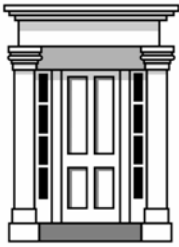


SHEBOYGAN COUNTY



HISTORICAL
RESEARCH
CENTER

The Researcher

The Newsletter of the Sheboygan County
Historical Research Center

Volume XXV Number 3

February 2015



Next Parish Over



Kilmalkedar monastery, seen at right, was founded in the seventh century. Located on the Dingle Peninsula in County Kerry it is spread out over ten acres. The site contains a church, ogham stone, oratory, sundial, several cross-inscribed slabs, and two houses. It includes structures built in the Early Christian era through ones built in the fifteenth century. Although primarily a Christian site, it includes some pagan elements.

Founded by Saint Maolcethair, because of its proximity to Mount Brandon, a pre-Christian religious symbol, and the pilgrim's track which leads to Mount Brandon passes through Kilmalkedar.



The Dingle peninsula perches on the westernmost tip of Ireland and Europe, and for that very reason residents laughingly say, "The next parish over is Boston." The peninsula offers just the right mix of far-and-away beauty, isolated walks and bike rides, and ancient archaeological wonders.

The only downside seems to be the 100 inches of rain that falls each year creating that perpetually 'soft' weather, where everything is green and squishy, but fresh and gloriously new. Bring extra shoes!

There is no other landscape in western Europe with the density and variety of archaeological monuments as Dingle. This mountainous finger of land which juts into the Atlantic Ocean has supported various tribes and populations for almost 6,000 years. Because of the peninsula's remote location, and lack of specialized agriculture, there is a remarkable preservation of over 2,000 monuments.

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 Saturday, April 4, 2015 for Easter.

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.

Upcoming Programs

Second Saturdays

February 14, 2015 - Amish in Wisconsin with Mark Loudon

Wearing plain clothing and traveling with horse and buggy, the Amish stand out in the rural landscape, yet their neighbors often know little about them. Local and national media outlets tend to mention them only when something dramatic has happened, such as a traffic accident, or they portray them in sensationalizing programs such as "Amish Mafia." As it turns out, among the states of our nation, Wisconsin has the fourth largest Amish population.

March 14, 2015 - H.H. Bennett Photographic Studio, with Alan Hanson

Everyone knows the images of the German Shepherd jumping the gap at Stand Rock in Wisconsin Dells. Well, historic site coordinator Alan Hanson will bring H.H. Bennett and his photography to SS this March. Henry Hamilton Bennett opened his first studio in 1865. It has the distinction of being the oldest operating business in Wisconsin Dells. In It has been in continuous operation ever since and is believed to be the oldest operating photography studio in the United States. Bennett's family ran the business until 1998 when they donated the property to the Wisconsin Historical Society.

April 11, 2015 - This Superior Place: Stories of Bayfield and the Apostle Islands with Dennis McCann

Picturesque little Bayfield on Lake Superior is Wisconsin's smallest city by population but one of its most popular visitor destinations. Author and columnist, Dennis McCann, will capture those unique qualities that keep tourists coming back year after year. He will offer a historically reliable look at the community as it is today and how it came to be. His new book, of the same title, is abundantly illustrated with both historical and contemporary images. This Superior Place showcases a community where the past was layered with good times and down times, where natural beauty was the one resource that could not be exhausted by the hand of man, and where history is ever present.

May 9, 2015 - Where the Hammock Hangs with Rochelle Pennington

Rochelle Pennington returns to tell us about her newest book, *Where the Hammock Hangs*. This book will deal with the concept of Up North. Just what does Up North mean? If you're from Wisconsin, the UP of Michigan or Minnesota, we all know what it means. Rochelle will tell stories of the Pennington's beloved cottage in the Porcupine Mountains in Upper Michigan. She'll deal with mysteries from lighthouses and shipwrecks and tell stories about hunting, fishing and camping.

