



# *Time Lines*

## *Centennial Celebrations*

February 2023 Edition



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



# DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Happy New Year!

As we look back on 2022, we realize that even a pandemic does not slow us down. 2022 was a slow return to normal, and we at the Society felt good about it. But as things returned to pre-pandemic levels, we also saw some substantial changes. With all change comes new and exciting opportunities and we are looking forward to this year to see the effects of these new opportunities.

As you may know, 2023 is the 100th anniversary of the Historical Society. All of us at the museum are excited and honored to be a part of this celebration. We have an excellent exhibit celebrating 100 years of collecting that includes some of our collection's best objects. The exhibit will be on display through October, so you will have ample time to come in and learn more about our collection and reminisce on the great history our county has.

We also have a full public programming schedule for the year. We will be revisiting some of the programs from years past as well as rolling out some new programs we hope will carry us into the future. The programming will not only highlight our rich local history, but it will also highlight the history of our organization. From Third Saturdays to a Rendezvous to our Speaker Series, there will be something for everyone to enjoy and learn from. I am personally looking forward to the Speaker Series as we welcome our past Directors, Betty Potter and Bob Harker, back to the museum to share their experiences leading the Society. I have great gratitude for them as they laid a wonderful foundation for me to carry on. Please watch for our events through social media and emails.

We also are introducing an updated version of our *Native Americans in Sheboygan County* Full Day Education Program. It was our first education program to be offered and needed some substantial updating. We now call it *First Peoples of Sheboygan County* and was revised with the assistance of an educator from the Brothertown Tribe of the Oneida Nation. As it now meets the fourth-grade curriculum standards, we are able to teach more involved lessons and share more accurate information about the First Peoples of our county. We are also looking forward to continuing the work we began prior to the pandemic on a middle school program focusing on the Industrial Revolution and our local history.

As we pay homage to the past we are also focused on the future. I believe with every past there is a new beginning. That is why I began the steps of re-branding the museum last year. That work is complete so watch for the new look, philosophy, and offerings that come with a re-branding soon. I hope our new brand will excite our longtime supporters as well as attract new folks to our wonderful museum. We will still *Collect, Preserve and Educate* on Sheboygan County history, but with a new look and updated philosophy. Please join me in the upcoming exciting year.

- Travis

## WRAPPING UP HOLIDAY MEMORIES

The Elves of SantaLand were back this year for a North Pole Extravaganza, fittingly accompanied by a variety of happy polar bears and a traveling penguin. The traditional Prange's window featured the popular "Mutt Cuts," including an animated dog bath that had never before been used in the Holiday Memories displays at the Museum. In total, 51 pieces of animation, along with countless additional festive add-ons entertained visitors from near and far.

Many thanks to those who brought an extra dose of cheer to our weekend visitors. As always, the Lake Shore O-Gauge Model Railroaders were a popular attraction Thanksgiving weekend, while visitors enjoyed the detailed work of the Lakeshore Miniatures Club throughout Holiday Memories. The December weekends were filled with live music from Jane Abromaitis on the historic S.W. Miller Player Piano, Max Becker on piano, Cheese City Woodwind Quintet, North High Orchestra Holiday Strings, North High Northern Lights Choir, Plymouth High Mistletones, Raging Grannies (and one Grandpa) of Sheboygan, Sheboygan Accordion Club, and South High Singers.

Once again, cookies accompanied by our new "Spruce Juice" (or Grinch punch according to some), were a hit. Thank you to the many cookie bakers who provided treats throughout, along with both Festival Foods and Sargento who contributed to the weekend cheese and sausage platters. Thank you to the Merkel Family serving as our Lead Sponsor, we couldn't have done it without their generous contribution.

Thank you to all the visitors as well, you are what makes Holiday Memories so special.



# INTRODUCING “FIRST PEOPLES OF SHEBOYGAN COUNTY”

The “Native American Program” was the first of the Sheboygan County Museum’s full-day education programs to be developed nearly a quarter century ago. It has successfully provided a solid background for Fourth graders to gain knowledge of and respect for the several indigenous cultures present in this area over the course of many thousands of years.

But, as perceptions and sensibilities changed during the 21st century, the Education Department staff began to feel some discomfort with certain aspects of the program. For example, having three Museum Nerds of European descent directing a Pow Wow seemed like a bit of a cultural misappropriation. Important topics like forced relocation and assimilation “boarding schools” were not part of our program.

Ideas about and approaches to history have changed over the last twenty-five years. When the Great Pandemic Pause occurred in March of 2020, it provided an opportunity to take a close look at the Native American Program. The first step was logical—talk with an actual Indigenous person. We had consultations with the Director of Cultural Affairs for the Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohicans; we learned a great deal about what we should do.

