

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.

LIVING HISTORY AT THE DEPOT - JULY 25, 1998. Civil War - The Theme of This Year's Depot Day.

The 6th Annual Lake Odessa Historical Society Depot Day is guaranteed to have something for everyone. The event will begin on July 25th at 10:00 a.m. when the Depot Museum officially opens for the day. The Daughters of Union Veterans from Sunfield, Michigan will have a display, as will Mike Hook from the Barry County Historical Society. Hook's personal collection will include items from the Civil War and President Lincoln's era. There will also be some local history items on display.

Relive the Civil War days by visiting the Civil War Reenactment Living History encampment. Civil War reenactors will set up camp beginning Friday night, July 24th, and will remain set up until Sunday morning. Visitors are invited to step back in time with the men, women, and children of the Civil War era. Plans are under way for a camp hospital setting, a candle maker, and more. All participants will be in full authentic reproductions of the clothing of the period. The camp will be set up directly behind the depot and may go as far back as the fairgrounds. Visitors are invited to park at the fairgrounds if they choose. This event is sponsored by the *Ionia County Genealogical Society*. The coordinators of the event are Mike and Diane Black of Lake Odessa. They have been doing reenactments for several years.

Other events will be: Center Stage Dancers from Woodland at 11:00 a.m. under the direction of Kelly Sanderson. Carigon Sound of Ionia will provide the sound. At noon, Celia DeMond, a local keyboard player, will perform songs of days gone by. Celia attended Depot Days two years ago and is back by popular demand. The Janie Rodriguez Award winner will be announced at 1:30 p.m. The award is given each year to an outstanding volunteer in the community. The ever faithful Corn Cob Cloggers of Grand Ledge will be returning for another fast paced, foot stomping performance at 2:00 and again at 5:15. They have been performing at Depot Days since the beginning and are always a highlight. Jodi Farman and her children, Jonathan and Jessica, will perform at 3:00 with some good old gospel songs.

Those who wish to place a bid on the Ionia County Genealogical Society quilt will have a final chance to do so at Depot Day. The final bid will be taken at 3:45 p.m. and the winner will be announced at 4:00 p.m. Funds raised for the quilt will be used to purchase a copy machine for the genealogical society for use at the depot.

The raffle drawing will be held at 6:00 p.m. This year's prizes are First Place: a weekend for two at Zehnders Bavarian Haus, which includes 2 nights stay, 2 dinners, and 2 breakfasts. Second prize will be \$100 and third prize \$50. Tickets went on sale at the Lake Odessa Historical booth at the Art in the Park on July 4th and will also be available throughout the day at Depot Day. Funds raised are to maintain and preserve the Depot.

The fourth in a series of coffee mugs will be available at Depot Day. This year's mug depicts the Pere Marquette train at the Freight House in Lake Odessa. The History of Lake Odessa book will also be available for purchase. Food will be available all day. The menu this years includes brats, hotdogs, ice cream sundaes and various cold drinks.

The Lake Odessa Depot Museum is located on Emerson Street in Lake Odessa, just south of the fairgrounds off from Jordan Lake Avenue. Parking is available at the depot as well as at the fairgrounds. For more information contact John Waite at (517) 566-7317.

AHNENTAFEL CHART? Ahnentafel is a German word meaning ancestor table and it uses the same numbering system as the pedigree charts with which we are familiar. Counting backwards, you are the first generation and are #1. Your father is #2, your mother #3, and they are the second generation. Counting each generation back, double the child's number. Your father (#2) is the child of your grandfather (#4), and your grandfather is the child of #8, etc. To find the wife of each male generation, add one to his number. Similarly, to find the father of your mother (#3) double her number to #6. Males always appear as even numbers and females will always appear as odd numbers. Ahnentafel charts allow us to put more information on a lot less space than does a pedigree chart. *Family Legagy, Family Research Institute, West Branch, MI, October, 1997.*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- July 11, 1998 - Reg. meeting 1:00 p.m. at the Depot - Ron Carowitz "Postcards of the Past".
- July 25, 1998 - Living History at the Depot.
- August 8, 1998 - Reg. meeting 1:00 p.m. at the Depot - Carole Callard "Allen County Public Library Resources"
- September 12, 1998 - Reg. meeting 1:00 p.m. at the Depot - John Curry "Michigan Photographers"
- October 10, 1998 - Reg. meeting 1:00 p.m. at the Depot - Dave Johnson "The State of Michigan Archives"
- November 14, 1998 - Reg. meeting 1:00 p.m. at the Depot - Diane Adams "Register of Deeds Office"


