

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.

Volume 7 - Number 1

January - March 2002

Happy New Year! I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome new members to our society and welcome back returning members! 2002 will be full of great events for our society.

We start the year off with the sale of our first published book - the reprint of the 1881 *The History of Ionia & Montcalm Counties*, by John SCHENCK. We are very pleased with the end result of this book. There are several copies still available, and we will be shipping out orders through the remainder of this month for those who already ordered but have not received their copies. Many, many thanks go to Dale JACKSON who spent countless hours on this project and donated not only his time, but also the gas for his vehicle while he made several trips back and forth to the printer and helped with delivery. There were also a great number of long distance calls made. - Thank you, Dale! We appreciate all your hard work!

Thanks also to Patricia BRAVENDER, who has once again indexed the newsletter for 2001. That is such a tedious job, but a valuable tool for anyone who would like to refer back to past issues. Thank you, Pat!

A special welcome goes to Gary VEALE, our newest board member, who replaces Lori FOX as secretary. Now, don't think for a moment that we would let Lori get

away from us...we promoted her!!! That's right - she is now the Vice-President of our society. Welcome Gary, and thank you, Lori. Lori replaces Teresa LEAKE SWEET, who completed her term and now is spending more time keeping up with those busy teenage daughters! If any of you have teenagers, or like myself, have had them, you know how demanding they can be on your time. Enjoy them while they are young - they grow up and away much too fast! Thank you, Teresa, for your service on our board and we look forward to working with you on future projects.

There are several events coming up this year that you will want to make note of . . . the first being a research trip to Western Michigan University Archives in Kalamazoo, Michigan. Sharon CARLSON will be our guest speaker in April and will tell us what is available there - then the following weekend, we plan to actually go there and apply what we learned! Check the Calendar of Events for dates and times. Contact me if you would like to share a ride and I will see what I can do.

Later in April is the Ionia Women's Festival. Each year we have a booth there and sell our society's items. Lori Fox also teaches a beginning genealogy class that date. We will need volunteers to help with the booth. If you are available to help please let me know ASAP. Thank you in advance for helping out.

The date for the First Families application deadline for this year has changed - it will now be September 1st. If you have your application ready now - send it in! We meet once a month on the 1st Tuesday of the month to review applications. If you are interested in helping with this committee in any way - either on the banquet plans, mailings, or anything else, contact Jim MOSES. Our group is getting so large that we really need some extra help to do it right. It takes many people to make this part of our society happen and be a success. Please step up and help out. You won't regret it.

We will soon be releasing a flyer that has all the items available for sale through our society. Look for it in an upcoming issue of our newsletter.

~ Pam SWILER, President
Ionia County Genealogical Society

Our slate of officers for 2002:
President - Pam SWILER
Vice-President - Lori FOX (new position)
Treasurer - Lois CURTISS
Recording Secretary - Gary VEALE (new member)
Trustee - Janis KENYON (re-elected)
Trustee - Marilyn STEWARD
Correspondence Secretary - Bonnie JACKSON (re-elected)
Ex-Officio Member - John WAITE

We thank you for your dedication to our society. ♥ ♥ ♥

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Crawling the Web!

Please note this new address for the INGHAM COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY:
<http://www.IngCoGeneSoc.org>

◆
From: "Al JENSEN"
<aljensen6354@email.msn.com>

I would like to introduce you to Family History Radio at <www.familyhistoryradio.com>.

As the interest of family history work is growing by exponential numbers...so also is the amount of information available on genealogy, especially what one can find on the internet. It can be overwhelming.

The purpose of Family History Radio is to provide the most current information on Family History... including everything from reviewing the latest genealogy products, services and software...to covering conventions, reporting on society activities, and offering tips and advice to those who may be just beginning or are presently involved with family history. Think of it as the nightly news of Family History.

We call it Family History Radio because we share the information with audio. Instead of reading about new developments, you'll hear them in the form of interviews to add further depth to the subject. Simply click on the radio button next to the articles and your computer will automatically play the interview. Listen at your convenience, and work while you listen. We are up 24 hours a day, 7 days a week...with continuous updates to the website. In addition to news and information, we also

want to share the emotional side of Family History...the joy of finding long lost relatives...the extra hours at the library...the scientific knowledge of DNA that could result in your family heritage saving your own life...making your own family history worth remembering. These are the things that we want to bring to you in helping to make your Family History work a life-changing experience.

We hope you'll enjoy FamilyHistory Radio. As we are just starting out...please be patient with us and let us know what you think. We would like nothing more than to get to know our family of listeners and look forward to your participation in this great work of Family History.

Al Jensen
Family History Radio
1863 East Foxborough Lane
Draper, UT 84020
(801) 553-6354
Mobile (801) 231-5541
info@familyhistoryradio.com

◆
Michael John NEILL once again gives us something to think about - take a minute to go to this site and read what COULD happen to your genealogy records in the future if you don't plan ahead! The article is entitled, "*Cleaning Mother's House*":

<http://www.ancestry.com/library/view/news/articles/5069.asp>

Please note these new addresses/
e-mail addresses for our members:

- Grace WEDDERBURN
Email address correction:
<graciel2@iserv.net>
It is a small L, not a "one" after gracie.
- Pat BRAVENDER
Email address change:
<pbravender@bravender.dyndns.org>
Researching: HINES, HINDS, RISING
- Pamela SO
New address:
8719 Garrison Road
Peyton, CO 80831
(719) 495-2495

Congratulations to Pat ZANDER on her recent retirement as librarian at the Saranac Library. We wish you much enjoyment during your retirement years.

