

# IONIA COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

## 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.

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## GRAVESTONE RUBBINGS

Gravestone rubbings are an important part of preserving the genealogical history of our ancestors. The natural weathering process, neglect, and vandalism are all enemies of our heritage and we need to work to preserve what may be the only evidence left of ancestor's markers. Besides being a historical record of the life and death of someone, those stones have some of the finest folk art of historic America.

If you have ever attempted to do a gravestone rubbing and couldn't quite get the technique perfected, there are some suggestions from Kay Kudlinski, a seasoned veteran for you to consider.

First, we need to remember our manners before we even begin a project such as this. Contact the sexton of the cemetery before rubbing. Many cemeteries have banned rubbings because of the damage, litter and disrespectful behavior of a very few. Don't be one of those who ruin it for everyone else.

### Graveyard etiquette includes:

1. Getting permission before rubbing.
2. Be courteous to other visitors - they will be curious about what you are doing. Be prepared to answer questions about what you are doing and why. If a funeral is going on at

the same time, leave - the stone will be there later.

3. Do not lean on or try to change the position of the stones. Report vandalism to the sexton. If a stone is face down, lift it carefully towards yourself so that other "critters" that may be underneath will move away from you instead of towards you.

4. Never harm any of the memorial plants or flowers, although you may trim away grass from the base of the stone.

5. If you plan to spend a whole day and bring a picnic lunch with you - be sure to clean up any trash.

6. Make sure that you do not leave any fragments of tape, wax, etc. on the markers.

### Materials needed include:

1. Crayola crayons or chalk work well for beginners, however the results are short lived. Better materials make better rubbings. Wax blocks that are made for rubbings work the best. They will last through many rubbings and are available in many colors. They are available at hardware stores, hobby shops, and art supply stores.

2. Rice paper or Pelon produce quality rubbings, however they are fairly expensive. Shelf papers works but does not produce the crisp edges and fine detail of the other options. Pelon is available at a fabric store.

3. Masking tape, paper tubes for carrying and storing the rubbings, scissors, a digging spoon, soft brush (toothbrush or vegetable brush works well), notebook and pencil, and a trash bag, along with bug spray and spray fixative can

be packed easily into a bag for your excursion.

### Procedure:

1. Once you have permission to rub, take note of the interesting design of the stone. Many have historic and symbolic decorative details. The smoother the stone the better rubbing you will get. Make a note as to the cemetery, location of the stone in the graveyard, the inscription and any other interesting facts about the stone that may be of interest later.

See Rubbings - Page 2

## THE FATE OF THE SIGNATORIES by Gary Hildreth

Thank you Shirley Hodges for sharing this with us.

Have you ever wondered what happened to the 56 men who signed the Declaration of Independence?

Five signers were captured by the British as traitors, and tortured before they died. Twelve had their homes ransacked and burned. Two lost their sons in the Revolutionary Army, another had two sons captured. Nine of the 56 fought and died from wounds or hardships of the Revolutionary War.

They signed and they pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor.

See Signatories - Page 2

### **SIGNATORIES - From Page 1**

What kind of men were they? Twenty-four were lawyers and jurists. Eleven were merchants, nine were farmers and large plantation owners; men of means, well educated. But they signed the Declaration of Independence knowing full well that the penalty would be death if they were captured.

Carter Braxton of Virginia, a wealthy planter and trader, saw his ships swept from the seas by the British Navy. He sold his home and properties to pay his debts, and died in rags.

Thomas McKeam was so hounded by the British that he was forced to move his family almost constantly. He served in the Congress without pay, and his family was kept in hiding. His possessions were taken from him and poverty was his reward.

Vandals or soldiers looted the properties of Dillery, Hall, Clymer, Walton, Gwinnett, Heyward, Rutledge, and Middleton.

At the battle of Yorktown, Thomas Nelson, Jr., noted that the British General Cornwallis had taken over the Nelson home for his headquarters. He quietly urged General Washington to open fire. The home was destroyed and Nelson died bankrupt.

Francis Lewis had his home and properties destroyed. The enemy jailed his wife, and she died within a few months.

John Hart was driven from his wife's bedside as she was dying. Their 13 children fled for their lives. His fields and his gristmill were laid to waste. For more than a year he lived in forests and caves, returning home to find his wife dead and his children vanished. A few weeks later he died from exhaustion and a

broken heart. Norris and Livingston suffered similar fates.

Such were the stories and sacrifices of the American Revolution. These were not wild eyed, rabble-rousing ruffians. They were soft-spoken men of means and education. They had security, but they valued liberty more. Standing tall, straight, and unwavering, they pledged: "For the support of this declaration, with firm reliance on the protection of the divine providence, we mutually pledge to each other, our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor."