COMPUTER CORNER

There is a family history writing class now offered on the internet. Each class lasts about 8 weeks and the cost is about \$15.00. Students will write short stories about things that happened to you when you or your family was growing up. There are "virtual" trips to look at other family history stories and to learn about writing techniques. There is also an on-line chat about once a week. Lessons are picked up once a week at the Virtual University's web site. Homework is turned in through e-mail. The class is called "You Too, Can Make History." Future classes will be on Oral Histories. The URL is <<http://www.vu.org>>.

Corrections: Debra Eddy's e-mail is <eddyb@voyager.net> not .com. Pamela Swiler e-mail is <pkswiler1@juno.com> not pkswiler@juno.com. Please make corrections on your files.

To err is human, but really foul things up requires a computer....Anonymous

We often run into early dates that are in conflict with one another. At least occasionally, this situation is the result of differing calendars. See <<http://genealogy.org/~scottle/cal-overview.html>> for an explanation of various calendars, when they were in effect (and where) and some conversion utilities that allow you to go from one calendar date to another. *Thank You Shirley Hodges for this information!*

From the Dick Eastman's newsletter - Getty Thesaurus of Geographic Names - If you are looking for that small place where your ancestors lived, check out the Getty Thesaurus of Geographic Names at <http://www.gii.getty.edu/tgn_browser>.

New addresses and e-mails: **Gerald & Delores Gardner**, P.O. Box 29, Russian Mission, AK 99657 <ggard1@juno.com>, **Julia Ward's** new e-mail: <jward@cmsinter.net>. **Jim Moses** new e-mail: <jmoses@mvcc.com>, and **Bruce & Donna Bergsten's** new e-mail address is <dbergst@presenter.com>. **Joan and Bill Beachnau's** new e-mail address: <jbeachnau1@juno.com>. **Jacob Face** will be off line until school begins again in the fall. Please update your address books.

The following was received from Beth Wills, the Coordinator of the Ionia County, MIGenWeb Project.

Dear Ionia County Genealogy Researchers - Just a quick note to let you all know of some really neat changes and additions to the Ionia County Genealogy page. We currently have over 170 researchers searching over 400 surnames in Ionia County. The web page has had over 10,300 visits since it started several years ago. I instituted an "Ionia County Forum". This forum may be found at <<http://cgi.rootsweb.com/~usgwqry/Mi/Ionia/index.cgi>> or by following the links on the Ionia County page for "Post a Query". Your queries will be posted INSTANTLY to the web page. Once you have posted your query, others with information that may help you may post a "reply". With so many people searching Ionia ancestors, certainly there is someone that has information that will help you! The forum is indexed in a NATIONAL database for all to see. When you initially get to the forum page, you will only see the queries for the last month. If you look at the top of the page, you will see a link to "personalize your display". This allows you to see the queries for any particular time frame that you want. Play around with this a little bit. This will be especially neat for those that visit frequently so that you only need to look at any new queries. There is also a place near the bottom of the page to place your e-mail address and check a box that you want to be on the Ionia County mailing list. Please take a few minutes to do this. This forum is where I will be posting any new information about Ionia County. As the coordinator, it will be the one place that I can communicate with all of you.

The queries are also being indexed by CCHelper, another NATIONAL database with many neat search options. This represents a chance to get your genealogy queries out to two national databases! Twice the exposure means a double chance that you will be able to connect with someone searching the same families.