OCTOBER SPEAKER

by Jim MOSES

James T. LYONS was the guest speaker at the October, 2001, meeting of the ICGS, giving a very informative presentation on the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) in Michigan. The GAR was the major veteran's organization for those who were involved with the Civil War, and it was formed to help the veterans retain ties with others who had served.

GAR posts were set up all over the country, and they performed a variety of other functions besides just keeping the men in touch with each other. Some of the groups worked on getting legislation passed that would give better benefits to members. Founded in the spring of 1866 by Dr. STEVENSON in Decatur, IL, the GAR quickly became the most important Civil War organization, absorbing many smaller groups while it grew to about 430,000 members in 1890.

One interesting note is that the organization voted to remain entirely comprised of Civil War veterans, thus deciding their own fate--when the last Civil War veteran died, so would the GAR. This happened on August 3, 1954, when Albert WILSON died at the age of 109.

In order to help the main organization, several smaller "Cadet Corps" were started. The Sons of Union Veterans grew out of this, along with several women's groups (most notably the Daughters of Union Veterans and the Women's Relief Corps).

One of the main things Mr. Lyons talked about was the value to our hobby of the records kept by the GAR. "Post Descriptive Books", application forms, memorial record books, and other types of records were kept for the 463 posts here in Michigan, as well as for other posts in other states. These not only listed the members, but also had details of where and when the

soldier was in the service, when a member was "honorably discharged" (meaning he was too old to be a member anymore), and when a member received a "Resolution of Respect" (when he died).

GAR records are hard to come by in some areas, but if you can find them (some are located in the State Archives), you will find a good source of information about people who fought to keep the Union together.

?? QUERIES ??

Long Lost History of Clara Snell

"I am looking for a resource to assist me in locating descendants of Clara SNELL. I have recently begun working on my family history and I have discovered a very old photo album from the 1880's. This photo album has 20 pictures of various individuals. In the front cover it is handwritten:

Clara Snell
Ionia City, Mich.
April 29th 82

Some of the pictures have the photographer written on the front or back of the photo from Ionia or Lowell, Michigan. Since I have become interested in genealogy, I have a greater understanding of the importance of family photographs. Let me know if you can point me to a resource that could assist me. It would be great to put these photos in the hands of the family of Clara Snell. Thank you!"

Rob Erickson
6913 Limerick Lane
Edina, MN 55439
(952) 943-9630
<walkerickson@hotmail.com>

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[Readers, you have to marvel at the serendipity of the following two queries arriving so closely to each other. The first was sent to the Ionia Sentinel and forwarded by them to Jim Moses. The second was sent directly to Jim. He says he "will be making contact with" both of the Marthas (and putting them in touch with each other, no doubt!]

Martha WHITE-FARRELL writes:

"I am trying to find out how to get info about my Ggrandfather Thomas WHITE. He was married in Ionia, Dec.16, 1880, to Ann Eliza BURKETT. Place of marriage Orleans, Ionia County. Place of residence was Easton Twp., Ionia County. I have a copy of the marriage certificate. I also know he owned a saloon there in 1891 on 344 Main St. He lived at 444 W. Front St. He also had a brother George who worked with him and resided at the Crawford Hotel. He had another brother named John and a sister named Nellie. I believe they went to school there when they were young. Where can I write to find out [more] info?"

I know Thomas was born 10/10/1856 in Brantford Prov., Ontario, Canada. Their parents names were Samuel White and Amelia TABOR. I don't know if his siblings were born in Ionia or Canada. This is the basics of my knowledge and it seems to dead end here. The only other fact I know is he died in Pontiac, Mi. , 2/8/1932. I have a copy of his death certificate. I don't know his siblings' ages. I have been led to believe that Ionia was their home.

Any and all info you can give me would be greatly appreciated. I live in Massachusetts and it is very hard and expensive to keep calling places and getting nowhere.

Thank you in advance."

Martha E. White-Farrell
<MF5329@AOL.COM>

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... and from Martha WHITE-MARTIN:

"I have been doing research on the "White" name as my relatives are from the Ionia area. I came across "White's Bridge" on the internet and understand it was named after a prominent family.

My ggrandfather was Thomas White (born 1856) and is the son of Samuel and Amelia (nee Tabor) White who migrated to the Ionia area from Canada. The history on the internet doesn't provide me with enough information. I was wondering if you knew if my family of White's was involved with the bridge?

Thank you in advance for any help you can offer.