Genealogy Classes

April 13, 2015, 1:00pm at SCHRC - Using Maps in Genealogy and History Research

May 11, 2015, 1:00pm at SCHRC - Writing Your Family History

History on the Move

Random Lake—April 2, 2015—1:00 to 2:30pm Sheboygan County Connection

Cedar Grove—April 14, 2015—6:00 to 7:30pm - History of Post Cards

Random Lake - May 7, 2015 - 1:00pm to 2:30pm Buchen Baum trip thru Sheb. Co

Cedar Grove - May 12, 2015 - 6:00pm to 7:30pm – Random History Stories

Continued from page 1. The following comes from Rick Steves, travel writer and educator and gives a great description of Dingle:

I once met an elfish, black-clad old man in the little town of Ventry. When I asked if he was born here, he breathed deeply and said, "No, 'twas about six miles down the road." I asked if he'd lived there all his life. He said, "Not yet." When I told him where I was from, a faraway smile filled his eyes as he looked out to sea and sighed, "Aye, the shores of Americay."

The wet sod of Dingle is soaked with medieval history. In the dimmest depths of the Dark Ages, peace-loving, bookwormish monks fled the chaos of the Continent and its barbarian raids. They sailed to this drizzly fringe of the known world and lived their monastic lives in lonely stone igloos or "beehive huts," which you'll see dotting the landscape.

Parts of the peninsula are bleak and godforsaken. Study the highest fields, untouched since the planting of 1845, when the potatoes never matured and rotted in the ground. You can still see the vertical ridges of the potato beds — a reminder of that year's Great Potato Famine, which eventually, through starvation or emigration, cut Ireland's population by one-quarter.

Dingle feels so traditionally Irish because it's part of a Gaeltacht, a region where the government subsidizes the survival of the Irish language and culture. While English is everywhere, the signs, gossip and songs come in Gaelic. Even the local preschool boasts that it's "All Gaelic."

It is impossible to visit the Dingle Peninsula and not be impressed by its archaeological heritage. When one combines each site's folklore and mythology, which have been passed orally from generation to generation through the Irish language, one can begin to understand how unique and complex is the history of this peninsula.



Dingle, and more specifically, the parish of Kilmalkedar, is the ancestral home to many who settled in and around Sheboygan County including the Shea or O'Shea family. With St. Paddy's day just weeks away, it's fitting to recognize them.

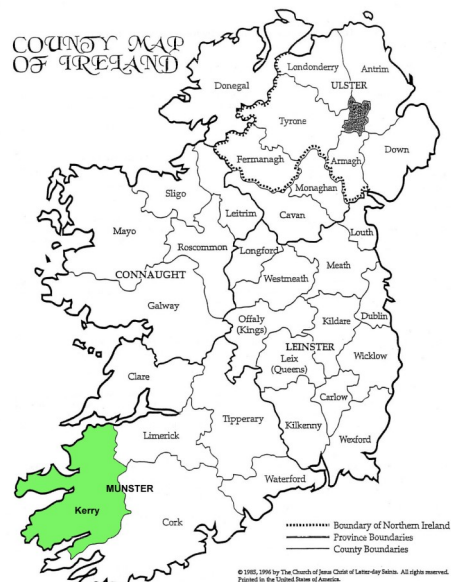
The Shea family story starts with Donal Og O'Shea and Mary Kavanagh, parents of eleven children living in Keeleragh, Ventry, Dingle, County Kerry, Ireland in the early 1800s. The location of their home may seem complicated, but it begins with Keeleragh, the name of their townland or neighborhood, continues with Ventry, the name of the larger town or civil parish, Dingle, which is the peninsula and Kerry, the county.

Two of their sons, Joseph and William Shea immigrated to America and settled in Osceola township, Fond du Lac County. Osceola is just over the line from the town of Mitchell. In the 1870s when Irish settlement peaked in the area, more than 600 families settled in a line from St. Rose, Five Corners, Town of Lima to St. John the Evangelist, Town of Byron meaning upwards of 6,000 immigrants of Irish descent populated the region.

William Shea left west Dingle in 1884. He was a decent man who had no real future in Ireland. He was not the eldest son, so the land would not be his. He earned the \$70 for passage and left with really just the clothes on his back, some extra stockings and underwear, a knife, tin cup, fork and plate. As the stagecoach came to get him he said good by to his father, they shook hands and parted. It was the last he'd see of his family until he returned to Ireland 25 years later.

But, William Shea knew when he left Ireland where he would go and what he would do. His uncle Joseph Shea had settled in Osceola years before. He would go to Uncle Joe and farm. Once one settled, they sent for the next, and then the next—chain migration. Shea worked hard and saved money, eventually buying a farm of his own which he would run for the next forty years. It would be difficult to say that Mr. Shea ever retired. He wrote, "A couple of days after celebrating my 86th birthday, I earned \$11.50 for a day's work."