Through the efforts of some very dedicated volunteers, we now have over 30,000 burials in Ionia County placed on the web page. Be sure to check out these cemeteries for your ancestors. And, several new projects are in the works. In addition, the Ionia County Genealogical Society page has been incorporated into the website in order to keep from having to check two different web sites for Ionia County information. There is also a relatively new "link" to the Ionia County Historical Society. They have a fantastic web page on Ionia County history. I continue to get messages from you, the researchers in Ionia County that you have "found a cousin" or made significant leaps in your research through the Ionia County MIGenWeb project. Thanks for all of your support. Visit soon - I am sure you will be pleased with the new Ionia County Query forum.

RELATIONSHIP CHART

To find a relationship, when a common ancestor is known: (1) fill in the blanks for the common ancestor and his/her spouse (sections A & B); (2) fill in one line of descent down (section C); and one line of descent across (section D). Include years of birth so that you are sure that your generations are accurate. (3) find the relationship of any two relatives by following the lines on the chart to the place where they intercept. Abbreviations below. Plan your work, and work your plan! Shirley M. De Boer M.A.T., C.G.

(A) Common Ancestor:

_____ name _____

b. _____

p.b. _____

m. _____

p.m. _____

d. _____

p.d. _____

	b.	b.	b.	b.	b.	b.	b.	b.	b.
(D)	(son or daughter)								

(C)

b.	Siblings	N	GN	2GN	3GN	4GN	5GN	6GN	7GN
b.	N	1st cousins	1C 1R	1C 2R	1C 3R	1C 4R	1C 5R	1C 6R	1C 7R
b.	GN	1C 1R	2nd cousins	2C 1R	2C 2R	2C 3R	2C 4R	2C 5R	2C 6R
b.	2GN	1C 2R	2C 1R	3rd cousins	3C 1R	3C 2R	3C 3R	3C 4R	3C 5R
b.	3GN	1C 3R	2C 2R	3C 1R	4th cousins	4C 1R	4C 2R	4C 3R	4C 4R
b.	4GN	1C 4R	2C 3R	3C 2R	4C 1R	5th cousins	5C 1R	5C 2R	5C 3R
b.	5GN	1C 5R	2C 4R	3C 3R	4C 2R	5C 1R	6th cousins	6C 1R	6C 2R
b.	6GN	1C 6R	2C 5R	3C 4R	4C 3R	5C 2R	6C 1R	7th cousins	7C 1R
b.	7GN	1C 7R	2C 6R	3C 5R	4C 4R	5C 3R	6C 2R	7C 1R	8th cousins

(B) Spouse _____

Abbreviations

b. _____

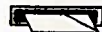
p.b. _____

d. _____

p.d. _____

- N niece/nephew to uncle aunt
- GN great niece or nephew
- 1C 2R first cousins, twice removed
- 4C 3R fourth cousins, three times removed

Our apologies to Janet Sweet Badder - Janet sent us information on the 68th wedding anniversary party for Jay Henry Champlin and Mildred Sweet Champlin which was *June 29, 1997*. The information was mislaid and now another year has passed. The Champlins, who were both 91, celebrated at the home of their son Forrest Lee Champlin's residence in Belding, MI. The children of Jay and Mildred are Dorothea (Champlin) Wyngarden of Holland, Charles Champlin of Trufant, Forrest Lee of Belding, John Norman Champlin of Kent City, Keith Dana Champlin, and Jeannette (Champlin) Botelho both of Belding. Jay was born and raised in Clarksville, MI., Mildred was born at New Haven Center, Gratiot County, and grew up in Grand Ledge. She taught school for a short time in Clarksville. They resided at 707 W. Liberty St., Belding, MI for many years.



FROM OUR MAILBOX We are searching for information on the **ALMY, MARTIN, WOOLLEY**. We are trying to track down a line of Woolley's that started in New York, went to Canada, then ended up in Ionia Co and there died. Laura **ALMY MARTIN** m. William **WOOLLEY** about 1809 in New York. We are trying to find out if Laura had family that were **ALMY**'s. If you have any information it would be greatly appreciated. Ron Eason at <rkeason@tir.com>

Seeking info on the following people: Martha **ALLEN**, mother of Alexander **KENNEY**. Alexander was born 25 Dec 1841 in Schenectady, NY and died 31 July 1879 in Keene Twp., Ionia Co., MI. He married Lois Lucena **KIMBALL** 15 April 1865, dau. of Martin and Lucena (**SMITH**) **KIMBALL** of RI. Lois was born 31 July 1840 in Pownal, VT and died in Saranac, Ionia Co, MI 27 Dec 1923. Send any info available to Jean Thomas at P.O. Box 101, 126 W. Ferney, Clarksville, MI 48815 or call (616) 693-2179.

