

IONIA COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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Newsletter

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MISSION STATEMENT

The Ionia County Genealogical Society is a non-profit volunteer group whose mission is to create awareness and preserve family histories within the Ionia County area. The focus of this group will be to develop genealogical resources and to assist all those seeking local history.

New Project:

The First Families of Ionia County project - If you are interested in applying for membership in the First Families of Ionia County Society, contact Lori Fox for an application. Her address is: 3011 Knoll Road, Portland, MI 48875. The committee met for the first time in April to organize. The chairperson is Jim Moses, Co-chairperson is Karen Remington, and Social Committee is represented by Lois Curtiss and Bonnie Jackson.



Shirley Hodges will be the guest speaker at our August meeting. Her topic will be "The Importance of Women in the Civil War." Shirley is a native of Michigan and has been actively doing genealogical research since 1967. She has taught classes in community education programs at various high schools in the area. She has also been a guest lecturer for several Michigan State University Programs. Shirley is a frequent speaker at many societies in Michigan. She has also been a speaker at the Great Lakes Conference in Ft. Wayne, Indiana and the Ontario Genealogical Society Seminar '95 in Chatham and Seminar '96 in Thunder Bay, Canada. She has organized research trips to the Allen County Library in Ft. Wayne.

Shirley is the immediate past president of the Eaton County Genealogical Society and is the current president of the Mid-Michigan Genealogical Society. She serves on the Board of Directors of the Courthouse Square Assoc. This foundation was formed for the preservation and restoration of the 1885 courthouse in Eaton county, Michigan. Shirley's wit and wonderful sense of humor is sure to entertain you as you learn about women in the Civil War time. Shirley's presentation will include a slide presentation as well as her costumes of the Civil War times. We are honored and pleased to have her with us. Shirley has also been very supportive of our organization and has offered to help us out in any way she can.

From our mailbag: (Items received from people may be edited for space)

~**From Kim Davidson:** Searching for info on John W.S. and Clara Dillinham PIERSON. They lived in Stanton in the early 1900's. She was an author of children's books and he owned a hardware store. I am their great-great-granddaughter. E-mail: ddavid9@aol.com

~**From Vernon Hall:** *"My grandmother, Eleanora Hopkins, Nee Hopkins, was married to William Hopkins when she passed away in 1963. She was born 1892 in Conneaut or State Line, Ohio. William was a distant cousin (3,4,5th). There were many relatives in the Ionia, Belding area. I am her grandson and was named after her Vernon who was a state trooper. Another brother was named Gaylord. Many of her descendants are today living in NE Ohio. She had at least 7 children. All in Ohio. I remember seeing our Michigan relatives last in 1963 just before she died. I remember because I was in the Navy and while in Belding, the USS Thresher went down with all hands. This was near Easter in April that year. Would be interested in any material that may relate, or contact with anyone who would be acquainted with her and her mother's last years. Her mother's last name was Messer. She passed away around the same time. She was living in a nursing home south of Belding. William Hopkins outlived Eleanora and I have no knowledge of when he died. He was in his late 70's maybe early 80's in 1963, a rather robust man. Used to be a lumberjack in UP in early part of the century."*
E-mail: ERDFEST@worldnet.att.net

~**From Editor, Newsletter for the Friends of the Archives:** The Calvin College Friends of the Archives are seeking copies of issues of *The Christian Indian*. It has been published annually since March, 1922. The first two issues were called *American Indian Activities of the Southwest*. Anyone who has copies of these magazines is asked to send information regarding what issues you have to: Editor, Newsletter for the Friends of the Archives, Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49546.

~**From Louise Hastings:** Researching families connected to the Hastings family: Amsden, Payne, Cowles, Boardman, Snyder, Hodges, Leiby, Patton, Frisby & Barrett. E-mail jhastings@centuryinter.net

~**From Sally Young:** Searching for info on John & Charity Houseman. They died between 1850 and 1860. Lived in Lake Odessa area in the late 1800's. E-mail: SYoung5435@aol.com

~**From Debra J. Eddy:** Researching Stadel, Myers, Aungst, Dodds, Lowrey.
E-mail: eddyb@voyager.com or call (517) 543-3021

~**From Jackie Badersnider:** Researching Baderschneider, Reed (Daniel Webster), Kinney, Morris, O'Brien. E-mail: jackieb11@aol.com or call (616) 794-1591

~**From Fredric Slikkers:** Researching Aldrich, Hazzard, Bailey, Geers, Hines.
Call (616) 365-8970.