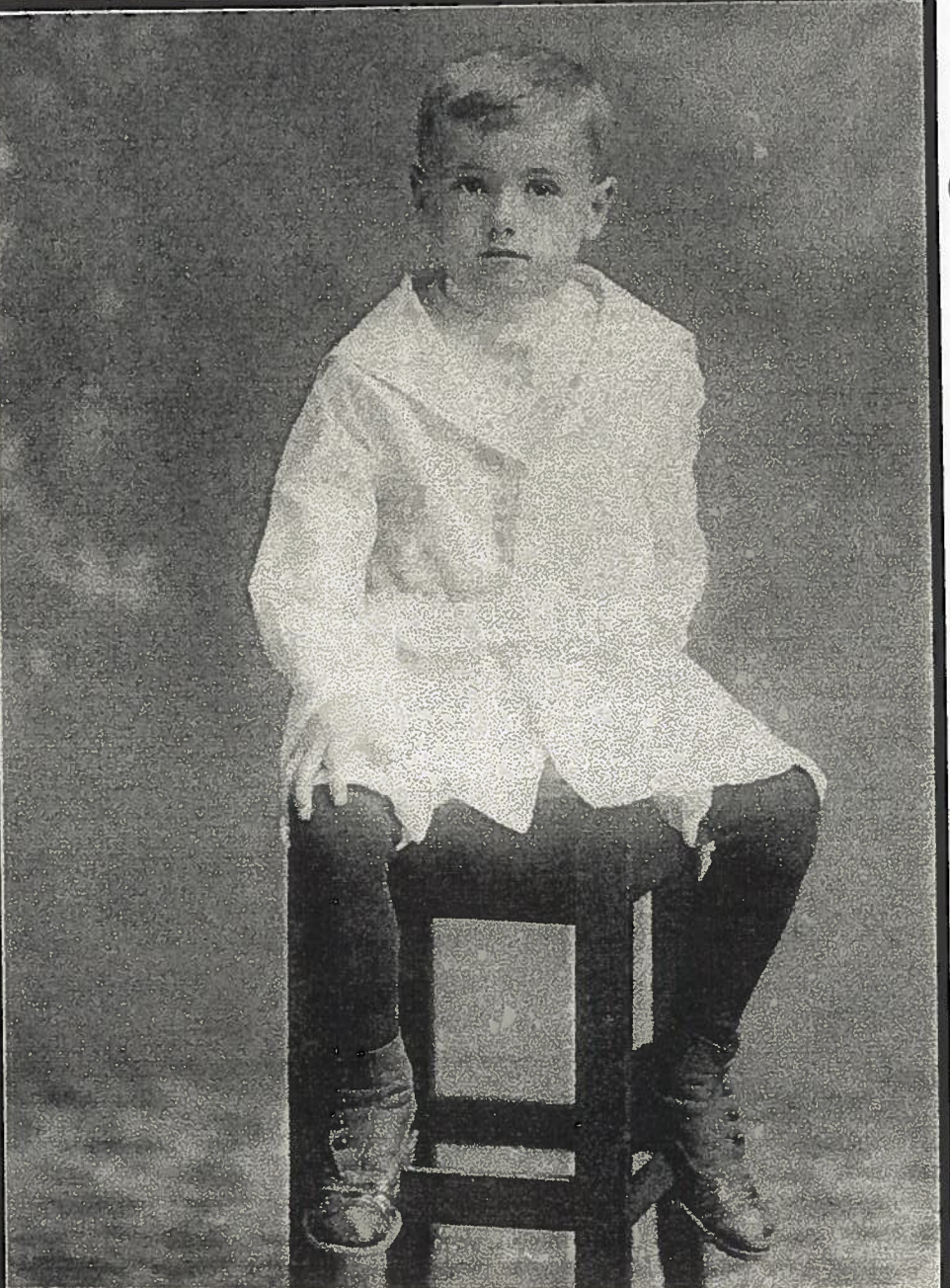
Sincerely,
Martha White-Martin
N1020 Vinnie Ha Ha Road
Fort Atkinson, WI 53538
(920) 563-3165
<midwest@compufort.com>

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URGENT REQUEST!

This year is the 350th anniversary of the landing of the SWARTWOUT family in North America. The name has many variations such as SWARTOUT, SWARTHOUT, SWARTWOOD, SWATHWOOD, SWARTHWOOD, etc. We need help gathering lines, pictures, articles, wills, whatever you have stashed in your attic. We would really appreciate it if you shared with us what you have. There are literally thousands of us looking for our roots, looking for connections. For our anniversary we need to update our list of folks that are descendants of any of those variations. We also have a family newsletter that costs only \$5.00 per year. Just send us your mailing address.

I am the maintainer of "The Updated Swartwout Chronicles". People submit their lines, ged-coms, etc., and I just drop them



LYNN D. REMALIE

BORN AT HASTINGS, MICH., AUG. 6TH, 1905.
DROWNED IN GRAND RIVER AT PORTLAND, MICH.,
MARCH 7TH, 1914.

into the database. It is everyone's database. Each person is responsible for his own submissions. It is not copyrighted.

~Kathy
<kathyhoeldke@sympatico.ca>
<ldyk@hotmail.ca>

Marriage is the triumph of imagination over intelligence. A second marriage is the triumph of hope over experience.

— Samuel Johnson



Pam Swiler writes that "this unidentified Portland place is a postcard from Ann Slowins' collection." Can any of our readers offer information about this establishment, the **STEDMAN's**, or identify the people? We will share your recollections in a future issue.

Granholm Opines On FOIA Question

from *MIRS Capitol Capsule*,
December 6, 2001, page 9:

Attorney General Jennifer **GRANHOLM** today ruled that public bodies covered by the state's Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) may not impose a more restrictive schedule for access to public records for certain persons than it does for the general public - based solely upon the purpose for which the records are sought.

That finding came in Opinion #7095, issued in response to a question posed by Rep. Gretchen **WHITMER** (D-East Lansing). Whitmer posed the question on

the fact that some county clerk offices require that persons seeking to inspect public records first identify their purpose for doing so. If the purpose is for genealogical research, the clerk's office imposes a more restrictive schedule for access to the records than it does for other requestors.

In her opinion, Granholm noted that the FOIA statute requires access to all public records not specifically exempted by section 13 of the FOIA. In addition, the opinion notes that the statute contains no provision requiring a requester of information to disclose the purpose of the request.

"The initial or future uses of the information contained in the

records to be inspected are irrelevant to the request to inspect the public record," Granholm wrote. "Accordingly a public body may not require a person to disclose his or her purpose for inspecting the records as a condition to obtaining access to the records. It follows that a public body may not restrict access to its records based solely on the requestor's purpose for inspecting the records."