We recently received a copy of a family history of the **TANNER** family from Lee Collins of Wyoming, Michigan. Members may browse through it in our library at the Depot.

I am the greatgranddaughter of a **BERRY** who lived in Clarksville and Saranac from 1869 to 1902/03. His name was William H.S. **BERRY**. He was married to Viola Frances **PERKINS** on Sept. 1, 1869. They had six children, William T., Frank M., Fred C., Lura, Leland, and A(E)lvina. All of the children were born in Clarksville except William T. who was born in Saranac. Viola's parents were Royal J. **PERKINS** and Nancy **HALL**. If this is your line, please contact me. Diane VanBreemen at <DVBREEMEN@aol.com>.

I am researching Benjamin **CURTIS** family who arrived in Mich. about 1830 or so and he died about 1833 all in the old Northfield Twp., MI. One daughter was Sarah (Aunt Sally), another was Lydia. Are these some names you have run across?? Don at <djsmith@shianet.org>

From E. Elden Davis, 521 Fleming St., Howell, MI 48843 - I am engaged in some historical research and would like to know if you could possibly assist me. This research is in regards to Michigan men, and Regiments, in the Civil War, and Michigan men who may also have served in other State Regiments. I would like to know if you might possibly have any items in your collection; old pamphlets, letters, diaries, photos, etc., written by Michigan men, either on Michigan Regiments or the other units they may have served in. Any help you can give me regarding this would be greatly appreciated.

A Guide to Genealogical Research in Ionia County, Michigan, by Beth Erskine Wills, 1998 is an 104 page guide that covers the history of Ionia County, who holds vital records, where to find microfilm data on Ionia County (including the film numbers), who has written articles on Ionia and where to find them, addresses of local, state and national repositories, how to obtain military records, naturalization records, etc.

If you are interested in obtaining one of these guides, please e-mail me and put "BOOK" in the subject line. The price is \$15.00 and barely covers my cost to have it printed, and at this price I will be able to donate \$1.00 for each book purchased to the Ionia County Genealogical Society. I have just a few left. A publisher for the book has been found and it will now be published by Kinseeker Publications, P.O. Box 184, Grawn, MI 49637 at the cost of \$14.00 postpaid and \$1 will benefit the Ionia County Genealogical Society. **THIS IS A VERY GENEROUS GIFT TO THE SOCIETY FROM BETH...AND WE REALLY APPRECIATE THE SUPPORT!!! THANK YOU BETH!**

MICHIGAN GENEALOGICAL COUNCIL UPDATE

JoAnn Harvey of the Michigan Professional Genealogists recently spoke to MGC regarding discrimination against genealogists by public officials. She asked MGC to join MPG to work with Rep. Lynn Martinez to request that the Attorney General of the State of Michigan render an opinion as the legality of discriminating against genealogists by limiting their access to public records. The Executive Board voted unanimously to support this action.

There is also action being taken to try to get the recent bill regarding the opening of birth records after 110 years changed back to the original 100 year figure. Rep. Gubow had amended the original bill to protect the privacy of older individuals. MGC also showed unanimous support of this action. ICGS recommends that you take a minute to show your support of both of these proposals by sending a letter to your representatives.

Library of Michigan Update...Randy Riley and Carole Callard of the Library of Michigan recently reported that there have been changes made in the online catalog system. Customized screens will make the system easier to use. There may be some delays in ordering and receiving during the conversion period, but Randy will be available to assist if needed.

The library has ordered a set of Confederate Pension Records on microfilm which will soon be available to the public.

Currently there is no soundex for Michigan's 1930 soundex. MGC is considering an indexing project in the future.

