

Time Lines

August 2021 Edition



THE SMITHSONIAN ARRIVES IN SHEBOYGAN COUNTY

Following many months of behind the scenes planning and preparation, the Museum was excited to welcome our very first Smithsonian Institution traveling exhibition! *The Way We Worked* features photographs, objects, videos, and more to explore how America has worked over the last 150 years. Much of that history is reflective of the Sheboygan County experience, which is highlighted by photographs and a few artifacts that surround the Smithsonian content.

The exhibit will be at the Museum through October 9, 2021, so be sure to make time to stop by! *The Way We Worked* was originally created by the National Archives and adapted for travel by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service. It is made possible with the generous support of the United States Congress. Additional local support is provided by Kohler Foundation.



...to collect, preserve, and educate about the history of Sheboygan County.

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Hello,

As we head into late summer and early autumn, we are coming out of the pandemic and are now assessing where we are at in our operations. About six weeks ago, I made the decision to remove our social distancing rules as vaccines were being administered and our visitation numbers were slowly on the rise. That went well for about two weeks, so I decided to remove mask requirements for visitors who were vaccinated, keeping in place the guidelines for young children and staff. That was probably one of the best received directives I have had during my time as Executive Director. After assessing the usage of masks by our visitors, I made the decision to remove the mask requirement for staff and interns, keeping in place the friendly recommendation of masking for our youngest visitors and those not vaccinated. We hope our visitors follow our request. The staff and myself are excited to be nearly back to pre-pandemic activities, and it is certainly joyful to welcome back our members, volunteers, and visitors. It has been too long for the museum to be void of all these wonderful people.

As we come out of the pandemic, we of course are looking to the future. The education staff and myself have met to discuss how we will welcome back all those students we have missed the past 16 months. We are making contact with our area educators to gauge where their districts are at with planning field trips and their interest in coming back, as well as reconnecting with our volunteers to assess their readiness to return. If you are an education program volunteer, you will be contacted by one of our staff members to get your opinion if you have not already been contacted. We also have some new fun and exciting changes to our programs that we believe make them even better than they already are. We also will be utilizing our virtual programs in new ways to either enhance in-person visits or as a tool to attract new teachers and students to the museum. We discussed how we will make sure to keep our staff, volunteers, and students as safe as possible as the school year begins this fall. We truly want our students back at the museum, but we want to make sure it is a safe environment to return to.

We are also quite excited to be planning public programming. After a year and a half of virtual programs, we are ecstatic to be planning for in-person events. We have a couple of great upcoming events taking place outdoors on our campus and hope to kickstart our regular programming with our Pioneer Olympics on August 7. We have already shared information on the event, so please be sure to check our Facebook and webpage for further information. We are also in the beginning stages of finalizing our 2022 programming schedule. We hope to bring back some of our popular programs, as well as host some new events. We will be sure to share all that information when it is ready.

Finally, we are relieved and quite happy to be hosting the Smithsonian Institution's "The Way We Work" traveling exhibit from now through mid- October. This is the first time in the Society's history, and possibly in our County's history, that a Smithsonian exhibit has been displayed. After hosting several other really wonderful traveling exhibits over the past few years, we are honored and proud to be hosting an exhibit of this caliber. An added benefit of the exhibit is the ability to install some of the Society's collection materials into the display that highlights local work history. We all hope you can stop at the museum to see this fantastic exhibit and learn more about some of the interesting jobs that have been a part of our local history. However, if you think we have reached the mountain top with traveling exhibits, you would be mistaken. We have another beyond belief exhibit coming in 2022. You will be marveled by it.

Enjoy the rest of your summer and we hope to see you at the museum. Remember History. ~Travis



The staff and Board of Directors of the Sheboygan County Historical Society were deeply saddened at the loss of our retired co-worker and friend Allen Price.

Al came to the Museum in 2003 after his first "retirement," starting as a volunteer and soon after joined the staff as the Museum's Maintenance Person. His multiple talents made the physical space of the Museum better for all – from replacing lights, rebuilding exhibit spaces, and making sure all the emergency alerts were up to snuff. More importantly, Al made the Museum better by sharing his kind heart, his warm smile, his sense of humor, and most importantly, his love, with all those here. He never said "No" to an odd project idea or a crazy potluck dish – he just smiled and went with it. The Museum is a better place today because of Al!

We extend our deepest condolences to all those who mourn Al, especially his wife Marilyn, their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, along with his brother Mark, sister, and other family and friends. It was an honor to know and work with Al.

PROGRAMING - PIONEER OLYMPICS

You may not be able to travel to Japan for the Summer Olympics, but you can travel to the Sheboygan County Historical Museum to see the Pioneer Olympics! Join us Saturday, August 7 from 2pm - 9:30pm for a day of FREE pioneer activities and games, as well as competitions and food for sale during the event. Registration for adult and children's competitions is now open online! Visit our website to learn more. Admission to the Museum and exhibits will also be FREE during the event.