The new “First Peoples of Sheboygan County” will still focus on the indigenous peoples’ unique relationship with nature and their traditions of hunting, fishing, gathering, and farming but we will also focus on some of the life changes following the arrival of Europeans in the early 18th century.



## 2023 FEATURE EXHIBIT

It is only fitting that during our Centennial year the feature exhibit of the year celebrates one of our most unique characteristics – the Museum’s object collection. In celebration of one hundred years, we are excited to highlight one hundred artifacts in *100 Years/ 100 Objects: A Century of Collecting*. For the first time ever, our temporary exhibit will take a look inward, providing a showcase of the history and growth of the organization, while illuminating how the collection continues to evolve to represent the history and development of Sheboygan County. Expect to see some of the largest (a 1915 Buick) and smallest (a selection of “bird points”) objects, in addition to items both thousands of years old to just “newborn”!

A very special sixteen of the objects featured in *100 Years/ 100 Objects* will face off as *March Madness 2023* returns for a third year! Will the 2022 Champion Jumes Restaurant sign make it a two-peat? Will the 2021 Champ Kidillac make a triumphant return to the winner circle after being knocked out in the Final Four? Or will a dark horse contender go all the way in 2023?

Be sure to mark your calendars for March 12 for this year’s SELECTION SUNDAY. The Chairs, Churches, Cheese, and Children Divisional Playoffs (of course!) begin March 16, with voting both in-person at the Museum and online. Even after your basketball bracket blows up, you can follow along with this fun annual tradition for lovers of Sheboygan County history!





# WELCOME TO THE MUSEUM!

There are a number of new faces around the Museum these days. Heather Hanlon joined the staff in early December as our new Program Coordinator. Heather has lived in Sheboygan County for eight years, with further ties to the area through her maternal family who farmed and still owns land in Sheboygan Falls. Prior to joining the Museum, Heather previously worked as an English teacher and in membership for the Museum of Wisconsin Art. Her interest in material culture was sparked while studying art history and museum studies for her Master's Degree. She is interested in question of value that surface between objects and the humans that experience them. This quest for value will serve her well while creating exhibit, collection, and community-driven programs as Program Coordinator here at the Sheboygan County Museum.

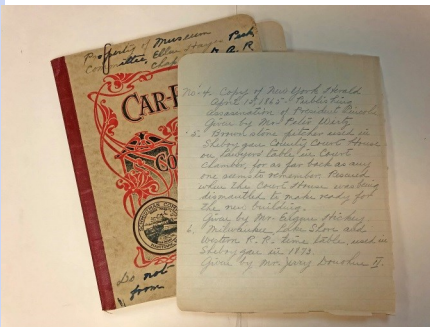


We are also welcoming Liza Rosenthal as our new Operations Manager. Liza joined the staff in mid- December and was thrown right into the festivities of Holiday Memories. Growing up in Wisconsin she frequently visited the Sheboygan area to visit Lake Michigan. Her love for history grew while studying art history and business at UW-Milwaukee. Prior to joining the Museum, Liza worked as an administrative assistant and in member services for the Museum of Wisconsin Art. Her interest in all things history and community engagement has drawn her to the position of Operations Manager here at the Sheboygan County Museum.

## COLLECTION SPOTLIGHT

As with so many things that will happen during 2023, our monthly Collection Spotlights will help celebrate the Museum's century mark! We are kicking off with one of the very first items accessioned (our fancy museum word for accepting an item into the permanent collection)!

These very first objects were not necessarily recorded in order of donation, but they provide a snapshot of both the earliest artifacts along with illuminating the relationship between the Historical Society and the Museum Committee of the Ellen Hayes Peck Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Carefully handwritten in a Composition Book are notes regarding the arrival of a variety of materials, ranging from military relics to newspaper copies to natural history materials. Some entries provide the details of the object, while others mention significant aspects of what the item represents. For most, a small note designates the original donor.



Labeled as Accession 5 is a stoneware pitcher, featuring a simple branch pattern and highly reflective glaze. Without the accompanying text recorded in the book, the pitcher might seem simple and common. However, the story accompanying the object provides the detail of an object with a rich history. As recorded, the pitcher sat "...on Lawyers' table in Court Chamber, for as far back as any one seems to remember. Rescued when the Court House was being dismantled to make ready for the new building." With that information, we know it was likely rescued in the early months of 1933 as construction began on the Sheboygan County Courthouse that we are familiar with today.