~**From Leora Slosser:** Researching Tucker, Trumpower, Peterson, Livermore, Slosser/Schlosser. Call (616) 754-3369.

~**From Loisann Ballema:** Researching Powley, Darby, Barker, Bristol, and Iden
Call (616) 456-1984

~**From George Miller:** Researching Miller, Steele, Irwin, Carpenter, Jones, Rector, Rush, Antcliff, Findsen, Sprague. E-mail: pilgrim@iserv.net or call (616) 794-9789.

~**From Julia A. Ward:** Researching Riley, McCarthy, McCarty, Egan, Renehan, Perry.

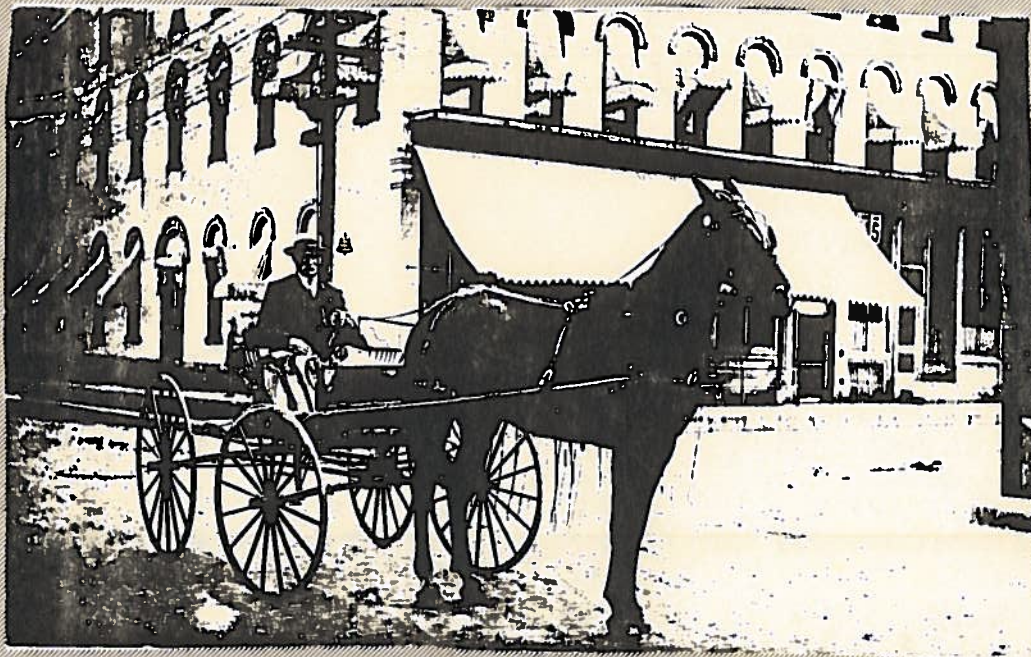
Note: For those of you who do not have computers, if you have any information that will help these people, send it to ICGS and it will be forwarded via the internet. All information received will be printed in our newsletter and also be placed on our web-site. If you do not want your information published, please let us know.

As of
March 1, 1997

Records	Repository
<p>Claims files for pensions based on Federal military service, 1775-1916, and bounty land warrant application files based on wartime service, 1775-1855</p>	<p>Archives I Textual Reference Branch <u>National Archives and Records Administration</u> Washington, D.C. 20408 (202)-501-5430</p>
<p>Regular Army enlisted personnel serving from 1789 through October 31, 1912, and officers serving from 1789 through June 30, 1917.</p>	<p>Ibid</p>
<p>Officers separated after June 30, 1917, and enlisted personnel separated after October 31, 1912</p>	<p><u>National Personnel Records Center</u> (Military Personnel Records) 9700 Page Avenue St. Louis, MO 63132-5100</p>
<p>Records relating to persons who served in the Confederate States Army from 1861 through 1865.</p>	<p>Archives I Textual Reference Branch <u>National Archives and Records Administration</u> Washington, D.C. 20408 (202)-501-5430</p>
<p>Volunteer service of persons serving during an emergency and whose service was considered to be in the federal interest, during the period 1775-1902.</p>	<p>Ibid</p>
<p>Morning Reports, pre-1917</p>	<p>Ibid</p>
<p>Morning reports, 1917-1974 (In 1974 the Army discontinued the use of morning reports and switched to PDC cards. PDC cards are also in the custody of theNPRC.)</p>	<p><u>National Personnel Records Center</u> (Military Personnel Records) 9700 Page Avenue St. Louis, MO 63132-5100</p>
<p>Unit operational records, pre-1939</p>	<p>Archives I Textual Reference Branch <u>National Archives and Records Administration</u> Washington, D.C. 20408 (202)-501-5430</p>

