

Now & Then in Ripon ... Looking back with the Ripon Historical Society

# Schallern family made contributions to Ripon

Once European royalty, Baron Carl Reiner von Schallern (1803-1878), known as “Reiner,” married Countess Maria Anna von Hirschberg (1817-1891), known as Anna.

Educated in Berlin, Reiner became a doctor, starting his career as a general practitioner and ophthalmologist in Germany.

After being jailed for three months in 1848 during a political uprising there, the von Schallerns left their German homeland in 1849 and sought asylum in America where they dropped using their royal titles.

First settling in Ohio during the mid-1800s, Reiner enlisted in the American Civil War in 1861 and served the Confederacy as “infantry physician major” under General William Sherman. His son, Ottmar, only 15 years old, was drafted into the war, was injured (listed as wounded/handicapped) and mustered out in 1864. Following the end of the Civil War, the von Schallern family moved to



**OTTMAR SCHALLERN** custom-embossed medicine bottles from his drug store in downtown Ripon. *submitted photo*

Manitowoc and finally Ripon and resided on Watson Street.

While in Ripon, Reiner practiced medicine at a location listed as between Blossom and Fond du Lac streets. In his personal time, he invented a “hodometer,” which was an instrument similar to a modern “odometer” used to measure distances traveled.

While out of town to apply for a design and invention patent in Washington D.C., Reiner fell ill and died in Mount Vernon, Wash., in 1878.

Reiner’s sons — Ottmar von Schallern (1846–1918) and Bruno von Schallern (1854–1936) — stayed in Ripon and carried on their father’s vocation as medical doctors.

Meanwhile, Reiner’s youngest son, Victor von Schallern (1861–1928), attended Ripon public schools and spent three years at Ripon College. Victor first became a Ripon postal clerk and later worked as a broker and insurance agent.

Many of the von Schallern sons and daughters never married. The U.S. Federal Census shows their immediate and extended family sharing living quarters at 121 Watson St., 103 Watson St., 145 Blackburn St., and 219 Watson St. above storefronts. They later resided at 536 Watertown St. and 404 Watson St.

### Schallern family business

In addition to practicing as a medical doctor, like his parents who dropped their royal titles, Ottmar von Schallern dropped “von” from his last name and became known as “Ottmar



**Greetings, Fellow Riponites**

Your Vote Can Help Maintain

## LOW CITY TAXES

Re-Elect

# SCHALLERN

As Your City of Ripon

# MAYOR

Election April 7, 1942

A Vote for Schallern Is a Vote for You!

Authorized and to be paid for by Mayor Eugene Schallern, Ripon, Wisconsin

**ABOVE AND RIGHT,** Eugene Schallern’s mayoral reelection bid was built upon achievements, in addition to his medical practice and work within the family’s drug store. *submitted photos*

Schallern.” Ottmar opened a drug store and pharmacy business in downtown Ripon in the late 1800s.

In 1922, the Schallerns opened a newer and more modern drug store building which they painted white and placed live fresh cut flowers in the windows.

The store also included a soda fountain that served beverages, special chocolates and candies.

Notably, other von Schallerns made their name change, too, using only the last name “Schallern.” Over time, their Schallern Drug Store became a family-run enterprise when Victor, who had moved to Little Falls, Minn., returned to Ripon to become the store manager.

At the same time, brother Bruno’s son, Roy, became the prescription clerk.

All of the family members’ tombstones appear reverted back to, and are inscribed with, the von Schallern last name, although during their lifetimes they became known as “Schallerns.”

### Municipal commitments

Bruno became the mayor of Ripon in 1898. His son, Eugene Schallern, served as mayor from 1940–1944. The Schallerns were registered Republicans and belonged to the Masons, the Knights of Pythias and Oddfellows.

### Ending days

Americans became more mobile in the early 1900s following the invention of the automobile and, like many families, the Schallerns relocated across America.

Leaving Ripon, younger Schallerns moved to Minnesota and Florida. Some even went to live in New York and North Dakota. The elder Schallerns stayed in Ripon until their passing at late ages and are buried in a family plot in Hillside Cemetery.

Today, in Bamberg, Germany (within the Bavarian Region), a book of history essays is being written about early physicians including Reiner, who immigrated to the U.S. and eventually settled with his family in Ripon.

Information from the Ripon Historical Society will be included in the essays as the his-

### Schallern’s Record

Accomplishments of the past two years:

**TAXES LOWERED—**

Former Council,  
1939 tax rate 36.00 mills

Present Council,  
1940 tax rate 31.66 mills  
1941 tax rate 30.42 mills

**HUGE DEBT PAID—**

Former Council borrowed \$50,000 in 1938.  
Former Council borrowed \$62,000 in 1939.

Present Council reduced borrowing debt to \$22,500 in 1940.

Present Council borrowed *no money* in 1941, and had a *surplus on hand* of \$36,000 at end of year.

**STREET PAVING IS LONG—**

Paved Scott St. ....	2 1/2 Blks.
Paved State St. ....	4 Blks.
Paved Hall St. ....	3 Blks.
Paved Shepard St. ....	2 Blks.
Paved Spaulding ....	1 Blk.
Paved Doty St. ....	1 Blk.
Paved Tygert St. ....	1 Blk.
Resurfaced Griswold St. ....	2 Blks.
Resurfaced Howard St. ....	2 Blks.
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>18 1/2 Blks.</b>

Purchased Road Building Machinery.

The above things and many more were done in only two years. More of the same is all we plan.

**Why Take a Chance?  
Schallern Tried & Proven!**

torical society provided copies of the Schallern family genealogy, along with photos from its professional archives.

*The Ripon Historical Society is the oldest continually operating historical society in Wisconsin. It is open Fridays and Saturdays 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information follow us at Facebook/riponhistory or www.riponhistory.org.*

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