Like many of the early objects, the donor was recorded as Eugene A. Hickey, a long-time public servant as Clerk of the Circuit Court, along with a leader of countless area service organizations. While his connection to the Courthouse makes this logical, Hickey was an ardent supporter of both the preservation of history and antiquities and the Historical Society, for which he served as Secretary for years. As we celebrate 100 years of collecting, we applaud the efforts of Mr. Hickey, along with many others, for ensuring that objects of historical significance were preserved for future generations in those earliest years of the organization.

# WINTER PROGRAMS

## Community Days 2023

As a special Centennial offering to the community, you are invited to celebrate hands-on history for **absolutely free** one Saturday each month. Come again, see more, do more, bring a friend!

- **February 11** | Learn about the *First Peoples of Sheboygan County* through beading bracelets, hands-on food practices, and model mounds.
- **March 11** | Use a telegraph, rip bandages, and explore a replica camp to consider *Sheboygan County and the Civil War*.
- **April 8** | Uncover pioneer life in *Journey to Sheboygan County* with interactive food preservation, travel trunks, a spinning wheel, and wooden toys.



## Collectors and Collections

**February 18, 10:00 –3:00, Free for Members**



Join the Sheboygan County Museum in celebrating collectors from around the county and our own collection during the first program of our centennial year!

Visit and see bonsai, creamery swag, hauntology vinyl, model tractors, antique radios, Sheboygan pennants, bar tokens, and so much more!

Also experience museum storage in “The Loft” and see how some Prange’s animation lives during their off-season.

## March Speaker Series | 100 Years of Preserving Sheboygan History

**Tuesdays 6:00-7:30, Free to the Public**

Take the rare opportunity to hear every director of SCM and the current curator illustrate the entire history of the Sheboygan County Historical Society.

March 7 | “Starting the Collection,” Curator Tamara Lange

March 14 | “Building and Buildings,” Former Director Betty Potter

March 21 | “Getting with the Programs,” Former Director Bob Harker

March 28 | “Looking to the Future,” Executive Director Travis Gross



## SHEBYGAN COUNTY MUSEUM PRESENTS CHAIR CITY ART CHAIRS



In celebration of the Sheboygan County Museum’s centennial, there is a call for artists to complete visual art on wooden folding chairs made by the historic Sheboygan business Dillingham Manufacturing Company, one of the many companies that made Sheboygan “Chair City.” Creative projects connected to a diversity of Sheboygan culture are encouraged. Art Chairs will be displayed at local businesses throughout the year. Proposals due February 25.

Details and compensation information at  
[sheboyganmuseum.org/artchair](http://sheboyganmuseum.org/artchair)



# Sheboygan County Historical Society & Museum

3110 Erie Avenue  
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Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
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Sheboygan, WI  
Permit No. 84

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Calvin Wheeler, *Honorary*  
Travis Gross, *Executive Director*

## ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



# Mark Your Calendars!



### Museum Re-Opens on February 1, 2023

#### Museum Hours

- Monday– Friday, 10 a.m.—5 p.m.
- Saturday, 10 a.m.—3 p.m.

#### Admission

- Members – Free
- Adult (18 – 61) – \$10
- Seniors (62+), Active Military – \$7
- Youth (6-17) \$5
- Child (5-) Free

**Memberships** and other financial contributions support our mission, “to collect, preserve, and educate about the history of Sheboygan County.” Memberships support preservation, educational programs, maintenance, exhibits, events, and other necessary expenses.

*Check out the SCHSM website and Facebook for Pop-Up Events throughout the year!*

**Community Saturday**, First Peoples of Sheboygan County, February 11, 10:00am-3:00pm

**100 Years/ 100 Objects: A Century of Collecting**, Centennial Exhibition, February 18– October 22

**Collectors and Collections**, February 18, 10:00am –3:00pm

**March Speaker Series**, Starting the Collection, Speaker Tamara Lange, March 7, 6:00pm– 7:30pm

**Community Saturday**, Sheboygan County and the Civil War, March 11, 10:00am-3:00pm

**March Speaker Series**, Building with Buildings, Speaker Betty Potter, March 14, 6:00pm-7:30pm

**March Speaker Series**, Getting with the Programs, Speaker Bob Harker, March 21, 6:00pm-7:30pm

**March Speaker Series**, Looking to the Future, Speaker Travis Gross, March 28, 6:00pm-7:30pm

**Community Saturday**, Journey to Sheboygan County, April 8, 10:00am-3:00pm

## MUSEUM STAFF

Travis Gross, *Executive Director*; Matthew Bayens; Nathan Chisholm; Heather Hanlon; Tamara Lange; Dale Robson; Liza Rosenthal; Becca Schnabel; Tom Wiegand; Rick Wojnarowicz