire.

¹⁰ Described in the *Sheboygan Lake Journal*, December 17, 1851.

¹¹ Details found in the *Manitowoc County Herald*, December 4, 1951.

¹² Reported by Falge, *History of Manitowoc County*, p. 332. Falge’s use of inner quotation marks shows that he heard this from someone in the Centerville community, but he remains mute on his source. Of all the relatives and witnesses summoned to the trial from Centerville, only a few were alive and/or still living there by 1880.

¹³ The families last appear in the June 1, 1855 state census for Centerville. The Egloff family moved to town Newton. It is unclear where the Eichoff family went.

¹⁴ For legal reasons, the indictment accuses both of them equally: “certain axes which they then and there in both their hands had and held.”

The shame of the association likely encouraged them to seek fresh starts elsewhere. It is unknown what happened to Wilhelm's young wife, Catherine. Probably she was encouraged to remarry and start again. We only can imagine what became of Eichhoff and Egloff, since no trace of them exists in the historical record after 1851. One only can surmise that they assumed new identities and went separately to more distant places, and though their furtive escape certainly suggests their guilt, we do not know which of them wielded the deadly axe and which was the accomplice.¹⁴ We will never know which of them returned years later or what motivated his visit. Clearly the murder haunted one of them. We also will never know who spotted him when he returned to the bridge after such a long absence, and why time was perceived to have passed its own sentence upon him. The only thing of which we can be certain is that one or both of them got away with murder.



At St. Wendel's Catholic Cemetery near Centerville

Such a tale gives us insight into a time when our country's legal system had no national infrastructure and only the thinnest of State networks. It was a time when one quite literally could vanish into the countryside. Wilhelm Gerken's tragic end also offers a somber corrective to utopian visions of immigrant life in early Wisconsin. Today, only a small iron grave marker stands as a testament to his hopes.

The Sheboygan Press, Tuesday, October 18, 1960

Name Antarctic Mountains After Sheboygan Area Men

Two Antarctic mountains have been named in honor of Sheboygan area men - Kohler range, a 15,000-foot high elevation, and Helfert nunatak, 6,900 feet high. These are among a score of South Pole area features named for persons with a Wisconsin background, either explorer-scientists who actually discovered them, or scholars or financial supporters of expeditions to the vast frozen area at the bottom of the earth.

The Kohler range was named by Rear Admiral Richard E. Byrd for the late Walter J. Kohler Sr., former governor of Wisconsin. This is an extensive mountain range standing south of the base of the Martin peninsula and estimated to extend as far as 80 miles to an east-west direction on the Walgreen coast. The Kohler range was discovered from a distance on February 24, 1940 by Byrd and other members of the United States Antarctic service expedition in a flight from the ship *Barkentine Bear*.

Kohler was one of the financial supporters of the Byrd Antarctic expedition of 1933-1935 and he helped furnish the seaplane from which the range was discovered.

Helfert nunatak (a hill or mountain surrounded by glacial ice) stands near the Sentinel Mountains. It was named for Norbert F. Helfert, son of Mr. and Mrs. Norbert J. Helfert, 2419 North 23rd Street, who spent nearly a year in the Antarctic in 1957 as a civilian observer for the U.S. Weather Bureau during its Geophysical Year scientific undertakings.

Helfert is currently in his senior year at Penn State where he is preparing for a career in meteorology. During his summer vacations he has been employed by the U.S. Weather Bureau in Milwaukee. His duties during his year in Antarctica involved the making of weather, temperature and humidity observations on the earth's surface and in the upper air above Byrd Station.

Helfert, now 25, is a North High School graduate.

2013 Annual Meeting Update

Thursday, September 5, 2013

The Research Center celebrated its thirtieth birthday this year at a get together at The Bull. Nearly ninety members, volunteers, current board members and past board members met to remember the journey taken since September of 1983 when the Research Center officially opened for business. We also took a trip through the restoration of the mill house in 1986-1987.

Special thanks this year were given to:

Ryan and Michelle Moeller of South Pier Parlor for their support of our June garden dedication and ice cream social. Rick Gustafson for providing great music for the ice cream social.

Leslie Leighton, Kim Strynick, Al Risseuw, Don Lau, Kathy Jeske, Mary Meyer, Katie Reilly, Ed Kaminsky and Schel Kidd for their participation in Falls Centennial celebration in July.

Jose Araujo and Rachel Rupnik from the Volunteer Center of Sheboygan County for their work on July's Day of Caring. Special thanks to the teams from Muth and Kohler Companies and Armericorp.