You know you're getting old when you get the same sensation from a rocking chair that you once got from a roller coaster.



The History of the Founding and Naming of Past and Present Ionia County Post Offices

from: *Michigan Place Names*
by Walter ROMIG, L.H.D.; Wayne State University Press; Detroit 1896

CAMPBELL: Jeremiah and Martin **CAMPBELL**, brothers and recent immigrants from Ireland, became the first settlers here, in 1840, as squatters until they later bought the land; when the township was organized in 1849, it was named for them; Richard D. **HUDSON** became the first postmaster on Aug. 1, 1854, the office operating until Sept. 15, 1902.

CANADIAN SETTLEMENT; See **KEENE**

CASS; See **BERLIN**

CHADWICK; Charles **CHADWICK** settled here in Orleans Township in 1856; when the Detroit, Lansing & Northern Railroad came through, he got a depot built here, with himself as station agent and he got a post office opened on April 10, 1872, with himself as its first postmaster; the office operated until Jan. 15, 1907; also known as Chadwick's Corners.

CHANDLER; Dayton M. **CHURCH** became the first postmaster of this rural post office in Boston Township on Sept. 22, 1879, succeeded by Eustace E. **CHURCH** on Dec. 27, 1879, the office operating until Oct. 30, 1902.

CLARKSVILLE; the first settlers in the area were Jeremiah and Martin **CAMPBELL**, brothers and recent immigrants from Ireland, in 1840, and the township, organized in 1849, was named for them; after the owners of a local cheese factory, this village in Campbell Township was called Skipperville; Clark L. **HOWARD** opened a store in 1875 and secured a post office named Clarksville on May 12, 1875, with him as its first postmaster; a station on the Detroit, Grand Rapids &

Western Railroad; incorporated as a village in 1925.

COLLINS; platted by Josephus **STEBBINS**, who settled here in Portland Township about 1850, and first called Stebbinsville; when William A. **STALEY** became its first postmaster on April 11, 1871, he had the office named, and the Detroit, Grand Rapids & Western Railroad station renamed, to honor his father-in-law, Alfred **COLLINS**, a large landowner in the area; the post office operated until Dec. 15, 1911.

CORNELL; See **SEBEWA**

DANBY; first settled by Chancellor **BARRINGER** in 1835 on land owned by A. S. **WADSWORTH**; John **COMPTON** and his family came in 1838; a flag station on the Detroit, Lansing, & Northern Railroad; named by Charles B. **BROOKS** after his native Danby, Conn., when the township was organized in 1845; John Compton was the first postmaster, Sept. 16, 1850 to 1868, while Samuel F. **DAVIS** became the last in 1879; the office being closed on April 21, 1900.

DICKERTOWN; the first settlers here in Keene Township included Robert **TAYLOR**, James **CRYSLER**, John **FOLLETT**, and Cyrus **ROSE**; the settlement was named from the penchant its pioneers had for trading or dickering.

DICKINSONVILLE; See **KIDSVILLE**

DILDINE; storekeeper Manly B. **LANSING** became the first postmaster of this hamlet in Easton Township on May 24, 1899, the office operating until Sept. 13, 1902.

DODGEVILLE; Francis **GIHON** became the first postmaster of this rural post office on Jan. 9, 1833; the office was closed on July 24, 1833, but was restored on May 24,

1834, with William **HENRY** as its postmaster.

DORIS; grocer Milton J. **LAMBERT** became the first postmaster of this rural post office in Berlin Township on Sept. 6, 1899, the office operating until Nov. 30, 1901.

EASTON; first settled in 1833 by Alfred **CORNELL** Sr., and his family; Thomas Cornell, son of Alfred, was elected supervisor when Easton Township was organized in 1843; William **DILDINE** arrived from Elmira, N.Y., in 1843 and became the first postmaster on May 21, 1862; the office was closed on Nov. 8, 1871, but was restored from Jan. 30, 1872, to Sept. 4, 1872.

ELMDALE; this village at the Kent County line was given a station on the Detroit, Grand Rapids & Western Railroad and, on Jan. 28, 1889, a post office, with Leonard E. **LOTT** as its first postmaster, the office operating until May 15, 1940.

GENEREAVILLE; about 1830, Louis **GENEREAU** and his son began an Indian trading post here on the Grand River, about a mile west of Lyons; the **CAMPAUS**, who came into possession after the departure of the Genereaus, tried in vain to make a village of it.

GERMAN SETTLEMENT; See **MIRIAM**

GIBBS; a hamlet in 1878.

GRIDLEY; Oscar E. **JENNINGS** became the first postmaster of this rural post office in Berlin Township on Feb. 6, 1900, the office operating until Nov. 15, 1901.

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~ ~ Many thanks to Jane (**MUTCH**) **COOK** of Lake Odessa for sharing this information with us! As space and time permit, we will publish more post office histories in future issues.



"Dear Sirs:

The enclosed photos are of a Mr. & Mrs. James FANCHER, taken in 1884 in Port Huron; they apparently were residents of Ionia at that time. They belonged to my great-grandmother Carrie LEMON. I wonder if Mrs. Fancher wasn't a Lemon? I believe some of my relatives by the name of George W. Lemon and Mason Lemon may have lived in Ionia. I am wondering if anyone there in the Historical Society would have any information about Fancher's or Lemon's?"