The Shea family remains living here in Wisconsin and still maintains ties to family who still live on the Dingle peninsula. Much of this information came from Mary Shea Brickle from her years of work on her family genealogy.





Wisconsin's Citizen Scientist

Increase Lapham, a curious name for a curious man, yet outside the scientific and historic world he's a relative unknown. A self-taught naturalist and engineer, Lapham was born in Palmyra, New York, in 1811, and after a lifetime of discovery, died in Oconomowoc in 1875.

One of thirteen children in a Quaker family, Increase started work at thirteen, cutting stone for lock gates at Lockport, New York on the Erie Canal. Talented even as a teen, he progressed to drawing and selling plans of locks. When only seventeen, he drafted all of the plans for the canal at Shippingsport, Kentucky on the Ohio. Brought to Milwaukee in 1836 by former employer, Byron Kilbourn, Lapham accepted the job of chief engineer on the Milwaukee and Rock River Canal, a project designed to make Milwaukee the leading city on Lake Michigan's western shore. The canal was never built, but Lapham remained in Wisconsin, perhaps becoming its most ardent supporter.

Always inquisitive, Lapham developed a profound knowledge of Wisconsin through a dedication to scientific inquiry. Increase was Wisconsin's first scientist and published cartographer. He investigated Wisconsin's effigy mounds, native trees and grasses, climatic patterns and geology. Father of the National Weather Service, Lapham actually made the first storm forecast on the Great Lakes on November 8, 1870.

Perhaps Lapham's greatest gift to Wisconsin was his ardent campaign to protect Wisconsin's natural resources. He knew early on we must protect our resources from destruction.

For thirty years, Increase worked in multiple scientific fields. In 1836, he published a newspaper story about an odd turtle-shaped mound he had discovered at Waukesha. He and his horse Adelaide traveled the state surveying mounds. The Smithsonian Institution published his mound descriptions and drawings in a book entitled, *The Antiquities of Wisconsin*. It includes 55 plates and nearly 100 wood engravings made from his drawings. There's an analysis of our own Seeley's Hill, located near Taylor Drive north of Highway 28 on Sheboygan's southwest corner.

But, our man Lapham has another connection to the county. In 1849, he donated his collection of more than 1,000 plant specimens to UW-Madison for an extensive herbarium. Nearly all species of plant found in Wisconsin, together with others from the United States and Europe, were represented.

Enter Col. John C. McMullen, a Civil War soldier from the Town of Holland. It seems that in the summer of 1864 McMullen was with General William Tecumseh Sherman as they made their way to Atlanta. Troops were encamped outside the city for months before victory was declared in September 22, 1864. McMullen took time to witness the natural beauty of the area, discovering a plant foreign to Wisconsin. From his own writings we know that "he marveled at the plant's resilience as he watched its leaves close at night and reopen as the sun rose each morning." This interesting plant was *Cassia obtusifolia*, or wild sensitive plant, commonly found in the south.

Recently, a wonderful article by Meg Jones appeared in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. She brought to light a discovery by UW Herbarium director, Ken Cameron. Cameron was working in the collection and noticed a file marked "old specimens" in timeworn script. According to Cameron, as he read those words written 150 years ago, he shivered.