Helen Schultz for a lifetime of volunteering at SCHRC. She was given the Golden Scissors Award for the mountains of newspapers she has clipped.

Edwin Fisher for his donation of dozens of hosta plants for SCHRC's garden. He was given the Golden Hosta watering can for his expertise and generosity.

Other service awards were given to Bob Gorges, board member extraordinaire, Sharon Schleicher, first co-director of SCHRC, Mary Koppelman, Bob Harker, Marge Jagler and Doris Kraus.



Helen Schulz



Sharon and Richard Schleicher



Edwin Fisher

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Shop SCHRC's Book Store for the Holidays

Great titles, local authors and local topics.

**You'll receive a new book catalog in the mail or via
email before the end of October.**

Make sure you remember to shop at SCHRC for the holidays.

Sheboygan County Historical Research Center 2013-2014 Outreach Programming

Second Saturdays - Journeys Into Local History

Saturday mornings - 9:30am to 11:30am. Free to the public.

September 14, 2013 - The Peshtigo Fire - Scott Knickelbine at **Sheboygan Falls Memorial Library**
On the night of October 8, 1871, a whirlwind of fire swept through northeastern Wisconsin, destroying the bustling frontier town of Peshtigo. Trees, buildings, and people burst into flames. Metal melted. Sand turned into glass. People thought the end of the world had come. When the “tornado of fire” was over, 2,500 people were dead. (110 people attended!)

October 12, 2013 - The Poles in Wisconsin – Susan Mikos at **Sheboygan Falls Memorial Library**
Author, Susan Mikos will talk about her new book, *Poles in Wisconsin* published by Wisconsin Historical Society Press. Susan tells the story of Polish Wisconsin in significant detail, from its folkways to its fraternal groups, and she tells it with a welcome attention to context, both global and local.

November 9, 2013 - Limping through Life – Jerry Apps at **Plymouth Arts Center**
Jerry Apps, who contracted polio at age twelve, reveals how the disease affected him physically and emotionally, profoundly influencing his... education, military service, and family life and setting him on the path to becoming a professional writer.

December 14, 2013 - Pabst Mansion and Frederick Layton, The Great 19th Century Art Patron of Milwaukee – John Eastberg at **Plymouth Arts Center**.

We’ll take a tour of the Pabst Mansion and then we’ll get to know wealthy businessman, Frederick Layton who can be regarded as Wisconsin’s earliest and most influential art patron. In 1887, he established the Layton Art Gallery, initially built to house his collection of fine painting and sculpture.

January 11, 2014 - The Klu Klux Klan in Wisconsin – Steven Jacobs at **Plymouth Arts Center**.
Steven Jacobs, will talk about the Klan's revival in Wisconsin in the 1920s and 1930s.

February 8, 2014 - Lincoln, His Place in Wisconsin History – Steven Rogstad at **Plymouth Arts Center**.
Lincoln’s travels through Wisconsin will be examined.

March 8, 2014 - Women in the Military - Multiple presenters at **Plymouth Arts Center**.
Roundtable discussion, video, lecture, displays.

April 12, 2014 - History of a Model City, Madison, Wisconsin – Erika Janik at **Sheboygan Falls Memorial Library**.
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**.
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; dedicated keepers manning the lights; eerie tales of haunted structures and ghosts of past keepers; mariners of yesteryear anxiously hoping to make safe haven around rocky shorelines. If these sentinels could talk, imagine the tales they would tell of ferocious Great Lakes storms taking their toll on vessels and people alike.

8th Annual Celtic Christmas Tea

Nollaig shona. Merry Christmas—a bit early, but it’s time to mark your calendars. Be sure not to miss the 8th annual Celtic Christmas tea scheduled for **Saturday, December 7, 2013**. The event will be held at the **Plymouth Historical Society**, 420 East Mill Street, Plymouth, WI from 1:00pm to 3:00pm. Entertainment provided by Matt Harvey and 4 Reel. This is a collaborative Irish/Christmas program sponsored by the Sheboygan County Historical Research Center, the Sheboygan County Chapter of Celtic Women International and the Plymouth Historical Society. Christmas treats, traditional brown bread, tea and coffee will be served in addition to the great music and even better conversation. A donation of \$4 per person is requested to help cover costs of the entertainment. This event is open to the public. Call 920.467.4667 for questions.