### **Y2K Bug Could Affect Graveyard Monuments**

Years ago, some monument companies took orders for engraved headstones or markers using the number 19 without the last two digits for the future date of death. About 90% of the engraving today has the full day, month and year for birth and death, not just the year as in the past.

For those people who will need to change their monument, Rifenburg offers several options. If the lettering is cut into stone, he can fill it with a mixture of granite and epoxy, and then recarve the date. "It's never as good as the original," he said. "It's the best fix we have for a bad situation."

If the monument has raised letters and digits and the number 19 is already there, the only choice is to chisel off the 19 and cut the correct date into the stone, he said.

The third option is to cover the raised lettering with a bronze plate, which is less practical and cost-effective, he said. It's a personal decision for the family.

Source: Redford Twp. Historical and Genealogical Society. Spring 1999

### **RUBBINGS - From Page 1**

2. Prepare the stone by lightly dusting off the surface dirt. Do not try to chip off the lichens or flakes off the rock itself. Clip away the grass at the base of the stone and spoon away any dirt that may be covering the hidden inscriptions.

3. Wrap the stone from the top to the bottom with the paper, securing the paper on the backside of the stone to keep the paper from shifting.

4. Rub your finger over the paper to determine where the markings are. Begin to shade over the markings lightly, then darken it with the side of your wax. Make consistent strokes, all in one direction. Use the wax to sharpen details.

5. Back up and look at the rubbing from a distance. Is it clear and crisp? Now is the time to touch it up. Once it is removed, it will never be able to be replaced precisely.

6. Spray the rubbing with artist fixative to keep the wax from smudging.

7. Clean up, making sure there is no residue of tape and pick up any litter you see.

Source: Car-Del Scribe

Vol. 21 No. 2

Rewritten by Pamela K. Swiler

### **FUTURE OF CANADIAN CENSUS**

Have you used the 1871, 1881, 1891 or 1901 census records in your quest to find your ancestors living in various parts of Canada? Census records have been a gold mine for individuals researching their history. Statistics Canada has decided that the 1901 census is the LAST ONE which will be made public. The 1911 census, which normally would be released to the public in 2003, will not be available to researchers. The same ruling applies to all subsequent census records held by Statistics Canada.

This decision has outraged the archival community, genealogists and our historians, but to no avail. The 1911 census and all future census records will remain closed...unless.. What can YOU and I do?

Perhaps because we are not Canadian citizens we cannot have the same impact, but it wouldn't hurt to suggest to those addressed below that American citizens utilize the Canadian Census records and generate a lot of income for the Canadian Government and other areas by buying published copies of the census, etc.

--Write to the Chief Statistician Dr. Ivan Fellegi at 120 Parkdale Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario. K1A 0T6. E-mail address: fellegi@statcan.ca

--Write to Honorable John Manley, PC.MP, the Minister of Industry to whom Statistics Canada reports at: The House of Commons, Ottawa, Ontario. K1A 0A6. E-Mail: Manley.J@parl.gc.ca

--Write to the Honourable Sheila Copps. PC.MP, the Minister of Canadian Heritage, The House of Commons, Ottawa, Ontario. K1A0A6. E-Mail: Copps.S@parl.gc.ca

Genealogists in Canada are very concerned about this and perhaps we can give them moral support if nothing else. Hopefully their government will see the benefit of American dollars by way of tourism and mail coming into their economy and will not turn their back on us.

This information is from Mark Keller, Historical Consultant, of Caro MI by way of W.M.G.S. Newsletter, Spring 1999.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

- ◆ Seymour E. **VANDERSKE**  
7725 Goodwin  
Lyons, MI 48851-9762
- ◆ Phillip & Ruth **SMITH**  
847 Calle Circulo  
Camarillo, CA 93010  
Researching: **SPENCER, THOMPSON, WHIPPLE, SMITH, EDWARDS**
- ◆ Jean **EDGERLY**  
733 N. Cochran Ave.  
Charlotte, MI 48813  
Researching: **TOWNSEND, TUTTLE, SCRIBNER, FISHER**
- ◆ Richard **CANFIELD**  
211 South Elm  
Iola, KS 66749-3417  
Researching: **CANFIELD**
- ◆ Fawn **DEPUY**  
10,000 Buddy Funk Lane  
Fayetteville, IL 62258  
Researching: **WHEELER, WYATT**
- ◆ Rose M. **HENRY**  
320 S. East St.  
Portland, MI 48875  
Researching: **BUILIFF, PROCTOR, HOLTON, HENRY, BARCLAY**
- ◆ Sharon **KISELA**  
1848 Kellogg Road  
Ionia, MI 48846-9636  
Researching: **YOUNGS, PALMER, THORP(E), JACKSON, WHEELOCK**