Competitions Include:

- Sack Races, 2pm
 - Family Team Butter Churning Races, 3pm
 - Graces - Teams of 2, 4pm
 - Egg Spoon Carrying, 5pm
 - Best Facial Hair (Adult Only), 7pm
 - Pie Baking Contest, 7:30pm
 - Pie Eating Contest (Adult Only), 8pm
- \$2 for Adults, \$1 for children, per event.

There will be a training area for everyone to test their skills, whether they are competing or not.

There will also be additional Pioneer themed activities and games available, like jacks, marbles, clothes pin drop, stilt walking, cross-cut logging, and much more!

The Pioneer Olympics will end with a Closing Ceremony at dusk - **a mini Children's Lantern Parade through Taylor Park**. FREE Paper Bag Lantern Kits are available for pick up at the Museum, Mead Public Library, John Michael Kohler Arts Center, and Above and Beyond Children's Museum. Check their hours for pick up times.

Children can bring their completed paper bag lanterns with them the day of the event when they check-in and line-up on the greenspace in front of Sunny Ridge Nursing & Rehabilitation Center at 8:00pm. Battery operated candles will be distributed at the time of check-in. The Lantern Parade will start at approximately 8:38pm (dusk) and go through Taylor Park. Parents are welcome and encouraged to walk with young children in the parade. Pack a lawn chair and plan to stay for the whole day!

In the case of inclement weather, the rain date will be August 14. Watch Facebook for updates!



OUTDOOR MOVIE NIGHTS

Our Outdoor Movie Nights during the summer continue to be just as popular as in the past, if not more! In fact, the attendance for our July movie, featuring *The Parent Trap* (1961) starring Hayley Mills was the best we have had since the very first Outdoor Movie Night in 2019! We saw so many new faces and lots of families making magical summer memories.

If you missed out on *Meet Me in St. Louis* in June and *The Parent Trap* in July, you can still learn all about the making of each film and behind the scenes fun facts. Be sure to check out the Sheboygan County Historical Museum's website to read about each movie on our blog!

We are excited for our last Outdoor Movie Night of the summer on Friday, August 20, 2021! To celebrate our newest traveling exhibit from the Smithsonian, *The Way We Worked*, we are showing Disney's *Newsies* (1992) starring Christian Bale. The film, which in recent years became a Tony Award Broadway Musical, looks at the News Boys Strike in New York City during 1899. You will want to come extra early! The Museum will have FREE admission starting at 6:30pm for you to explore the exhibit before the fun begins outside. And remember, dusk is earlier in August. Classic cartoons will begin approximately 7:45pm, an introduction the film at 8pm, and the film will start at dusk (approx. 8:15pm).



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Our June 2021 volunteer was Mary Meyer of Plymouth. It is always exciting when new volunteers join the mix and while she has only been volunteering for a little over two months, Mary has jumped right in with both feet. She has become a regular at the Front Desk for the Museum and was one of several volunteers who helped out with our kick-off event, *The Seven Wonders of Sheboygan County* VAMONDE tour. She also plans to help out over the summer with several of our other events, including the Outdoor Movie Nights and the upcoming Pioneer Olympics. Mary's love of local history and people, coupled with her desire to help out in the community brought her to the Museum, and we are glad it did.

When asked why she chose the Museum as a place to volunteer, Mary replied, "Some of my other volunteering opportunities stopped because of the Covid pandemic. Since I love to volunteer, and I love history, helping at the Museum seemed like a good fit. I have enjoyed visiting the museum in the past, and have attended various programs, including educational days with my grandchildren. Both the staff and other volunteers have made me feel welcome and very much at home."



Our July 2021 volunteer is another relatively new face here at the Museum. Hayley joined the Museum's volunteer crew in February of this year and if you have stopped in on a Saturday since then, you may have already met her! While the front desk has been one of our main volunteer opportunities of late, Hayley plans to help out at some of our upcoming events as we get back to more of our in-person programming. Like so many of our volunteers, her can do attitude along with her willingness to help out in a variety of ways is certainly appreciated as we reintroduce more activities. We at the Museum cannot express how appreciative we are of the fact that everyone has been flexible over the last 18 months!

When asked why she volunteers at the Museum, Hayley replied, "I volunteer at the Sheboygan County Historical Society and Museum because I believe that it's important to give of oneself in their community, that volunteering makes our community stronger and allows us to see past our differences, and build bridges not walls. The museum is an important part of our community in that it keeps us cognizant of our past, and brings in exhibits that highlight important facets of both Wisconsin and national history."

SUMMER AT THE MUSEUM



The summer months always bring a variety of projects, particularly as the weather warms up and we can tackle some of the outside projects. This year is no different and we have thrown in a few inside updates as well.