The Lincoln Series with Steven Rogstad

Steven Rogstad, Lincoln historian and author, will teach a series of four classes on a variety of topics dealing with Abraham and Mary Todd Lincoln. The classes presented by SCHRC will take place on four consecutive Wednesdays in October 2013 from 6:30pm to 8:30pm **at the Sheboygan County Historical Museum**, 3110 Erie Avenue, Sheboygan. Cost per class is \$10.00. Students are free.

October 2, 2013 - *Abraham Lincoln, In His Own Words* - In this first class Rogstad combines background commentary with quotes from Lincoln's letters, speeches, and public papers to provide a personal view of his life, thoughts, and actions.

October 9, 2013 - *Lincoln - Douglas Debates* - The debates between Stephen A. Douglas and Abraham Lincoln were held during the 1858 campaign for a US Senate seat from Illinois. The debates were held at 7 sites throughout Illinois, one in each of the 7 Congressional Districts. Douglas, a Democrat, was the incumbent Senator, having been elected in 1847. Lincoln was a relative unknown at the beginning of the debates. The Lincoln-Douglas debates drew the attention of the entire nation. Although Lincoln would lose the Senate race in 1858, he would beat Douglas out in the 1860 race for the US Presidency.

October 16, 2013 - *Lincoln in Motion Pictures* - The first known film depiction of Lincoln was in the 1908 silent short *The Reprieve: An Episode in the Life of Abraham Lincoln*. We'll follow the life of Lincoln through films in this class.

October 23, 2013 - *Mary Todd Lincoln* - Just 5 feet 2 inches at maturity, Mary Todd had clear blue eyes, long lashes, light-brown hair with glints of bronze, and a lovely complexion. Though opposites in background and temperament, the Lincoln's were united by an enduring love--by Mary's confidence in her husband's ability and his gentle consideration of her excitable ways. Steven Rogstad will take us on an eventful and eye-opening trip through Mary Todd Lincoln's life.

History on the Move

Thursday afternoons - 1:00 to 2:30pm at Lakeview Community Library, 112 Butler Street, Random Lake. Slide or Powerpoint presentations on local history topics. Free to the public.

October 3, 2013 - Sheboygan Falls, Wisconsin

November 7, 2013 - Native Americans of Sheboygan County

December 5, 2013 - On the Home Front, WWII in Sheboygan County

January 9, 2014 - Plymouth, Wisconsin

February 6, 2014 - Surveys and Surveyors of Sheboygan County

March 6, 2014 - Beechwood, Batavia and a few Lost Communities

Genealogy on the Move

Kiel Public Library, 511 Third Street, Kiel, Wisconsin, lower level meeting room. Free to the public.

Tuesday, October 15, 2013 - 6:00pm - Ancestry.com

Monday, October 28, 2013 - 1:00pm - Cemetery Research

Thursday, November 14, 2013 - 1:00pm - Newspaper Research

Sheboygan County Historical Museum, 3110 Erie Avenue, Sheboygan, Wisconsin, classroom. \$15.00 per person.

Saturday, April 5, 2014 - 9:30 to 12:00pm - German Genealogy Mini-Conference, multiple topics. Call 920-467-4667 to register.

Genealogy Classes

Please note - a number of genealogy topics have changed.

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 so register early. Cost per class is \$15.00 for members and \$20.00 for non-members.

October 14, 2013 - Newspaper Research at SCHRC.

November 11, 2013 - German Genealogy Work Day and Roundtable at SCHRC.

December 9, 2013 - Intermediate Genealogy and Unusual Resources at SCHRC.

2014 Classes

The classes take place from 1:00pm to 3:00pm on Monday afternoons unless otherwise noted.

Classes with fewer than five registered will be rescheduled so register early. Cost per class is \$15.00 for members and \$20.00 for non-members.

January 13, 2014 - Ancestry.com - (at Lakeview Community Library, Random Lake)

February 10, 2014 - Immigration - Where Did Our Ancestors Come From and How Did They Get Here? Ports of Entry, Ports of Departure, Ships and Passenger Lists (at SCHRC)

March 10, 2014 - Irish Research - From Ireland to America (at Plymouth Historical Society)

April 5, 2014 (Saturday) - German Genealogy Mini Conference - 9:30am to noon (at the Museum).

May 12, 2014 - Family Tree Maker, Getting the Most Out of It. (at Random Lake Historical Museum, RL)

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

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)



Wish List

Lysol or Clorox wipes

soft toilet paper

paper towels

Kleenex