The Archives of Calvin College in Grand Rapids, MI are seeking several parts of the sight-sound programs produced for the Christian Reformed Church Centennial Celebration in 1957. These sight-sound programs were sold to be used to Centennial Celebrations Programs throughout the denomination and are an important historical treasure. The programs consisted of recordings, scripts and slides. Please contact the Archives if you have or know where there are any of the following items:

Missing recording, script and slides: "Towers That Grow"

Missing recording and script: "Canada, The Call, The Church, The Challenge"

Missing scripts: "Into The Highways and Byways"; "A Global Challenge"; "The Chapter in Your Life Called Calvin".

The Archives holds thirty reels of recordings on wire. They are looking for a wire recorder. If you know where such an item can be obtained, please contact the Archives at Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI 49546. (Source: Newsletter for the Friends of the Archives Vol. XIII, No. 1, March 1998).

Mortality Index Ionia County 1850

Copying of the files within by non-commercial individuals and libraries is encouraged. This message must appear on all copied files. From the Ionia GenWeb site submitted by Beth Wills.

****This will be done as a series each month until complete. This month will feature alphabet E- N.*

Name	Sex	Age at Death	State Born	Month died	Cause of Death	Occupation
Ely, William	Sex: M,	Age 28	Born in NY	Mo: Mar	Cause: White Swell	Occupation: Farmer
Fisk, Silas	Sex: M	Age 11	Born in MI	Mo: Sep	Cause: Lung Fever	
Frost, Rosanna	Sex: F	Age 3	Born in MI	Mo: Jan	Cause: Fits	
Green, Joel B.	Sex: M	Age 5	Born in MI	Mo: Sep	Cause: Consumption	
Grennels, Lydia	Sex: F	Age 19	Born in NY	Mo: Feb	Cause: Consumption	
Haight, Sally Ann	Sex: F	Age 40	Born in NY	Mo: not given	Cause: Consumption	
Haight, Theodore	Sex: M	Age 1	Born in MI	Mo: Jan	Cause: Unknown	
Heade, Edgar	Sex: M	Age: 21	Born in NY	Mo: Sep	Cause: Consumption	
Heath, Phebe A.	Sex: F	Age 1	Born in MI	Mo: Jan	Cause: Croup	
Heaton, Lucy	Sex: F	Age: 38	Born in NH	Mo: May	Cause: Childbirth	

SURNAME SCAM ARTISTS: A variety of companies sells mass-produced items for thousands of surnames. Among these are one-page "surname histories", coats of arms, and books that feature address of individuals who share the same last name. The National Genealogical Society and the Federation of Genealogical Societies believe that there are four things you can - and *should* - do when you encounter any of these products:

1. **Be Alert** - Read the offer carefully. Then--think twice! Was the letter you received sent to thousands of other people with the same last name? Does the letter offer a family history, or...merely a list of addresses of people who have your surname. Does the advertisement offer a coat of arms for your last name? Coats of arms were first granted to individuals--not to surnames. Then, as now, the right to use these arms was inherited from one's father.

2. **Return It!** - If you ordered by mail, you can *return it* for a refund. Be sure to enclose your name and address, as well as a statement that you *request a refund*. At the Post Office, you should *buy a "return receipt for merchandise"*. If you paid for the product by credit card, *ask your card company for help* getting a credit. If you have not received a refund within six weeks, call the *National Consumers League at 800/876-7060* (10:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., EST), or you can write to them at National Consumers League, 815 15th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005

3. **Complain!** The U.S. Postal Inspection Service will investigate any companies that use the U.S. mails to misrepresent mass-produced surname books or coats of arms. If you receive a solicitation that you believe misrepresents the product being offered, you should write to the Consumer Protection Division, describing the ways in which you believe the company that has contacted you has engaged in false advertising. If you don't have time to write, replace the contents in the envelope, reseal it, and cross out your name and address then forward to: U.S. Postal Inspection Service, Consumer Protection Division, 475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW, Washington, DC 20260-1100

4. **Tell Others!** It is important to let others know what genealogy is...*and what it is not!*



DO YOU KNOW THIS FAMILY?

Deb Haines, MS GenWeb Assistant State Coordinator, found this photo while browsing at an antique shop in Wilmington, Will County, IL. She would love to see the photo returned to its rightful owners, the descendants of this family. There is no name, but the photographer is G.A. Shampang, Lake Odessa, Mich. Please notify Pam Swiler or Beth Wills if you know the people in this photo.