To be continued...

Portland, Michigan - Daniel Saxton is shown here with horse and buggy in front of Divine Hotel, formerly known as the Welch House. The hotel was bought by Monroe Divine in abt. 1900. He died in 1909 and it was operated by his son, Chester Divine, after that. The hotel was located on the corner of the Kent Street and Grand River Ave. It was torn down May 21, 1975. It has been replaced by a Keusch service station.



Daniel Saxton was born July 23, 1835 in Wethersfield, New York. He died March 10, 1891 in Portland, Michigan. Daniel enlisted in Co. D Ninth Regiment of Michigan Infantry on September 10, 1861. He was discharged on December 23, 1863. He was 5 foot 5 inches tall with grey eyes and brown hair. He was a farmer.

His obituary read: Daniel F. Saxton, for many years one of the most prominent residents of Danby Township, but of late residing in this village (Portland, Michigan), died early Thursday morning, after an illness which began a year ago last November. For months he had been in a precarious condition and no hope had been entertained for his recovery.

Mr. Saxton was born in Wethersfield, N.Y., July 23, 1835, and while still a resident of that state he married Miss Anna E. Pelton. In 1858 they located in Roxand Township and residing there until 1867, when they moved to Danby. Two children, Mrs. George Swiler, of Morley, and Wellington Saxton, of Portland, survive from this union, their mother's death having occurred in February, 1885. In November, 1889, Mr. Saxton married Miss Jennie Nash, who survives him, as does their son, Ferris Saxton, who is employed in one of the government offices in Washington and who came to Portland to attend the funeral.

Mr. Saxton moved from the farm in Danby to the village of Portland in 1902. He was a veteran of the civil war, enlisting with the Ninth Mich. Infantry, and serving until honorably discharged on account of illness.