## QUERIES

- ◆ I am seeking information on Maude Harriet **STRUBLE** b. 1881 Spring Lake, Ottawa, MI, the daughter of Edward S. **STRUBLE**, b. 1852, Portland, Ionia, MI. Edward's wife was Clara Louis **ALVORD**, b. 1855 Sumner, Gratiot, MI. Edward and Clara were married in Bay City,

Bay, MI. Any information appreciated. Contact Barbara **YONCK**, 391 E. Anderson Rd., Sequim, WA 98382 or e-mail: <bjonck@olympus.net>

◆ Richard **COLLINS** wants to exchange information with anyone on the family of Ulysses Simpson Grant **PERRY** and Annie **CHRISTIAN PERRY** and their son Orville **PERRY**. He has sent some wonderful pictures to Pam **SWILER**. Contact Richard at 309 Boulder Drive, Carson City, NV 89706.

◆ Denise is seeking information on her great-grandmother, Mary E. **STULTS**, possibly of the Belding area. Contact Denise at <jrosenbl@southbell.net>

◆ Mary Kay Wood sent a query about the **BARRETT** family of Lyons, Muir area. Contact Pam Swiler if you have any information on this family.

◆ Mike **CARTWRIGHT** in Kansas is seeking information on the following names: George **JENNINGS** and Elisabeth **TRACY/TRACEY** who were married in 1850, Ionia County. If you know anything about the Porter Cole Mine that was around about 1874, Mike is interested in that too. Contact Mike at <cargm@horizon.hit.net>

◆ Sally is looking for information on Danby Twp. families of John and Mary **RICE**, John and Hannah **VANANTWERP**, Robert and Ruth Esther **ROWE**, Roland and Angiline **ABBEY**; Hiram **TRIM** & family; John and Nancy **COALTER**; Margaret and Oden **BROWN**; John and Arelia **CRAMER**; Addition and Mary **ROBINSON**; Theodore **SANDERS**; James and Mary **ROBERTS**; Phillip and Sally **COMPTON**. Contact Sally at <apple12@wmis.net>

If you have information that may help someone, but you are not on the Internet, please send the information to Pamela K. Swiler, President, ICGS, 13051 Ainsworth Rd., Route 3, Lake Odessa, MI 48849

## BARKDULL/VALENTINE MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE

The Windwalker Antique Shop on the east side of Cochran in downtown Charlotte, Michigan has a large framed certificate of marriage for Hiram Barkdull and Anna Valentine of Odessa Township, dated November 17, 1878. The condition of the certificate is good, but what I think is outstanding is it contains the original tintype of both the bride and the groom. Because identified tintypes are very collectible, the asking price is \$150.00. I have no affiliation to Windwalker Antiques, I am just passing this along in the hopes that it can be returned to someone in the Barkdull or Valentine family.

Debbie Eddy, ICGS Member

### Kids Say the Darrest Things:

Found on a grammar school test paper: "A census taker is a man who goes from house to house increasing the population"

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### WEB NEWS & NOTES



**REMEMBER YOU DON'T NEED A PERSONAL COMPUTER TO ACCESS WEB-SITES. MOST PUBLIC LIBRARIES HAVE COMPUTERS FOR PUBLIC USE.**

### New E-mail addresses:

- ◆ Beth Wills: [bethw@kvi.net](mailto:bethw@kvi.net)
- ◆ Bobbie and Theron King: [btking@ionia-mi.net](mailto:btking@ionia-mi.net)

◆ If you have Canadian roots you might want to subscribe to this e-mail newsletter. It is free and contains some wonderful tips. THE GLOBAL GAZETTE - Canada's Genealogy & Heritage On-Line Magazine, Vol. III, No. 08, May 21, 1999. The newest issue is online, filled with new articles and ready for subscribers. Check it out at <http://globalgenealogy.com/gazette.htm>

AOL Users hotlink: <http://globalgenealogy.com/gazette.htm>

◆ This is the address to a site where people resell old photos that they have found at estate sales. <http://users.erinet.com/31363/fordand.htm>

◆ The website below has individual counties throughout the U.S. along with costs for records and addresses. Also has over 100 genealogy sites, updated frequently, some of which are very good. <http://www.vitalrec.com>

◆ This site shows where people were living from 1850-1990. Worth checking out. <http://www.primenet.com/~hamrick/names/>

◆ The May-June issue of the IIGS Newsletter is online at <http://www.iigs.org/newsletter/9906news/index.htm.en> Features include Barbara Brown's Article "Research Your Resources." Diane Nichols shares experiences with readers in "Practical Advice for Preserving Old Documents." A must read! Regular feature "From the Help Desk" for good tips and links.

◆ The Ancestor Roll of Honor on America's First Families web site

1600's Ancestor Data Base contains the names of over 14,000 proven ancestors from that era. It web site also lists fraudulent ancestors. Check it out at <http://www.linkline.com/personal/xy/mox/> From Harold Oliver, Director to the OHERIE mail list.

### LIBRARY NEWS

◆ Now available through the Library of Michigan is a publication called "Abrams Collection Genealogy Highlights" 50 Best Michigan Genealogy Resources January/February 1999 Volume 1 Number 1. It will be available bimonthly and may be requested at the Genealogy Desk of the Library.

◆ A 2nd reprint of Beginning Your Genealogical Research - Guides and Forms to Get You Started - is also available now at the Genealogy Desk of the Library of Michigan.

◆ A notebook containing upcoming events of interest to genealogists is available behind the desk. Members are asked not to take the information, but you may make copies.

### CHANGES AT MICHIGAN VITAL RECORDS OFFICE

There have been a number of changes that have taken place at the Michigan Division of Vital Records which is formerly called the Office of the State Registrar. People visiting the office should note that over-the-counter service may not be available to them. In order to see all the changes that have taken place, visit the web site at

<http://www.mdch.state.mi.us/PHA/OSR/VITAL.REC.HTM>

# ICGS SPEAKERS by Jim Moses

## MARCH

The guest speaker at the March meeting of the Ionia County Genealogical Society was **Shirley HODGES**. Shirley has spoken to our group before, and she presented a well-researched topic again this time. "What's In A Name?" gave us some very interesting information about early naming patterns in the United States. Beginning with the Puritans, who rejected the Catholic saint names for names such as Faith and Mercy, she told us about how the German influence gave us our present two-name system, where most of us have a first and a middle name. The popularity of certain names was also discussed for various time periods, and various locations. Many times people were named for famous people, but it seems that throughout the history of our country there have been some surnames, such as John and Mary, which have had popularity in all times.

Surnames such as Smith, Johnson and Brown are the most common in our country. They occur in almost every community.

Deciphering names that were written long ago can be quite a challenge, and Shirley gave us some tools to help in that task. Because of the quill pens used in earlier years many names (as well as other words) have been written in a shortened version. Examples were presented. We were left with the admonition to record the reasons for the way we and our relatives are named as we are (especially our nicknames) so that future generations will know our methods.

## APRIL

Our own **John WAITE** gave a very insightful talk about tax assessment rolls at the April meeting of the Ionia County Genealogical Society. John amazed many of us with his knowledge of what the tax rolls can offer to genealogists. He began with a simple statement that if we do not use the rolls in our research we are missing out on a valuable resource. If we want to track where someone was living and what they owned we always looked to the census records, but

John pointed out that the tax assessment rolls are taken yearly (not every ten years like the census) and they can give you a lot of information about whether or not your person was wealthy, how much land he or she owned (yes, female property owners were also represented) and, as sometimes proves to be very important--who the neighbors were.

The first thing you need to find out about a person living, for example, in Michigan is the section of the township where that person lived, as the rolls are kept utilizing the township and range system in states that have that system. It is much easier to find someone if you know the section they lived in because you won't have to go through the whole county to find him. Many of the records are not indexed, which makes progress slow, but well worth the effort.

Many tax assessment rolls are found in the township offices or the county court house. Some records are in the archives at the Library of Michigan. It is always best to start with the smallest forms of

government in your search, because they will probably know where the records are located. John provided a copy of Circular No. 1 from the Archives, which details many of the records which are kept in Lansing. As many of you know, the ICGS has many books of records from Odessa Township (from 1877 - 1940) and there is a project to index them so that future researchers will find it easier to locate ancestors.

John gave much more information on these resource materials, and also mentioned other rolls that are sometimes helpful, such as the dog tax list, the drain tax list, the highway assessment list, lists of those who held stocks in banking institutions, and voter registrations. After listening to John's excellent talk I have made it a priority to check some of my own elusive ancestors through their tax information. I am certain that John opened the eyes of many.

## MAY

**Merrie DeVoe** spoke at the May 1999 meeting about Bounty Land Warrants. She gave us many interesting facts about these records, which started as early as 1776 when the government did not have enough money to pay soldiers who were fighting for our freedom from England. Bounty land was awarded to soldiers who could prove they fought in the war, which was a difficult process. In fact, in some cases, it proved harder for the person to receive bounty land than a pension.

About 450,000 land claims are on file with the National Archives, and they have quite a lot of information in them. Sometimes there is very



good genealogical information in the applications, and they should be researched if you had someone who was a soldier. Bounty land was given by the government as late as 1960, yes 1960. Many of the men who applied were turned down, but the applications are still on file.

Merrie told us that less than ten percent of the soldiers who received bounty land actually moved to their lands--they usually assigned the land to someone else. This could have happened several times before someone actually moved to the land. The price of land was such that a person could assign (sell) it to someone else for more than they could receive in their pension payments.

It is interesting that officers were given no bounty land until the bounty lands acts of 1850 and 1855 were passed. Before that time only enlisted men could receive lands. There were quite a few different Acts of Congress concerning lands, and there were, of course, different rules for each. If you had a soldier you should find out which act pertained to the person so you will know the rules that were followed in that case. It is also important to know the act because you will need it, along with the bounty land number in order to get information from the National Archives. This sounds like a hard thing to do, but Merrie said that the Family History Library has all of the indexes and Heritage Quest has most of them. In addition, each regional office of the National Archives has the records that pertain to that region.

Merrie talked about many more interesting things concerning land warrants, including the fact that certain religious groups were given land, the "Fire Lands" area of Ohio was given to those from Connecticut who has suffered fire damage to their properties in the Revolutionary

War, and that over half of Iowa was purchased with bounty land grants.

These records are valuable to us in our genealogical searching, so we all should look into using this source of information. It isn't the easiest thing to do, but at least it doesn't cost too much. Happy Hunting!

## JUNE

The Society had two speakers for the June meeting. **Jan STODDARD** and **Margaret CARLSON**, from the LDS Family History Center came to explain some of the records you may find through the Family History Centers in Grand Rapids and Lansing. They told us that all workers at the FHCs are volunteer workers, but they have been trained to be able to assist us in our searchings. Jan started out by explaining that both centers are attempting to gather all of the vital records of the area so that researchers will be able to locate their Michigan ancestors through the holdings at their local FHC. In addition to the vital records each center has its own 'specialized' set of records. For example, the Grand Rapids center had information on the Netherlands and Germany, as well as the 1881 census of the British Isles (and three counties from the 1851 census) while Lansing has the same 1881 census, along with information on probate and land records of Ingham County, Ontario land records and the 1836 Michigan Indian census. Of course, both centers have many other types of records available for the asking. The Ancestral File and the IGI (International Genealogical Index) combined contain well over 500 million names. The different types of records available make each center unique, but access to the Ancestral File, the IGI, and the library in Salt Lake City make them similar. Ordering of materials from Salt Lake City was explained, as well as several other aspects of

researching at the centers. So many things were mentioned that they cannot all be written here. Margaret talked about the Locality File, which is a wonderful finding aid, where you can learn what holdings are available at various levels, such as the U.S., followed by Michigan, and going another step, to Ionia County, and then even to the township we want to see. She explained the significance of each step in this process, and how the holdings at each level could be helpful in our search. Margaret also talked about the Scottish records and bemoaned the fact that English county names and lines were changed in the 1970s, making British research more difficult. All in all, with talks and the handouts, everyone who was at the meeting came away with a much greater understanding of the LDS Family History Centers and their roles for research. You should plan on visiting soon if you have not already been there recently. The hours were given for each center, so we would know when to visit. They are: East Lansing, 431 E. Saginaw: Tuesday through Thursday 10-8 and Saturday, 10-2 and Grand Rapids, 2780 Leonard NE: Tuesday, 9-2, and Wednesday and Thursday, 9-9. Try to visit soon--it could be very interesting.



The Ionia County Women's Festival was held on April 24th and ICGS was part of the program. At our booth we had baked goods for sale, along with information about our society which was distributed to many interested visitors. At 3:00 Lori Fox taught a beginning genealogy class and we met many people interested in our hobby.

Thanks to those who sent baked goods:

Marilyn Cahoon of Clarksville  
Ellen Willemin of Portland  
Joan McCord of Ionia  
Bonnie Jackson of Lake Odessa  
Louise Cook of Lyons  
Elaine Garlock of Lake Odessa  
John Waite of Lake Odessa  
Marilyn Steward of Ionia

Another special thanks to those who took time out of their busy schedules to help out at the booth:

Lori Fox of Portland  
Ellen Willemin of Portland  
Bonnie Jackson of Lake Odessa  
Lois Curtiss of Lake Odessa  
Teresa Sweet of Sheridan  
Pam Swiler of Lake Odessa  
Elaine Garlock of Lake Odessa  
Joe and Joan McCord of Ionia assisted with an extra table for us.

**G.R. PRESS NEWSPAPER  
CLIPPING PICTURES**

Teresa Sweet found the clippings of pictures from the Grand Rapids Press circa 1913-1917, in a scrapbook she purchased some years ago and is willing to scan and send copies to anyone who is interested. The following names were written on the other side of each picture.

Miss Martha **ANTONSEN**, Trufant  
Miss Lucile **BRICKER**, Belding  
Billy **BURKE**, actress & baby (Mrs. Florenz Ziegfeld, Jr.)  
Doris **BURR**, Pentwater  
Leta **FRITZ**, Coloma  
Mrs. Joseph Warren **GERRITY & son**, Joseph Jr., of Newton, Mass. (former Miss Margaret **MCKEE**, daughter of S.W. **MCKEE** of Grand Rapids)  
Miss Zeoda **GONYEA**, Belding  
Miss Luella **HABERSTUMPF**, Ionia  
Ella **HAPKE**, Grand Rapids

Miss Valerie **HENSHEL**, Grand Rapids  
Miss Georgie **LEE**, Grand Rapids  
Dorothy **MCAFFEE**, Grand Rapids  
Miss Rosamond **MCDONALD**, Newaygo  
Patience **NICHOLS**, Cadillac  
Gladys **MERRILL**, Saranac  
Bertha **PHILLIPS**, Grand Rapids  
Miss Leona **SCHNEIDER**, Grand Rapids  
Gertrude **SEIBERT**, Petoskey  
Catherine **SILKOWSKI**, Grand Rapids  
Marguerite Constance **TREAT**, Grand Rapids  
Miss Mildred May **TODD**, Manistee  
Miss Gladys **VANHORN**, Portland

**RESPONSE TO OUR QUESTION**

Ford Wright responded to our request in the last newsletter regarding the list of names on page 11. He believes that the list is the Ionia County Federation of Women's Clubs which met about twice a year. His mother was an officer of the Federation and he recognized many of the names as people who were once neighbors. Thanks Ford!

**PRIVATE DETECTIVES AND  
ILLINOIS LAW**

On July 24, 1998, Governor Jim Edgar signed Illinois Public Act 90-633 (effective immediately) that amended the Illinois Private Detective Act of 1993. This exempts "persons, firms, or corporations engaged solely and exclusively in tracing and compiling lineage or ancestry," from the licensing provisions of the Private Detective Act. This means anyone consulting public records may do so, even for monetary payment, without possessing an Illinois private detective's license.

The Illinois State Genealogical Society credits Louis L. Myers, Jr. with being instrumental in the passage of this bill. At a special

ceremony during the ISGS fall conference, awards chair, Libby Grimm, explained Lou's contribution. Her remarks, published in the ISGS Newsletter 19:6

(November/December 1998), are as follows: "...after Illinois House Bill 2391 was introduced to amend the Private Detective Act of 1993, ISGS had very little time to rally support for the Bill. When Lou was called, he immediately went to the Capitol Building to seek information on the bill. He sought support of our assemblymen in both political parties, lineage societies, and had members present when the bill was discussed and voted on by the committee. Thanks to Lou, it was passed."

Lou Myers, Jr. received an ISGS Community Service Award for his outstanding contribution to Illinois genealogy.

Reprinted from the Federation of Genealogical Societies FORUM, Volume 11, Number 1, Spring 1999, page 15.

**HELP WANTED**

We need a delegate to attend the Michigan Genealogical Council meetings at the Library of Michigan Forum in Lansing, Michigan. Meetings are held on the following dates for 1999. Time TBA. July 8, 1999, September 9, 1999, November 11, 1999. I feel it is important that someone from our Society be there to represent us. If you live in the area and are willing and available to attend, please let me know.

Pam Swiler, President



**Booklet**

Carr School District #9, Odessa Twp., Ionia County, Michigan

Idelphia A. **PEACOCK**, Teacher  
Pupils:

- Mattie **ELDREDGE**
- Loyde **KOUTZ**
- Geneva **SCHNABEL**
- Florence **KOUTZ**
- Clarence **HAUSSERMAN**
- Walter **MISKE**
- Hazel **ELDREDGE**
- Bernard **MAJINSKA**
- Maude **GOODMOOT**
- Nettie **EDGEComb**
- Gertrude **LEHMAN**
- Bertha **KOUTZ**
- Reva **MAJINSKA**
- Bertha **MAJINSKA**
- Lawrence **BURGESS**
- Thomas **LEHMAN**
- Laura **KOUTZ**
- Polly **CROSBY**
- Ward **PARKER**
- Joe **CROSBY**
- Matha **KOUTZ**
- Fred **MAJINSKA**
- Hugh **PARKER**
- Kenneth **GOODMOOT**
- Vera **MAJINSKA**
- George **MAJINSKA**
- Alta **ELDREDGE**
- Ira **EDGEComb**
- Murel **EDGEComb**
- Eiry **CUMMINS**
- Katharine **MAJINSKA**
- Ruth **MAJINSKA**
- Robert **CROSBY**
- Naomi **KOUTZ**
- Mary **GOODMOOT**
- Pearl **HAUSSERMAN**
- Clarence **MAJINSKA**

Herrick **FOX**, Director  
Philip **DODDS**, Moderator  
Charles **KOUTZ**, Treasurer

**THE TROWBRIDGE GATHERING  
1915 IONIA CO.**

The 10th Trowbridge reunion was held at the home of Allie Nash and family September 11, 1915. The day was pleasant for a gathering after the storm of the day before, which kept some from being present who had planned on attending, however the 59 relatives and friends present spent a very pleasant day.

There were some present from Canada, Lakeview, Ionia, Grand Ledge, Hastings, Saranac and Freeport. Dinner was served at noon. In the afternoon the business meeting was held. Grace **ROSENBERG** was elected treasurer. After the meeting, ice-cream and cake were served. The company gave Mr. and Mrs. **NASH** a rising vote of thanks for the entertainment given them, an invitation was given to have the reunion at the home of Mrs. Dora **NORTHROPE** the next year. Money spent the past year, postcards 50 c, printing 75c, and 21c for phoning. Total \$1.46. Invitations sent 48.

Marriages - Earl **HENDRICKS** - Abbie **TROWBRIDGE** June 5, 1915. Those present were Will **MIFFLIN** and wife, Roy **MIFFLIN** and wife, and son Chester of Canada. Will **TROWBRIDGE** and wife of Lakeview. Job **KINGSTON** and wife, Will **WORDEN**, wife and two sons, Job and Frederick and Leon **SMITH** of Ionia. Mrs. Dora **NORTHROP** and Grandson, Schilz of Grand Ledge, Rev. **BADDER** and wife of Hastings, Mrs. Charles **LOW** of Grand Rapids. Rev. **HUMPHREYS**, wife and two daughters, Neoma and Virginia of Freeport, Abbie and Anna **TROWBRIDGE** of Saranac. Elisha **TROWBRIDGE**, Vernon **TROWBRIDGE**, wife and daughter,

Marion. Mrs. Jay **TROWBRIDGE** and two sons Perry and Grant. Clarence **TROWBRIDGE**, wife and daughter, Mildred, Almond **TROWBRIDGE**, wife 2 sons Ray and Gay and two daughters, Mary and Minnie. Allie **NASH**, wife and son Loren and daughters, Inez, Reva and June. Rev. I.S. **PHILO** and wife of Clarksville, Henry **ROSENBERGER** and wife, Claire **GOODSELL**, wife and two daughters, Alice and Helen. Dwight **ROSENBERGER** and Grace **ROSENBERGER**. Mrs. Guy **SINGLETERY** and son Lawrence.

Transcription typed by Natalie **BERG**. Submitted by Cindy **BRYANT**.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Late news...We held an election at our January meeting for three positions who terms had expired. President, Secretary and one Trustee. Pamela **SWILER** was re-elected President and Lori **FOX** was re-elected Secretary. Our new Trustee is Ford **WRIGHT**

We would like to thank Richard **HEAVEN** for serving for us the past two years.

Our current officers are:  
Pamela **SWILER**, President  
Marilyn **STEWART**, Vice President  
Lori **FOX**, Secretary  
Lois **CURTISS**, Treasurer  
Ford **WRIGHT**, Trustee  
Bonnie **JACKSON**, Trustee  
John **WAITE**, Ex-Officio Member



**Reva Keefer – Where are you now?**



MERRILL

1902



### **1899 Portland High School Graduating Class**

**Back Row (Left to right): Bruce Gibbs, Minnie Newman, Clara Le Alley, Lulu Martin, Myrtle Prosser, Allie Allen, Harold Bandfield**

**Middle Row: Mable Stevens, unknown, John Mathews, Maude Benedict, unknown, Ethel Stone, Gertrude McClelland, Richard Bates**

**Front Row: Harriet Toan, unknown, ? Webster, unknown, Mr. Agnew, Blanche Vaughn, Miss Weldy, Marie Robinson**

**Thank you to Marjorie Shelton for her contribution. If anyone knows who the "unknowns" are, contact us so we can add them.**



### **50<sup>th</sup> Class Reunion**

**held at the home of Lula Martin Parkhurst of Grand Ledge June 22, 1949. Present are (left to right): unknown, Maude Benedict Kitchen, unknown, John Mathews, unknown, Lula Martin Parkhurst, unknown. If you can identify the "unknowns" let us know!**

The Graduating Class  
Of the  
Portland High School  
Announce their  
Commencement Exercises  
June Sixteenth  
Nineteen hundred and ten  
At eight o'clock  
Opera House



## Class Roll

Lula M. Packard  
Edna Mae Batley  
Mabelle Eva Schultz  
Lena Alberta Jones  
Edna Mae Rowe  
Lrona Mae Coe  
Jennie Coleman  
Eleanor Fern Dadson  
Helen Jessie Eddy  
Katherine La Sellen

Charles Francis Gilden  
Winifred Bell  
Emma A. Larson  
D. Ferris Saxton  
Fannie Murl Watson  
Leon E. Pilkinton  
Lester Martin Campbell  
Ralph Ernest Blackman  
Dwight Fistler  
Allen Way Hughes

## **1999 Calendar of Events - Ionia County Genealogical Society**

### **July**

- 3 25th Anniversary of Art in the Park in Lake Odessa
- 5 7:30 p.m. First Families of Ionia County Society Meeting at Swilers
- 24 1:00 p.m. Regular Membership Meeting - Beth Wills, Internet and Rootsweb
- 29 7:00 p.m. ICGS Board Meeting at Swilers
- 31 Depot Day - ICGS Civil War Reenactment

### **AUGUST**

- 3 7:30 p.m. First Families of Ionia County Society Meeting at Swilers
- 14 1:00 p.m. Regular Membership Meeting - Honorable Judge Gerald J. Supina, Ionia County Probate Court speaking on Probate Records
- 26 7:00 P.M. ICGS Board Meeting at Swilers
- 28 10:00-2:00 Depot Museum open to public for researchers

### **SEPTEMBER**

- 7 7:30 p.m. First Families of Ionia County Society Meeting at Swilers
- 11 1:00 p.m. Regular Membership Meeting - Wilma Ackerson. Topic Lyons/Muir Historical Society
- 15 Deadline for First Families application for 1999
- 21 First Families of Ionia County Society Work Session at Swilers
- 25 10:00-2:00 Depot Museum open to public for researchers
- 28 First Families of Ionia County Society Work Session at Swilers
- 30 7:00 p.m. ICGS Board Meeting at Swilers

### **OCTOBER**

- 5 7:30 p.m. First Families of Ionia County Society Meeting at Swilers
- 9 1:00 p.m. ICGS Regular Membership Meeting, Patricia Brown, Author of The Diaries of Lizzie A. Dravenstatt 1870 - 1928
- 23 First Families Banquet - time and place TBA
- 28 7:00 p.m. ICGS Board Meeting at Swilers
- 30 10:00-2:00 Depot Museum open to public for researchers

ICGS Newsletter

Editor: Pamela Swiler

Typist: Leora Slosser



WHEN PORTLAND MICH HELD ITS GREATEST CELEBRATION  
OF JOY NOV 11 1918. PHOTO BY VANHORN.



**Do you know who these cute little patriots are?**

If so, let us know!

The store window display contains photos of the men in the service. Although the spelling may not have been the best, the message was loud and clear that they were happy to have the war over.

-Postcard owned by Marilyn J. (Swiler) Compton.

Now available to  
members....

**HandiLens®**  
Bookmark/Wallet  
Magnifiers

The cost is \$2.50 for the bookmark size and \$2.00 for the wallet size. These are great when working on those hard to read census records, courts records, etc. Several members have already used them and can attest to how well they work! To order, complete order blank and return to: ICGS, 13051 Ainsworth Road, Route 3, Lake Odessa, MI 48849. **Make checks payable to ICGS.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

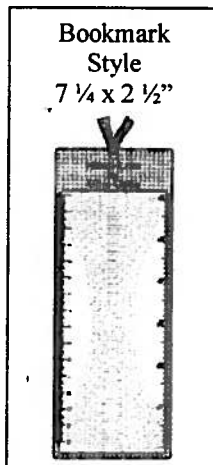
Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Quantity: \_\_\_\_\_

Style:        Book Mark or Wallet (Circle one)

Help us cut costs by including a SASE! Thank you!





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

**Membership Information:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

List five Ionia County Surnames you are researching: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*Note: All information may be published in upcoming newsletters or placed on our internet web site unless you indicate in writing otherwise.*

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

**TO:**

**Don't miss  
Depot Day!  
July 31<sup>st</sup>  
Lake Odessa, MI**