G.A. Shampang

LAKE ODESSA, MICH.

LOOKING FOR PROBATE RECORDS IN LOWNDES COUNTY, GEORGIA? A book transcribed and published by Charles R. Corbett; edited by Dr. Joe Knetsch gives Probate Records July Term 1847 - January Term 1852. Library quality buckram F hard cover binding, 285 pages, full name index, price \$35 plus \$5 shipping and handling. Florida residents please add 7% sales tax. Make checks payable to Charles R. Corbett, P.O. Box 3502, Tallahassee, Florida 32315-3502. Phone (850) 562-8051. Email: ccorbett@concentric.net

This book gives a sample page from the original court register on one side of the page and its transcription on the facing page. The register is known as the Surviving Docket because it is the only register prior to 1869 not destroyed by fire.

FAMILY SKETCHES: We would like to publish in our newsletter YOUR family sketch. The sketch needs to state the township which is represented and we would like to have at least one from each township; must be no more than 500 words; they must have lived in Ionia County prior to 1900. Please see the example on page 10 of Mary Wood Leak. Please send the sketches to: Debra Eddy at 13051 Ainsworth Rd., Lake Odessa, MI 48849.

Bill Atkinson, past president of the Mid-Michigan Genealogical Society, was recent guest speaker at the ICGS. His topic was "Newspapers - What Good Are They?"

Bill's first association with newspapers began early when he worked after school as a newspaper carrier. His current position is with Michigan State University. Atkinson states that periodicals should be considered as a secondary source of information when doing research. "It is a clue, based on hearsay only, that leads the researcher to something else," states Atkinson. "It is subject to error and should be verified." Newspapers can be very biased depending on the view of the editor.

The first "newspaper" was published circa 500 A.D. Europe began regular publication of newspapers in the late 1500's. The United States had the first known newspaper in 1689 but by 1763 there were 23 colonial newspapers being circulated. The first article on genealogy was written in 1876 and that column lasted for 17 years.

Atkinson explained to the group that the larger the circulation, the less value there is for research purposes. The smaller newspapers tend to contain more information about local people. "The gossip columns are a wonderful source of information." "One gets a feel for the issues of the day of the community in smaller publications." Trade papers, such as the Wall Street Journal and Labor News, rarely have information of value for researchers. Church and society newsletters such as the Moose Lodge, I.O.O.F., Elks, etc. have a great deal of information on a select group of people. If you know your ancestor belonged to one of those groups, it may be helpful to read through those editions.

Older newspapers had no set format. Obituaries, a valuable clue for genealogists, were used a filler and were treated as a regular news item. The obituaries of the past contain great details about the family, how the person died, the circumstances of death and even how the family went through the grief process. It may include the names of all the family members, neighbors, and what they did for a living. Today obituaries are paid advertisements and are usually sold by the inch or line and are found in the same section of the newspaper in each issue. Today's obituary contains basic facts about the decedent and who their immediate family members are.

Mr. Atkinson encouraged people to read through the whole paper, especially the older ones, including the advertisements. "You might find a relative owned a business which could lead you to other documents, such as probate records, land deeds, etc. Many newspapers are available on microfilm in local libraries. The State Library of Michigan in Lansing has the largest known collection of newspapers on microfilm in Michigan.

Mary Wood Leak

Mary Wood was born in Lincoln County, England on September 15, 1796. She married Christopher Leak on June 23, 1823. Both signed their marriage record with an "X", indicating that neither could read nor write.

They had twelve children between them. They were: Rachel (b.1824), John(b.1826), Charlotte(b.1827), Elijah (b.1829), David (b. 1831), James(b. 1836), Rebecca(b. 1837), Thomas(b. 1838), Mary(b. 1839), Issac (b.1841), Mary(b.1843) and Eliza (b. 1845). According to the obituary notice of Mary, there were 6 stepchildren, indicating that Christopher had been married before. There is no mention of the names of those children, and at the time of this writing, no record of any other marriages of Christopher.