Sincerely,

Sara ROBERTSON, 8306 Birchbark Dr., Mancelona, Michigan 49659

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"I desire info on Orange Township, and also anything about Ritenburgh's Corners (Grand River & Kelsey), especially the Freewill Baptist Church there from ca. 1880 - 84. Also still need info on the Ypsi Reed, Hayes, & also the DL & N Railroad in Ionia."

~ Merrilee MORRISON-COTTER
1080 E. North St.
Ionia, MI 48846
(616) 527-1199

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A man who prides himself on his ancestry is like the potato plant, the best part of which is under ground. - Spanish proverb

NOVEMBER SPEAKER

by Jim MOSES

The "Historian of Campbell Township", Richard HEAVEN, gave the talk at the November, 2001, meeting of the Ionia County Genealogical Society. He shared a little of his vast knowledge of Campbell Township, which was the last of our townships to be settled, possibly because it was such a swampy area.

Dick told us that the CAMPBELL family, from Ireland, came here in 1840 with their livestock, travelling up the Clinton Trail and stopping in Section 2 to settle. Several years later, in 1848, Marvil CHURCH bought land in the township and came to build his house there, but found another cabin already there. He didn't know that the NASH

family who had built it were temporarily back in New York. Apparently Mr. Nash wasn't too happy to find the Church family there when he returned.

A little later, in 1849, the township was named Campbell, in honor of the first settlers. Dick told us there were nine votes in that first election.

With the advent of the railroad in Campbell Township, the town of Clarksville was platted to make room for the railway system and for grain elevators near the tracks. The trains did come, and they went through Clarksville (spelling doom for the growth of nearby Pinhook). Clarksville continued to grow and soon boasted post offices, churches, schools, a doctor's office, livery stable, and several other

businesses, including an academy, with a \$5.00 per semester tuition. One of those churches, the Wesleyan Methodist Church, was started in the town in 1865.

Dick also told a story of a great bear hunt during those early days. It seems that a bear took a liking to one of Mr. and Mrs. FISH's hogs and the farmer, his wife, and one of the children tried to shoot the bear, stop it with an axe, and stab it with a pitchfork, but it got away and had to be hunted down by neighbors in the swamp the next day. (Now we know what the people did for excitement back then.)

Many thanks to Bonnie JACKSON for taking notes on Richard's talk for me -- I was unable to attend, but it sounds like I missed a good talk.

This is the reason why mothers are more devoted to their children than fathers: it is that they suffer more in giving them birth and are more certain that they are their own. -- Aristotle, 4th Century BC

The Vintage Voice

~ news & notices from early Ionia newspapers

From the Portland Observer,

15 June 1875:

Mr. **PROBASCO** offers the Union Hotel property, corner of Maple and James Sts. For sale.

22 June 1875:

At 6 o'clock Saturday evening last, there were 106 teams counted on our streets.

29 June 1875:

If any of our readers have a desire to know how a Colorado grasshopper looks, they may gratify their curiosity by calling at this office where we

have some specimens sent by T. J. **HITCHCOCK** of Denver City, Colorado to R. B. **SMITH** of this place, on exhibition.

6 July 1875:

Four hundred people went from this place to see **BARNUM's** show at Lansing last Saturday. They came back better satisfied than ever that Barnum knows how to humbug the people.

The M. E. Society of Sebewa and Danby has purchased a lot for a church site, of Mr. John **FRIEND**, situated in the southeast corner of Mr. Friend's farm. It is a beautiful location. The society intend to erect a church which will cost \$2000 or \$2500, and it is expected the society

will commence work on the church this fall or next spring. The amount paid for the lot was \$100, which was raised by subscription. J. D. **BROWN**, who is 86 years old, and the oldest settler in this vicinity, subscribed \$5.00.

E. W. **TAYLOR**, of Sunfield has just completed what is believed to be the best milk cellar in either Eaton or Ionia counties. The mason work was done by Mr. **PRESTON** and the joiner work by Mr. **MOORE**, both of this village. If we mistake not, L. E. **SHOWERMAN**, of Sebewa, has for a number of years held the front rank in this respect, but now it seems that our neighbors in Eaton are to rejoice in the palm of victory.



FGS Exclusive Offer

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FamilyTree
MAGAZINE PO Box 3279 • Harlan, IA 51593
www.familytreemagazine.com

MPFCO

North America now has communications with Europe through five cables.

Basket Meeting-The United Brethren of Sebewa will hold a Basket meeting $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile north of Sebewa Corners, July 18th, commence at 9 1/2 am, and continue during the day with an intermission long enough for refreshments at noon. An invitation is extended to one and all.

The wife of John FRIEND died of congestion of the lungs. Mrs. John Friend, whose death on the 4th inst. as mentioned in our last issue, was dearly beloved by all who knew her, and her premature death, she being but thirty six, has cast a gloom over the entire community where she lived. Her funeral was held on Tuesday last in the grove near Sebewa Corners, the attendance being so great that no building could be found large enough to accommodate the large concourse of mourning friends.

13 July 1875:

Croquet is doubtless the most popular game ever known among all classes of people.

Sheep shearing by horsepower seems funny but it is an accomplished fact. The machine acts on the same principle as the mowing machine.

20 July 1875:

P.G. COOK's office is with A. J. SOUTHARD.

Clarksville is the name of the new post office recently established in the township of Campbell, near Nash's corners.

27 July 1875:

Married OATLEY-GUNN in Sebewa, July 18th by Rev. Daniel MEYERS. Mr. Gravner B. Oatley and Miss Sarah H. Gunn, both of Sebewa Michigan.