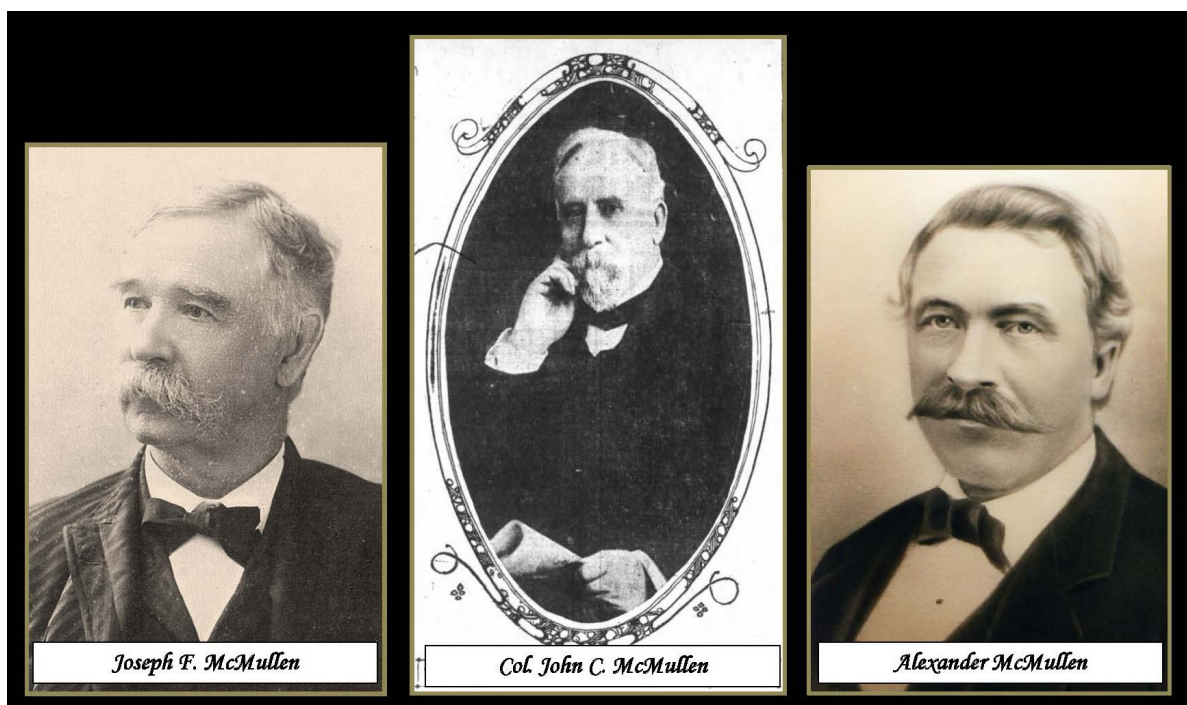
Because of this discovery we know that on August 14, 1864 in the midst of the Battle of Atlanta Col. McMullen picked the plant and wrote a note before sending it with the specimen to a friend in Wisconsin. That friend was Increase Lapham. To add to the goose bumps McMullen wrote: "This flower was moistened by the blood

of heroes, for Wisconsin men have died where it was plucked."

In the JS article it stated that it was unknown how McMullen and Lapham knew each other. It seems that Col. John's brother, Joseph F. McMullen, a lawyer in Milwaukee and later a botanist in St. Louis, wrote a letter in 1857 with Increase Lapham about the Red River in Minnesota. The paper was meant to call attention to the advantages offered to farmers, mechanics and capitalists in that portion of Minnesota Territory known as the Red River Valley. One can surmise that John knew Increase because of Joseph's collaboration with Lapham.

Volumes exist of the writings of the brothers McMullen. A third brother, Alexander, settled here in Sheboygan County and his descendants are the keepers of much of this wonderful archive.

A man ahead of his time, Increase Lapham died on September 14, 1875 while enjoying the beauty of an early fall day on his boat on Oconomowoc Lake. Botanist, meteorologist, engineer and so much more, he spent a lifetime chronicling everything about Wisconsin. A quote from former Milwaukee Journal reporter Paul Hayes, says it all, "You can't understand Wisconsin without Lapham." And a side note- we would know none of this were it not for the treasures stored in archives.



Above: The brothers McMullen , image courtesy of Kathy Janisse Thompson.

Above right: plate from Lapham's, *The Antiquities of Wisconsin*, showing the Seeley Hill site in Sheboygan.

VOIGT FAMILY PIONEERS – A REMINISCENCE

by Henry Karl Voigt, Jr



Wilhelm Voigt, 1800-1852, Howard's Grove pioneer settler as he appeared in Hameln, Germany, 1824. (From the author's collection.)

Around 1847, my great-grandfather Henry Konrad Voigt came from Hameln, Hanover Kingdom to Sheboygan County with his parents Wilhelm and Amalia, and two older sisters Dorette and Henriette. They settled on an 80-acre parcel in a dense hardwood forest and began clearing the land to raise wheat. Located near Howard's Grove at the SW corner of the intersection of today's Playbird Road and State Route 32, the parcel is still rural farmland.

Henry was tragically orphaned just five years later when a cholera epidemic took the lives of his parents and both sisters. They were laid to rest in nearby Concord Cemetery, while Henry was taken in by the neighboring Schlichting family. He was later apprenticed to a Sheboygan harness maker, but when he came of age in 1863 he sold the family farm which had been held in his name, and used the proceeds to open the H K Voigt dry goods store in Sheboygan. He married Anna Otten in 1865 and they raised six children – William, Julius, Meta, Louise, Adolph and Fred Voigt. The longest-surviving was Fred, my grandfather; a veteran of both the Spanish-American War and WW I, and lifelong Sheboygan resident until his death in 1972.