The next time you visit, you may find a little less shade on the Museum campus. With the support and assistance of the County, a number of trees have been removed. Unfortunately, several dead ash trees needed to be cut from both the upper park area and right around the Museum. Additionally, several trees just to the east of the Taylor House are also being taken down. While their shade was lovely, the small leaves of the honey locust and pine needles were not only creating significant clogs in the gutters, but the shade never allowed the building to dry out. We are confident the increased circulation will be a great benefit for

the preservation of the building.

Now that the wood has had time to weather a bit, the exterior of the Cheese Factory renovation was completed with several coats of durable stain. We hope to complete roofing on the building later in 2020.

The updates in the galleries also continue. Keep an eye out for the addition of historic downtown photos in the hallways, along with updated Kohler Gallery displays.



FULL DAY EDUCATION PROGRAMS



The education team (both staff and volunteers) are eagerly awaiting the return of students in the fall after a full year of virtual programming. Area teachers have had lots to say in praise of the virtual programs developed using funds from the CARES Act and the National Endowment for the Humanities, as well as expressing their enthusiasm for upcoming in-person programs. As the teachers from Longfellow put it, “We are very interested in a full day program again! We would love it if we could use the wonderful online program that you made during the pandemic as an introduction and a follow up, and have the field trip as we did before.” Another teacher from Grant Elementary wrote to us: “I SO appreciate the hard work that all of you at the Sheboygan County Historical Museum did to adapt this program for our students. The videos and hands-on activities were so well done. The students learned a lot and really enjoyed themselves. Thank you again for taking the time to meet with our class.” We cannot wait to have the museum buildings buzzing with the excitement of students once more.



COLLECTIONS SPOTLIGHT

Thinking about starting a new hobby? Maybe this Collection Spotlight will inspire you to take up tramp art!

Popularized in the 19th century, tramp art is a specialized category of woodworking. Originally, pieces were constructed of scrap wood such as cigar boxes or wooden crates. The wood was worked into ornate pieces and then layered to create geometric shapes. Often, the shaping was done with a pocket knife and while men were the primary creators, women and children were also known to create these intricate works of art.

The Museum has a number of tramp art works in the collection. This baptismal font, created by Charles Machut (1865-1941), took nearly a year to complete. Built in approximately 1893 and originally intended for a Sheboygan County church, Machut used a pocket knife, home-made jigsaw, tack hammer, and file to construct the font. Comprised of white holly and black walnut, the font features a variety of diamond and v-shapes created through the layering of notched pieces of wood. The base has an inlay of vines and leaf patterns. In addition to the intricate woodworking, the font contains a raiseable platform lined with velvet to hold a water reservoir.



Machut was born in Germany, arriving in the United States and settling in the Town of Sherman with his parents in the early 1870s. After marrying Emma Torke in 1886, the couple settled in Sheboygan Falls. Machut worked for several years as a harnessmaker, millwright, and farmer. He eventually went to work for Richardson Brothers from which he retired in 1935.

Due to a misunderstanding, the font remained in the family and was used for several generations of family baptisms. In 1963, the font, along with a tramp art mirror created by Machut, was donated to the Historical Society by Mr. Machut's four daughters. Both have been featured in a variety of publications highlighting both tramp art and Wisconsin decorative works.

*Sheboygan County Historical
Society and Museum*

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Mark Your Calendars

Please note that we will be following Sheboygan County Safe Restart recommendations, including best practices for physical distancing, capacity, and hygiene. In the event we need to postpone or cancel any programming, the Museum will notify the public via social media, our website and emails to our members.

NOW—OCTOBER 9 - *The Way We Worked*, Temporary Exhibit. Included with regular Museum admission.

Created by the National Archives, and adapted for travel by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service and made possible with the generous support of the United States Congress. Additional local support by Kohler Foundation, Inc.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 7, 2021, 2:00PM - 9:30PM - *The Pioneer Olympics*. Competitions, Activities, Food, Mini-Lantern Parade and More!

FRIDAY, AUGUST 20, 2021, DUSK - *Newsies* (1992), Outdoor Movie Night. FREE

TUESDAY, AUGUST 24, 2021, 4:00PM - 7:00PM - Volunteer Appreciation Picnic, Taylor Park Pavilion

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2021, 12:00PM - 5:00PM - *History Hill Music Fest & 9/11 Remembrance*

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2021, MUSEUM CLOSED for Private Event.

Watch for additional programs to be announced --

- Martha Nause & Life in the LPGA
- Wisconsin Labor History Society Talk, in cooperation with Mead Public Library



Follow us on Facebook and check out our website for more information on upcoming programming!

MUSEUM STAFF

Travis Gross, *Executive Director*

Nathan Chisholm, Angela Hullin, Tamara Lange, Kiyoh E. Lopez, Dale Robson, Chloe Seider, Vicki Stopar