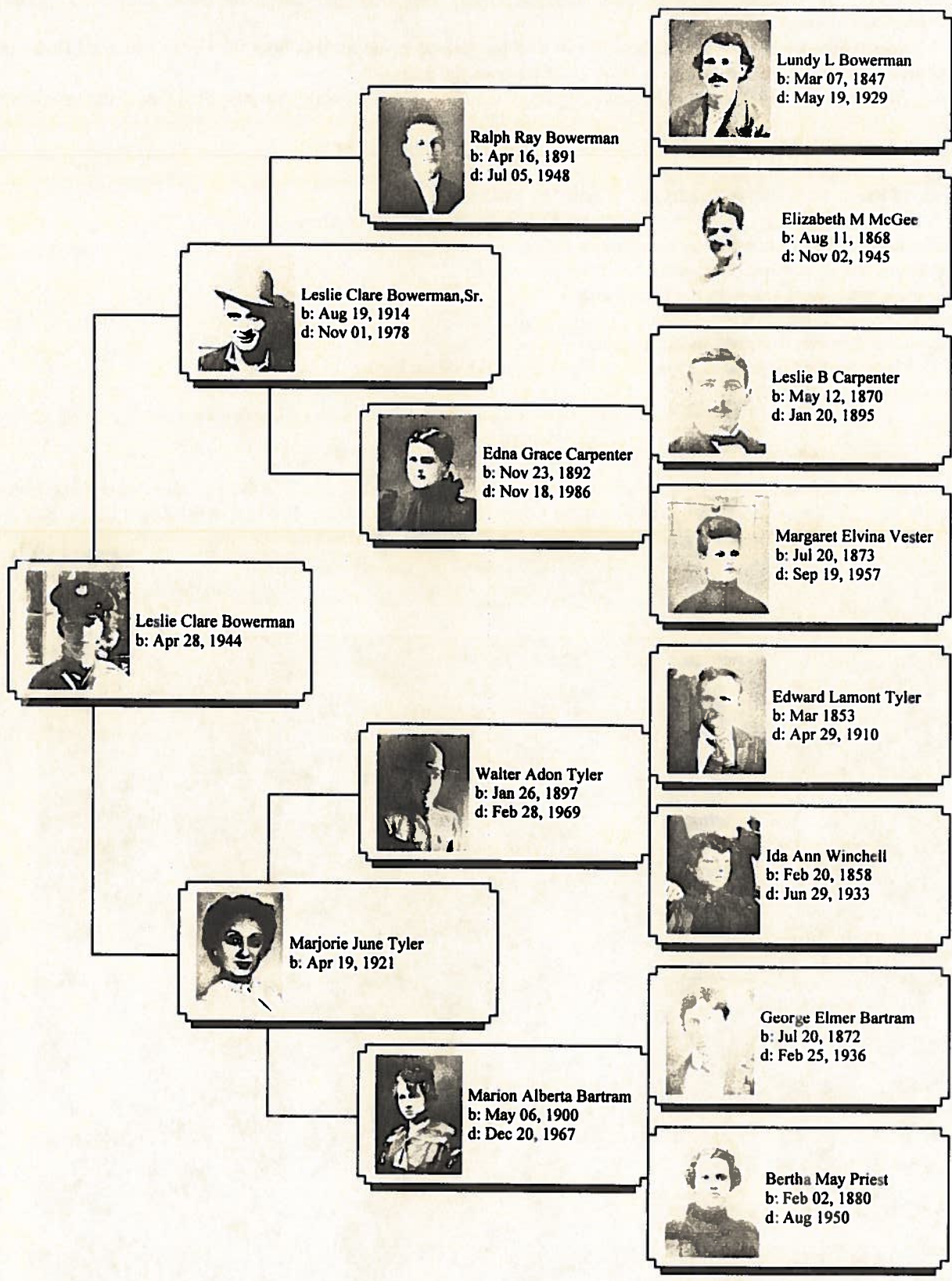
John Saxton, of Portland Township, is a brother and the only survivor of a family of 9 children.

Funeral services were held at the house Saturday afternoon.

-submitted by Pamela K. Swiler

ANCESTORS OF LESLIE CLARE BOWERMAN

Leslie B. Bowerman
 1095 Hermit Lane
 Irvine, CA 92618
 310-527-2000
 2-10-1990



Recent Acquisitions:

Visit our library area...It is growing!

- ~We have received several back issues (1986-1991) of the "*Everton's Genealogical Helper*" magazine from Cindy Bryant. Thank you very much for your contribution.
- ~Many thanks to Marjorie Gibson who has provided our group with the funeral home records from the Courser Funeral Home in Belding, Michigan from December 14, 1961-July 12, 1984. What a beautiful job!
- ~*Mt. Rest Cemetery Burials from 1855-1995* by the Genealogists of Clinton County Historical Society, St. Johns, Michigan donated by Pam Swiler.
- ~1945 Polk's Holland & Zeeland (Ottawa Co.) City Directory - donated by Fredric Slikkers
- ~Obituaries copied and indexed by Marilyn Steward - Thank you Marilyn!
- ~*Letter to my Grandchildren* by Walter J. Landry, Sr. - donated by Fredric Slikkers
- ~Cemetery records of Easton Cemetery, Alleman or Schnabel Cemetery, & Balcom Cemetery - donated by ???
- ~*The Genealogist's Address Book* - donated by Pam Swiler
- ~*The Unpuzzling Your Past Workbook* - donated by Pam Swiler
- ~*Michigan Cemetery Source Book* - donated by Pam Swiler
- ~*Michigan Cemetery Atlas* - donated by Pam Swiler
- ~*West Sebewa Cemetery Records* compiled by Pam Swiler
- ~*The History of Portland by the Portland Historical Society* - donated by Pam Swiler
- ~*Origins* (a Calvin College Periodical)

Who's Who at Goddard School?