Henry died of a heart attack in 1893, at the age of fifty-one, after returning home from a visit to Chicago's Columbian Exposition. His oldest son William, a Sheboygan realtor who later moved to California, wrote the following reminiscence in 1953 [I've added some clarifying notes]: "About 1843 [probably 1847] Johan Heinrich William Voigt, my grandfather, and some other family friends living in Hameln, Germany, decided to sail with their families to America and settle in Wisconsin. They had a few friends already settled in Wisconsin - the Schlichtings and Wedepohls. Mr [Ernst] Schlichting had bought a whole section of wooded land. My grandfather's family consisted of two grown girls and a baby, my father. They had two cows and an ox which was used in place of a horse, and the tools that would be needed. It took three months to reach America [probably entering the USA via Canada]. Water had to be rationed all around. When they arrived in Wisconsin they went to a place now called Howard's Grove, where the Schlichting's had a road house. My folks and the others with them were taken to the woods where my grandfather and family were to live.

They all agreed to help, first to build the log cabin for my grandfather and later to help the next family, and so on. The next thing was to dig a well and get the women and children to a safe place. A fire had to be kept burning all night because of the wolves and bears. As long as a fire was burning, animals would not venture near. They found a partly fallen elm tree that rested partly in another tree, and it was easy to climb if they cut off some of the branches. They fixed a brush home in this tree for the women and children, and the men remained on the ground with guns and took turns sleeping and watching. The next night a storm came through and down came the tree, brush home and all, but none were hurt.

Sometime after all the cabins were built, they cleared a space for planting. They also took out stumps to build a corral for the cattle.

In the fall they threshed the wheat by pounding it with sticks. After the wheat was ready my grandparents decided to take two bags to the grist mill about four miles away to what is now called Millersville [original name for Howard's Grove, only about a mile from the Voigt farm, so perhaps the mileage 'grew' over time]. They had marked trees in order to find their way back out of the woods. They stayed at the mill all night. My father and two sisters had been left alone in the cabin, with guns. That night a flock of wolves came, stampeded the cattle, and they got out of the corral and were never seen again.

Others came to settle nearby and were allowed to sleep on the floor of my grandfather's cabin. Soon after they were there, a cholera epidemic broke out, for these people came off a ship that carried it. Within twenty-four hours it wiped out my grandparents and the two girls [This occurred in August, 1852. The dead were William, 52; Amalia, 50; and daughters Dorette, 16 and Henriette, 13]. A day or so after that happened an Indian came to get a drink of water. The Indians never rapped; they would open the door and 'woc woc' a few times. He



Henry and Anna (Otten) Voigt and children about 1883: standing l. to r. Meta, Julius and Louise; seated l. to r. William, Henry, Fred, Anna, Adolph. (author's collection)

spied the dead on the floor and the baby crying [In August, 1852 the 'baby' Henry Voigt was about ten years old; it's likely he was ill, which would explain why he had not gone for help]. The Indian then reported it at Howard's Grove and the Schlichtings and Wedepohls looked after the bodies and took the baby. The baby was claimed by both the Schlichtings and Wedepohls, but Mr Schlichting succeeded in keeping him because he was the 'busch koenig' [i.e., 'forest king'; Ernst Schlichting filed court papers as Henry's legal guardian and raised him until about 1858 when Henry was apprenticed to Lewis Diesthorst, a Sheboygan harnessmaker. When Henry came of

age, the court saw to it that he inherited his father's land].

When my father grew up he went out for himself. I do not know what he did at that time but he had said that all people when they came had to be farmers or cut fence rails at fifteen cents a day, and most of the time it was not cash so they had to barter [this may have been a cautionary tale; when Henry came of age and received his father's land, he sold it for \$1100 – the equivalent of several years' pay for a laborer -- and used the money to open a dry goods store, which he ran until his death in 1893]

My father was married at twenty-one [actually twenty-three] to my mother Anna Otten, who lived at the north-west corner of Niagara and Eighth Streets [Sheboygan]. He started a general store in the building, which was originally called the "Log Cabin". I was born in the old Otten home, but I lived in the "Log Cabin" and that is where I rolled down the stairs eighty-one years ago."

[original letter signed "William A Voigt"]



Correction —
A Sheboygan resident and his young son leave a donation at a Salvation Army kiosk in front of Prange's at Christmas, circa 1950s.

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Gallarus Oratory



Gallarus Oratory located on the Dingle peninsula of County Kerry, was built between the seventh and eighth century and is the best preserved early Christian church in Ireland.

It represents the apogee of dry-stone corbelling, using techniques first developed by Neolithic tomb makers. Built in the shape of an up-turned boat, the stones were laid at a slight angle, lower on the outside than the inside to allow water to run off.

According to local legend, if a person climbs out of the oratory via the window, their soul will be cleansed.

Researchers Beware: The Potential Perils of Online Genealogy

Scott Noegel

Online genealogy resources are thriving in the digital age and there is no doubt that they have helped to make family research easier. Sites like ancestry.com, findagrave.com, and various newspaper and governmental archival web portals are growing exponentially and they are gaining in usage and popularity. Nevertheless, those who are new to such resources or to genealogical research generally should be aware that there are very real dangers in using such tools. Below I highlight three potential perils that I personally have encountered in the hope that others might avoid them or know how to handle them should they occur.

1. Stolen Intellectual Property

Probably few users of findagrave.com realize that the famous website is now owned by ancestry.com. This information is neatly tucked away in the latter site's seldom-read FAQs (i.e., "frequently asked questions") under the rubric "general questions about find a grave." Those who enjoy membership in ancestry.com have noticed this recently, but only subtly, when links to the [findagrave](http://findagrave.com) site began to appear as "hints," via the cute little green leaf that signals possible new research directions for users. While the integration of the two sites allows for greater synergy and collaboration it also has created a liminal passage through which one can find one's intellectual property flowing illegally from one site to the other. I came to realize this recently while perusing the [findagrave](http://findagrave.com) site, when I discovered a photograph of my grandmother and her siblings posted next to their personal entries. Since I own the original photograph, I was bewildered. As it turned out, the person who posted the photograph had obtained it through another member of ancestry.com. However, this other person was someone, who many years ago had taken that image from my ancestry.com site after I had briefly granted her access. Just finding this out took sleuthing! (Note: members have the option to keep their trees private, public, or grant access to specific individuals.) When I wrote the person who posted the image on findagrave.com to ask that my private photograph be removed, she claimed that she had obtained it from someone else, and therefore, she did not feel obligated to remove it. She was severely mistaken. As the website's FAQs also state, people cannot post a photograph or even an obituary unless they own the copyright for it. In fact, posting any image on that site second-hand is illegal, though the site's unwieldy nature makes this difficult for the company to enforce. When I wrote info@findagrave.com about this, I received a polite email from the larger corporate site ancestry.com asking for details. After proving that I owned the image, the photographs on the site were quickly removed; but the entire process took some effort. At the very least, the experience showed me that some users on both sites, perhaps most of them, are unaware of what constitutes intellectual and personal property in the digital age. Unfortunately, one senses here also at times something of a competitive cult of the personality—folks trying to achieve online recognition by striving to outdo each other in the "game" of posting the most records and photographs. While contributors might feel they are doing a service by sharing everything and anything they obtain through either site publicly, in fact, they are stealing and are subject to serious legal action. They are essentially digital plagiarists.

2. "Credit Thieves"

This naturally brings me to what I shall label "credit thieves." The rather brazen attitude of the [findagrave](http://findagrave.com) "contributor" that I just described, while misinformed and annoying, pales in comparison to another claim that I experienced a few years ago. Having just located and translated numerous German records that enabled me to trace several ancestral lines back several centuries, I was surprised when another researcher (a self-labeled "genealogist") contacted me to say that she had a good deal of information for me concerning the antiquity of the German ancestral line in question. Apparently, she had seen mention of the particular family name on my website (where I had listed it as part of a book project). She said had done a lot of hard research on that line herself and wanted to help. Knowing that I had been the only person in many decades to see the German records, I was curious. I soon learned that the research she wanted to offer me was my own. Once again, the same person to which I had allowed brief access to my ancestry.com site, unwittingly had allowed other people access to her site, and they mined it for all the data they could. Again, the information came from a third-party, but she apparently felt no scruples about passing it off as her own research, despite that I had worked for a couple of years to obtain this information and had traveled to Germany at my own expense to obtain much of it. When I confronted her about this, she never got back to me. Lesson learned.

3. "Ahistorical Viruses"

The third potential peril of online research is probably the one that disturbs me the most—though in the interest of full disclosure I confess, that as a university professor, such things naturally make me bristle. I call it the spread of "ahistorical viruses." As evidenced by the previous two perils, there is a great deal of sharing that takes place among members of ancestry.com. Mostly this is of a collaborative nature and often it allows distant relatives to connect and share information that they otherwise might not be able to locate. This is all well and good, and it remains one of the best aspects of membership to that site. On the other hand, the data mining of other peoples' public genealogical trees can only be described as uncritical and rampant. From a historian's vantage, such a method is considered reckless. Without ascertaining whether data is accurate, users graft other members' trees to their own simply by clicking the right buttons.

When I first became a member of ancestry.com, I often wrote other members whose trees were public when I found data and photographs attached to people that I knew were in error. I soon found this to be a fruitless endeavor, because the “ahistorical virus” had spread so pervasively that it was endemic to the site. Indeed, there exists on that site a veritable forest of inaccurate and/or unverified genealogical trees that continue to be adopted blindly wholesale. Sadly, the sloppiest and most pedantic of genealogical trees on ancestry.com can appear indistinguishable.

Of course, one can avoid these three potential perils by posting only those images and other records on findagrave.com that one personally owns and by keeping one’s ancestry.com site set to private, unless absolutely certain that those allowed access do not themselves offer still others access to their own trees. However, this probably will not quell the massive wave of digital plagiarism that is taking place between the two online sites; and while I am encouraged by the way that ancestry.com took action when alerted to the contributor’s illegal post, the website’s television advertisement depicting the excitement of a new user discovering her ancestors by finding a little green leaf, and then another, and another, remains something of an implicit endorsement of the uncritical method by which far too many members discover their roots. “Caveat emptor,” as they say.

Wanted — 1929, 1930 and 1931 Pangassin year-books and Sheboygan Falls football photos from those years. Call Kathy at SCHRC if you have any of these that you would like to share. We can make copies for our use.

Feel like Traveling?

Journey to Ireland this Year with the Sheboygan County Chamber of Commerce



October 15-25th, 2015

The Sheboygan County Chamber of Commerce has partnered with Travel Leaders/CIE Tours for an incredible 10 day trip to the see the Irish Legends. The trip is from Oct. 15-25 including airfare, ground transportation, hotels, 15 meals, and guided tours.

See www.sheboygan.org/ireland

Also, don’t forget **Harp and Eagle tours to Ireland**, all year round, sponsored by Plymouth’s own 52 Stafford Irish Inn. See <http://www.bestirishtour.com/ireland-tours/> for more information. Based out of Ennis, County Clare.

Looking for a quality speaker for your program?

Retired Wisconsin businessman Richard A. Dykstra attended a one-room school in southern Sheboygan County for seven years prior to its closing. Now, he travels the state sharing the rich history of Liberty School and others like it. His presentations cover the design, construction, location, operation and eventual closing of one-room schools in Wisconsin. In addition, Mr. Dykstra shares many heartfelt, touching stories about life in rural Wisconsin during the 1950s and 1960s.

See oneroomschools.org for more information.

An FYI about ANCESTRY.COM – founded 1983

Ancestry.com is the largest commercial genealogy company in the world. Having started small, the company has grown exponentially since 1997 and became a publicly traded company in November 2009.

Current list of the websites and products owned by Ancestry.com:

AncestryDNA – launched may 2012

Ancestry app (formerly Ancestry Trees To Go app) – launched January 2010

Ancestry.ca – launched in 2006

Ancestry.co.uk – launched in 2002

Ancestry.com – launched in 1996

Ancestry.com.au – launched in 2006

Ancestry.de – launched in 2006

Ancestry.fr – launched in 2007

Ancestry.it – launched in 2006

Ancestry.se – launched in 2007

AncestryEurope.lu – cannot find a date

Ancestry Corporate – cannot find a date

Archives.com – acquired August 2012

FamilyTreeMaker.com – acquired 2006

FindAGrave.com – acquired September 2013

FindAGrave app – launched March 2014

Fold3 (formerly Footnote.com) – acquired late 2010

Genline.com – acquired June 2010

Newspapers.com – launched November 2012

ProGenealogists – launched 1998

ProQuest – partnership 2004

RootsWeb – acquired June 2000

Shoebox app (1000Memories renamed) – launched July 2013