In 1848, Christopher, Mary and most of their family came to America seeking better financial conditions. Four of their sons stayed in England until 1855 when Christopher and Mary had enough money to bring them over the seas. Mary and her husband settled in Rochester, New York and in November of 1862, Christopher died, leaving Mary to raise 12 children, 6 stepchildren, and 3 grandchildren on her own. Mary never remarried.

In 1867, Mary moved to Michigan, with her family, and settled in the village of Sebewa, Ionia County. She stayed in this area until her death on May 23, 1889 at the age of 93 years old. She had been ill for quite some time, but according to records, rarely complained. The funeral took place at the Baptist Church located on Musgrove Highway and Goddard Road in Sebewa, Ionia County, Michigan. She was buried at the West Sebewa Cemetery, then known as the Baptist Cemetery because of its location next to the church.

Mary Wood Leak was known as a devoted Christian, and a life long member of the M.E. Church.

Union Civil War Veteran Headstones

Since the Act of Congress dated February 3, 1879 was enacted, the government has been providing headstones over the graves of soldiers who served in the Regular or Volunteer Army of the United States during the war for the Union throughout the United States. This act also provided that "The Secretary of War shall cause to be preserved in the records of his Department the names and places of burial of all soldiers for whom such headstones shall have been erected by authority of this or any former acts..."(Source 20 Stat.281)

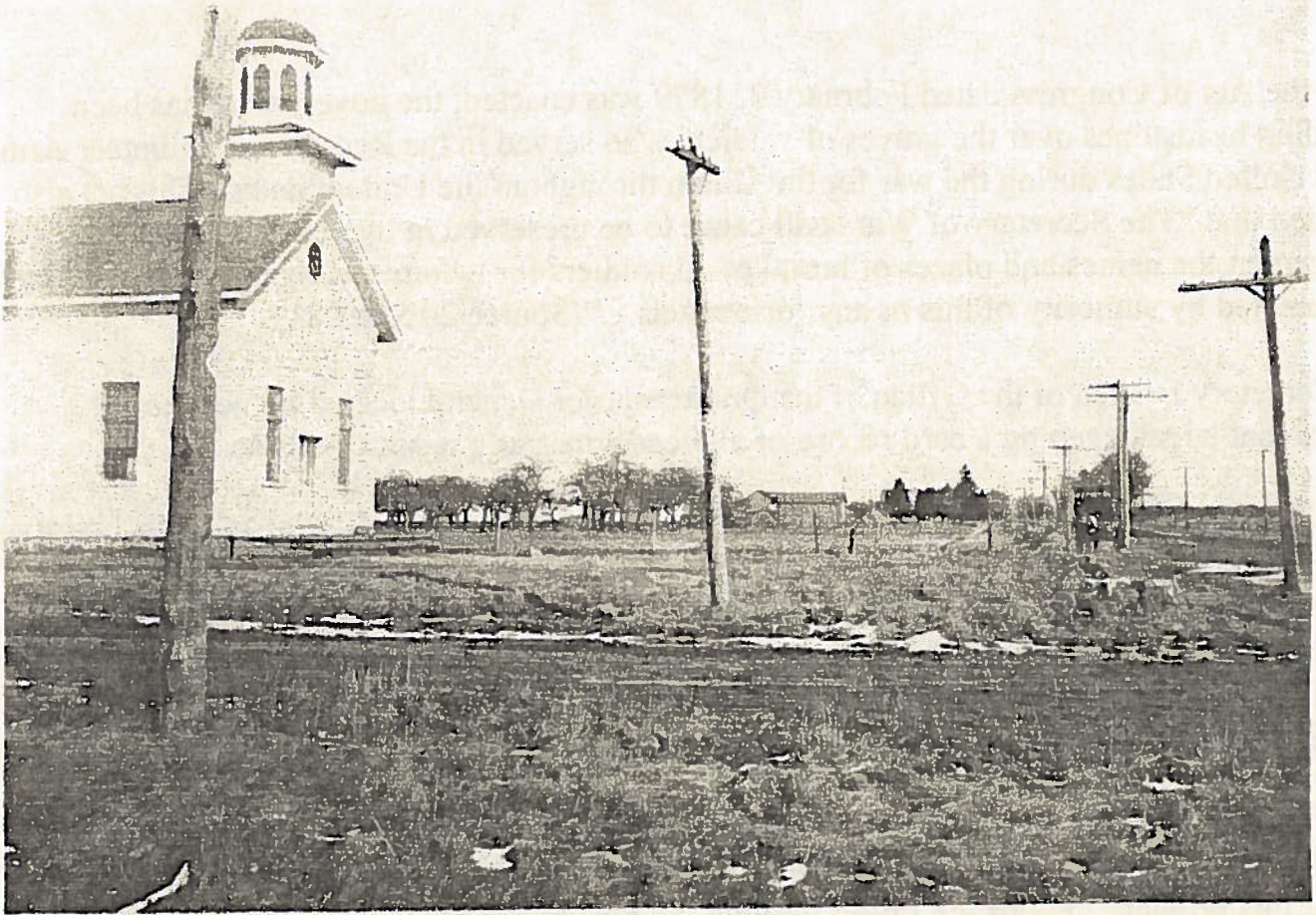
The Cemetery Branch of the Office of the Quartermaster General located in the War Department began keeping a card record of all headstones as a result of this act.

"These records consist of 3- by 4- inch cards arranged alphabetically by surname, then by first name. The cards include some or all of the following information about each soldier: rank, company, and regiment; place of burial, including the cemetery's name, and the community, county, and state in which it is located; grave number, if any; date of death; name of contractor who supplied the headstone; and the date of the contract under which the stone was provided." (The Record, Vol. 4, No.4, p. 22)

The National Archives and Records Administration now has all of these records available on microfilm. Funds raised from the Malcolm H. Stern-NARA Gift Fund provided the money to pay for this project. Funds are raised through the Federation of Genealogical Societies of which ICGS is a member. People are asked to donate just one dollar per year to this fund. Funds are then used to preserve records such as this microfilm project at the National Archives. If you are interested in donating to this worthwhile cause, send a check payable to Malcom H. Stern-NARA Gift Fund to us and we will forward it on.

The publication name for the microfilm is M1845, Card Records of Headstones Provided for Deceased Union Civil War Veterans, ca. 1879-ca. 1903. These rolls are available for purchase at a rate of \$34 per roll and there are 22 rolls. At the ICGS board meeting in June the members present voted to purchase a set of these for the Library of Michigan collection. We will be seeking donations toward the purchase of the set. If you would like to contribute, send a check payable to ICGS-Civil War fund and mail it to Lois Curtiss, our treasurer at the society's address. The members of our society receive a lot of information from the Library of Michigan. This is a chance to add to the collection and help others with their research. Thank you for your support.

Members can visit the National Archives and Records Administration on the World Wide Web at <http://www.nara.gov> We also have copies of the publication of NARA called "The Record" on file at the society's library.



WHERE ARE WE? CAN YOU IDENTIFY THIS BUILDING and CORNER? IF SO, CONTACT PAM SWILER.

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The American Immigrant Wall of Honor - From the Statue of Liberty - Ellis Island Foundation, Inc.

The American Immigrant Wall of Honor is a permanent exhibit of over 500,000 individual and family names featured at Ellis Island in the New York Harbor. It is the only place in the country where an individual can honor his/her family's heritage at a national monument.

The new phase of the Wall of Honor has been reopened to accommodate more names. This new wall will close in 1997; the names will be added in 1998. The wall is not for Ellis Island immigrants only, but for immigrants from all historical periods. A family name or the name of an ancestor or relative may be honored.

The minimum contribution is \$100 for each name registered. Contributions (tax deductible) will be used to create the American Family Immigration History Center as a part of the Ellis Island Immigration Museum. Address for more information or a Registration Form: The Statue of Liberty - Ellis Island Foundation, Inc., P.O. Box 1955, New York, NY 10117-1955.

from: Goodenow's Ghosts, August 1997

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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.

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List five names you are researching: _____

Note: All information may be published in upcoming newsletters or placed on the internet GenWeb Project unless you indicate in writing otherwise.

IONIA COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

c/o Pamela K. Swiler
13051 Ainsworth Road
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