If you know who any of these people are, please contact Pam Swiler at (616) 374-3141. We recognize Mildred Leak in the back row, 4th from the left, and Maurice Leak, 2nd row, 4th from the left, and Zeno Leak, 3rd from the left. If you recognize anyone else, let me know!



Name our publication!!! We still need a name for our newsletter/publication! Send me suggestions, ideas, etc. We will ask our board members to decide which name to use at one of our upcoming meetings. So far we have the following suggestions: "Ancestors"; "Inscriptions" and "Forgetmeknots".

Calendar of Events

- June 14, 1997 - Regular meeting 1:00 p.m. at the Depot-"*Publishing Your Family History*" - Merrie DeVoe
- June 26, 1997 - Board of Directors meeting 7:00 p.m. at the Depot
- June 28, 1997 - Lake Odessa Depot Museum open to public 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
- July 12, 1997 - Regular meeting 1:00 p.m. at the Depot - "*Researching Your German Ancestors*" - George Evans
- July 24, 1997 - Board of Directors meeting 7:00 p.m. at the Depot
- July 26, 1997 - DEPOT DAY IN LAKE ODESSA AT THE DEPOT ALL DAY - EVERYONE WELCOME!
- July 27, 1997 - Laux/Beachnau Family Reunion at Central Riverside Park 1:00 p.m.
- August 9, 1997 - Regular meeting 1:00 p.m. at the Depot - "*The Importance of Women in the Civil War.*" - Shirley Hodges
- August 21, 1997 - Board of Directors meeting 7:00 p.m. at the Depot
- August 30, 1997 - Lake Odessa Depot Museum open to public 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
- September 13, 1997 - Regular meeting 1:00 p.m. at the Depot
 - "*Clerks and Genealogists Working Together*" Barbara Trierweiler, Ionia County Clerk
- September 25, 1997 - Board of Directors meeting 7:00 p.m. at the Depot
- September 27, 1997 - Lake Odessa Depot Museum open to public 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
- October 11, 1997 - Regular meeting 1:00 p.m. at the Depot - "*Preservation of Documents*"-Dick Harms, Grand Rapids Public Library Archivist.
- October 23, 1997 - Board of Directors meeting 7:00 p.m. at the Depot
- October 25, 1997 - Lake Odessa Depot Museum open to public 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
- November 8, 1997 - Regular meeting 1:00 p.m. at the Depot - "*Researching Odessa Township*" - John Waite
- November 20, 1997 - Board of Directors meeting 7:00 p.m. at the Depot
- November 29, 1997 - Lake Odessa Depot Museum open to public 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
- December - NO MEETING - Merry Christmas!

Visit our website: <http://www.ionia-mi.net/~bwills/>

October Wedding (1926) - an article from an unknown source.

- "A very pretty wedding occurred on October 11 at 7:30 p.m., when Mr. Leon Leak, only son of Mr. & Mrs. Chris Leak of Sebewa, and Miss Leona Curtiss, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ira Curtiss of Lake Odessa, were united in marriage at the home of Mr. and Mrs. E.J. Wells in Grand Rapids by Rev. Meifenbach.
- The home was tastefully decorated. The bride was attractively gowned in jungle green satin faced canton crepe. The groom wore a dark gray suit.
- The bridal couple were attended by Miss Dortha Wells and Mr. Robert Marsh, both of Grand Rapids.
- The ring ceremony was used. Mr. Leak is a graduate of the Lake Odessa High School, class of '25.
- Mrs. Leak is also a graduate of the Lake Odessa schools, being a member of the class of '26. After the ceremony a wedding supper as served.
- The young couple left immediately for Manistee for a short visit with their cousins, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Childs.
- The young people are very popular in Lake Odessa. All join in wishing them success and happiness."

Those interested in becoming a member of the I.C.G.S. complete the form below and send \$15.00 annual membership fee made payable to the *Ionia County Genealogical Society* and mail to: ICGS, c/o Pam Swiler at 13051 Ainsworth Road, Route 3, Lake Odessa, MI 48849.

Charter Membership Information:

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____

Zip Code: _____ Home telephone: _____

E-mail address: _____

List five names you are researching: _____

IONIA COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
c/o Pamela K. Swiler
13051 Ainsworth Road
Route 3
Lake Odessa, MI 48849
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

TO: