



### LW1 The Dead Horse Investigation — Forensic Photo Analysis Meets Genealogy

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After attending this presentation, attendees will better understand how forensic photo analysis, used in conjunction with genealogical research techniques, has been used to extract important investigative information from a historical “crime scene” photo about which very little prior information was available. Although photo-identification techniques from the forensic community were initially applied to the picture, by combining them with genealogical methods, it was possible to extract much more information from the photo, which could then be integrated into a cohesive narrative. Attendees will learn genealogical photo-identification techniques they may not have been aware of, but that can be used to enhance the investigative power of forensic analysis.

This presentation will impact the forensic science community by demonstrating the synergy that exists between forensic and genealogical investigations. This presentation will broaden understanding of how a seemingly irrelevant detail can be detected by one set of tools and analyzed by another, leading to an appreciation of the complimentary nature of the two disciplines.

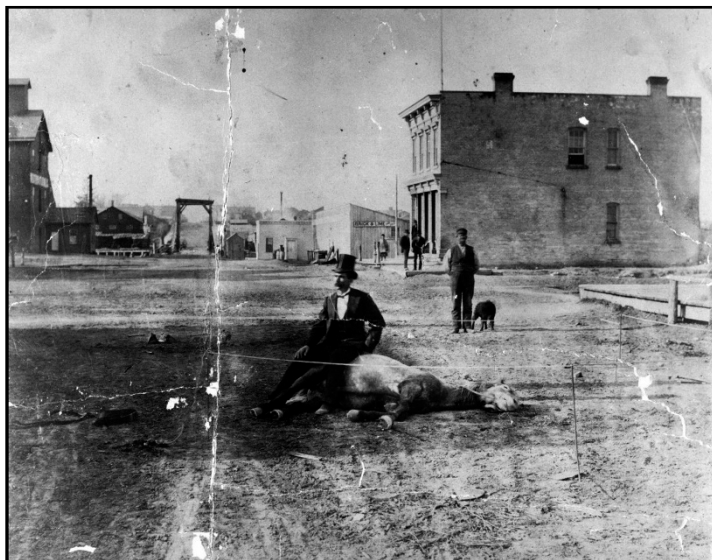
The hat, the horse, the man, the scene ... the mystery. Who was he and why was he photographed in a top hat and tails sitting on a dead horse in the middle of 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Sheboygan, WI?

When the Sheboygan Dead Horse Picture was published in 2007 by the *Sheboygan Daily Press* newspaper, numerous theories were advanced to explain the bizarre scene. Perhaps the image depicts the aftermath of the tornado that struck Sheboygan while a horse show was in town in 1901. Maybe the owner of a Sheboygan tannery is pictured staking his claim to the hide after someone’s horse died in the street. No one seemed able to offer a satisfactory explanation.

Using a combination of forensic and genealogical photo-analysis techniques, much information concerning the time and place the photo was taken has been derived. Based on the type of lens used to take the picture and the presence or absence of certain shadows, it was possible to determine an earliest and latest year for the photo. The appearance of an unusual sundial in the picture provided the exact time of day and the day of the year. Assuming the streets were deserted because the photo was taken on a Sunday, the weather played a crucial role in further narrowing the year to only two possibilities.

Combined forensic and genealogical analysis indicates the picture was taken at 4:52 p.m. on August 10, 1873 or 1879.

Neither the man nor the horse have been identified. No arrests have been made in the case.



#### Forensic, Photograph, Analysis