13 Aug 1875:

The City of Ionia has bought the Ionia Woolen Factory together with three acres of land and the water power connected therewith and is going to lay water pipes along the principal streets. As there is a fold of 44 feet from the pond, they expect to be supplied with a pretty good system of water works at small expense.

17 Aug 1875:

Died - in Sebewa, Aug 13, 1875, Mr. Jacob SHOWERMAN, aged 71 years and 2 months. The deceased moved from Batavia, Genesee Co., NY to the township of Sebewa, in this county, thirty five years ago and resided on the farm where he died, during the whole of this time. Mr. Showerman and his brother in law were the fourth and fifth families in this township. They were obliged to underbrush their way in, the entire township being one dense forest. His children, of whom there were six, three of them now living, relate many touching incidents of pioneer life. One of Mr. Showerman's children, and the one he brought from New York in a cradle, lived until he was 21 years of age, and never spoke a word or walked a step. Dropsy on the brain when a baby was the cause of this.

Mr. Showerman came to this county in company with seven others, and visited Portland to get a meal of victuals. They went to Ionia the next day, and Mr. Showerman remained there a week before he could get a bid in for his land. Having but just money enough to pay for his land, he worked for his board in the forenoons and in the afternoons attended the sale. He finally succeeded in passing his bid in at the window, over the heads of the crowd. And it was cried off by the auctioneer. Having obtained the papers for his land he returned to New York, and three years later returned to Sebewa and there began almost a life's work of making for them a home.

31 Aug 1875:

Dr. D. A. BARNETT, a practical dentist from Detroit, has opened an office with Dr. BARNARD.

The air gun man is in town occasionally. He generally locates in front of some saloon and does a thriving business.

The liquor tax of Grand Ledge pays all the running expenses of the village, and consequently no village tax will be assessed there this year.

Eggs-Traordinary - One day last week Mr. F. N. BURHANS, of Sebewa, found one of his hens dead upon the nest. A post-mortem examination of the fowl revealed a monster egg, four inches long and seven inches in circumference. Investigation was pushed still further and an ordinary sized egg found inside the large one.

07 Sept 1875:

The Observer was last week printed by steam furnished by a small engine and boiler built by John GRINER.

05 Oct 1875:

Two mammoth ears of corn from the field of W. A. EMERY of Sebewa, are acknowledged. They ought to have been on exhibition at the county fair.

The Portland Library is open to the public every Saturday afternoon. Hand in a dollar and have the use of the library for one year.

Total receipts at the Ionia fair were \$1,900.

Many thanks to Teresa Sweet for posting these news items to the Ionia website. They are from the Robert W. GIEMAN Collection. Bob hand-copied these articles before there were copy machines! They day from 1867 - 1914. Let us know if you enjoy these, and we will add more to future issues.



"The New Year's greeting on the left was dated Dec. 25, 1911, and was among the keepsakes of my great-grandma Eliza M^cELROY SIMMONS of Belding. The postcard below was mailed from Lowell to my great-grandfather Ralph YOUNGS in Smyrna by his sister Lida Youngs KYSER on 13 February 1920."
 ~ Dottie SIMMONS PIECHOCKI



The AUNGST family farm near Portland recently received Centennial Farm designation. Originally purchased by Catharine SHEETS in January 1900, the farm now includes 48 acres producing beef cattle and hay. The Aungst family includes: Aaron, Lisa, Tessa, Rich, Jack, Vickie, Rob, and Pam. Our hearty congratulations to you!
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an INDIAN LEGEND
 about EARLY DAYS in LAKE ODESSA

from the *Lake Odessa Wave*, Aug. 14, 1958:

Editor's note: Here is a legend concerning earlier settlers and Indians in Lake Odessa. It is being reprinted here, from an old Lake Odessa Wave. Mrs. Archie CRIPPIN, now living in St. Johns, copied this

legend for the Wave to be reprinted at this time.

For three nights now, the hollow booming of tom-toms punctuated with the shrill weird notes of a lamenting wooden flute has been floating across the placid waters of Jordan Lake. The little settlement on the north shore of the lake, situated near where Lake Odessa, Michigan, now stands, had been stirred by the unusual sounds, and some of those living there had

suggested that someone investigate, but thus far no one had taken their usual method of minding their own business. They had found that to be the best system since settling here in the midst of Michigan's dense southern peninsula forest.

But this evening the notes coming as they did from the Indian village on the south shore began to irk good Daine TUPPER, wife of the settlement's earliest inhabitant, Myron, and

she complained, "Myron them Indians have been carrying on something fierce over there for three or four nights and I'm beginning to worry a bit about it. Why'n't you and John NEAD git the canoe and go find out what's up.?"

"Well" replied Tupper, "I've been listening to it too, but I don't know ever since we got here six years ago, I've been sort of careful to let chief SAUBA bring his troubles to me, rather than me taken them to him. It's worked out pretty good that way and they have been nice quiet people to live with, haven't they?"

"Sure they're all right, but what is that infernal drum going day and night for? I tell you Myron Tupper, if you don't find out what it's about I'm going over there myself."

And settler Tupper knew when his wife spoke thus, it might be an excellent idea to do something about it. Without further discussion, Myron strode out of the cabin. He crossed the little clearing in front and walked a short distance along a shaded woods trail. Shortly he heard the ring of an ax and in a moment he burst out of the tangle of brush and forest growth into another clearing where a neat log cabin stood, smoke curling from its huge fireplace.

The axman heard him almost as soon as he entered the clearing. He had been splitting logs, hewing out the rails that he would soon use to build a fence around his cleared space. They had been two of the first to clear their land and build log cabins, as they preceded the little band of New Yorkers who had selected this beautiful spot for pioneer homes. "Well you see Johnathan," began Myron, "the woman has been gittin' fidgety. Them Indians across the lake have been raisin' a big fuss for the last few nights and she calculates I'd better git over there and see what's doin'. You know how women is, either you git' movin' when they

think you ot to, near you don't have no peace of mind ner body. So, I'm wonderin' if you and me couldn't sort of amble over and check up on the commotion."

John was silent a moment, and then he smiled again as he said: "Myron I ain't never been a hand to stick my nose in other people's business, but if you think it'll do any good sure I'll go with you and be glad to. When do you want to start?" "Why, I guess we better git goin' right now. Can't see no good in holdin' off."

Leaving his ax sliced solidly in the log, John Nead turned away from his work and the two men struck off through the woods to the back where Tupper's canoe was pulled up high and dry. They launched the frail craft and took their places, Tupper in the bow, Nead in the stern, and paddled quickly away from the bower-like shoreline, striking across the lake. After pulling the canoe up on shore they struck off over a well-used trail southward from the lake. Wood smoke curled into their nostrils and soon they came out into a half-clearing, to find themselves in the midst of the Indian village, which was presided over by the dignified chief Sauba, a friendly settlement.

The usual commotion, the hustle and bustle of the Indian camp was lacking. Except for a few sniffing dogs, who were quick to detect the arrivals of strangers, and set up an unearthly din, the place seemed deserted. They strode across the clearing to the lodge that was somewhat apart. Smoke curled from its roof. Here lived Sauba, his comely wife and his wife's aged father. They stopped, looking questioningly toward the doorway, where a tanned skin had been dropped in lieu of a door.

Tupper raised his voice. "Chief Sauba you in thar? This is Tupper and John Nead come to talk with you. Come on out for a minute."

There was a silence, and then the curtain at the door rustled slightly and the chief stood looking at his white neighbors. "Glad you've come, chief Sauba mooms now, sun don't shine, moon don't shine, trees not

green. Chief has lost Rushing Water (his wife) and Beaver Tail (her father). Then he lapsed into silence. The two investigators exchanged glances, and John Nead spoke. "You mean they're dead?"

"Yes dead. Three suns now. Both sick. Both die quick. Eat these." And he turned to the lodge, returning with a handful of dried toadstools. They had made a fatal mistake.

"And now?" Tupper inquired.

The chief's expression changed. He pointed upward. "They are with the one who made them." he said simply. Then his eyes brightened. "Come with me. I show you." He turned on his heels and started off toward the west, through the village until he struck a trail at its edge. The white men followed. They walked a half a mile. The Indian chief increased his pace, and soon a low, chanting dirge became audible. Without warning, they came upon a scene that impressed the two white men quickly with its pagan beauty.

On a carpet of ferns, low growing vines and emerald green moss, rose a strange object, a round shape object built of branches, covered with mud. It was about six feet square and four feet high. In one side, the side facing the rising sun, was an opening large enough for a man to stoop and enter.

Around it seated on fur blankets on the ground was a complete circle of Indian women. They did not cease their monosyllabic song as the chief, followed closely by his two companions, approached. Two women moved slightly aside and the chief passed through the circle and approached the mound. Pointing to the opening chief Sauba said, "There."

Myron Tupper and John Nead knelt down and peered within. There they saw RUSHING WATER, sitting bolt upright, garbed in all her tribal finery, golden earrings suspended from

her ears, her abalony shell breastplate glistening on her breast. Her hair neatly parted in the center and her eyes were open, though sunken, and she seemed to stare straight at the curious pair. Two buckskin thongs which had been passed beneath her arms, and across her breast were fastened to an upright birch post driven into the ground at her back. Her knees were crossed and her hands lay easily clasped in her lap. Undoubtedly she had been seated thus and made secure shortly after death, or at least before the stiffness that marks death set in.

"Look!" said settler Tupper, pointing to a spot immediately in front of the seated woman. There was a huge brass kettle and it was filled to the brim with foodstuffs and edible delicacies. "She will need it," said chief Sauba, "before she travels far to the happy hunting ground."

The strange tale the two men told was the topic of conversation in the little settlement of Lake Odessa for several days after the two returned from their visit to chief Sauba's village and the sepulcher he built for his wife. Some of the young girls of the village expressed admiration for the earrings, breastplate, and the other trinkets and personal effects that adorned Rushing Water.

Chief Sauba, two weeks later, struck off through the forest on a hunting and fishing trip that took him southward and into territory he seldom traversed. He was gone a month. Then he appeared at the Tupper cabin and inquired for settler Tupper. Eyes flashing fire, he confronted Tupper, and his face registered anger as he said: "So when Sauba goes away, your people steal Rushing Water's things. Why? Sauba wants them back, quick!"

Tupper was taken by surprise and he hardly knew what Sauba was driving at, but he sensed that the Indian was intensely angry.

"What do you mean?" he demanded. "No one has hurt

Rushing Water."

"No," the Indian's tone was contemptuous. He turned on his heels. "Come," he commanded.

Quickly the Indian's birch bark canoe skimmed the water of Jordan Lake. He set off into the forest, with Tupper close on his heels.

Upon reaching the crude tomb in the forest, he motioned within and looked inside. The body still remained upright, but the breastplate, the gold earrings, the other wrist and finger ornaments, and brass kettle were gone. He arose, wondering what Sauba would demand, and fearful of the chief's wrath.

"It's a dirty shame." He said, "Wish I knew who took em. But I don't."

The Indian's inscrutable face did not soften. There was nothing to do. Some one in the settlement had taken the trinkets. No one knew who the guilty one was. And while the giggling group of young girls was under close scrutiny they could not be blamed without definite knowledge.

Two or three days later, the door to the settlement schoolhouse, a rude cabin in the woods between two of the cabin homes, opened noiselessly.

Chief Sauba, dressed in his gaudiest, painted in war paint, and bearing in his hands a gleaming hatchet and short bow, with a quiver full of arrows slung across his shoulder, entered.

The teacher was petrified with fear. Her giggling charges became so quiet one could have heard their hearts beat.

Chief Sauba stalked down the small room, and stopped before the first child. He leaned over and his sharp beady eyes seemed to search the little one's very soul. Just that glance, a close all-enveloping questioning look. Then he passed on to the next child and treated each one to the same searching scrutiny. Then he turned on his heel and walked noiselessly but swiftly out of the

door.

There was a flutter of suppressed murmuring. Children and teacher crowded around the open window and peered out. Chief Sauba stalked off into the forest.

The tomb of Rushing Water remained as he left it until a month of elemental harshness reduced it to a mound of twisted branches and dust. No one disturbed it.

But from the day he stalked into the forest after silently accusing every pupil in Lake Odessa's school of looting a grave, until the youngest of those present had passed on, no one ever saw or heard of Chief Sauba again. His people said his heart was broken at what he considered unpardonable treachery on the part of some of his white neighbors. They said he went into the forest to die, and they mourned him as dead. But Rushing Water's jewels were never found."

EJCHASHUM!

Ever wonder why you cannot translate or understand some census reports?

Perhaps this excerpt from the *Natchez Trace Newsletter* will help:

"I am a census taker for the city of baffalow. our city has groan very fast in resent years and now in 1865 it has becum a hard and time consuming job to count all the peePhill. There are not many that can do this work as it is nesesarie to have an ejchashum, which a lot of pursons still do not have. Anuther atribeart need for this job is good spelling for meny of the peePhill to be counted can hardly speek inglish, let alone spel there names!"

Using Tax Assessment Records

- From the National Archives and Records Administration:

Cynthia G. FOX writes:

"As part of an ongoing publications program, the assessment lists for the Civil War period are being converted to microfilm publications. The records from 34 states and territories are currently available on microfilm. Most of the publications reproduce the records for the period 1862 to 1866. However, for some of the territories there were so few records that all of the assessment lists have been included. The records for the Territory of Montana, for example, cover the period 1864-1872, and the records for the Territory of New Mexico date from 1862 to 1874, with a gap in the records in 1872. The lists are not complete for all collection districts, and there may be significant gaps like the one in the New Mexico records.

The lists are bound into volumes, and they have been microfilmed in that order. The lists are generally arranged by collection district, thereunder by divisions within the districts, and thereunder chronologically whenever possible. In order to make the lists easier to use, descriptive pamphlets have been prepared that list counties included in each collection district. The assessment lists are divided into three categories: annual, monthly, and special. Entries in the annual and monthly lists are for taxes assessed and collected in those specific periods. The special lists augment incomplete annual and monthly lists and include special taxes, such as a special income tax levied in October-1864. In the descriptive pamphlets the three types of lists are identified by the symbols A (annual), M (monthly), and S (special).

These records can prove very useful to local historians, family historians, and researchers

interested in specific industries within a geographic area. The lists usually provide the names of the persons or business firms liable for taxes, their addresses (city lists often include street addresses), the taxable period, pertinent remarks on the assessment, the article or occupation taxed, and a notation of payment. Besides detailing revenue raised by the general income tax, these various lists show levies against many diverse items such as inheritances and gold watches as well as larger tax liabilities against capital stock, circulating bank notes, and businesses subject to excise duties.

The Internal Revenue assessment lists, 1862-1874, for the following states and territories are currently available as microfilm publications:

- M754, Alabama, 1865-1866, 6 rolls;
- M755, Arkansas, 1865-1866, 2 rolls;
- M756, California, 1862-1866, 3 rolls;
- M757, Colorado, 1862-1866, 3 rolls;
- M758, Connecticut, 1862-1866, 23 rolls;
- M759, Delaware, 1862-1866, 8 rolls;
- M760, District of Columbia, 1862-1866, 8 rolls;
- M761, Florida, 1865-1866, 1 roll;
- M762, Georgia, 1865-1866, 8 rolls;
- M763, Idaho, 1865-1866, 1 roll;
- M764, Illinois, 1862-1866, 63 rolls;
- M765, Indiana, 1862-1866, 42 rolls;
- M766, Iowa, 1862-1866, 16 rolls;
- M767, Kansas, 1862-1866, 3 rolls;
- M768, Kentucky, 1862-1866, 24 rolls;
- M769, Louisiana, 1863-1866, 10 rolls;
- M770, Maine, 1862-1866, 15 rolls;
- M771, Maryland, 1862-1866, 21 rolls;
- M773, Michigan, 1862-1866, 15 rolls;
- M775, Mississippi, 1865-1866, 3 rolls;
- M776, Missouri, 1862-66, 22 rolls;
- M777, Montana, 1864-1872, 1 roll;
- M779, Nevada, 1863-1866, 2 rolls;
- M780, New Hampshire, 1862-1866, 10 rolls;
- M603, New Jersey, 1862-1866, rolls 1-17 (with New York);
- M782, New Mexico, 1862-1870, 1 roll;
- M603, New York, 1862-1866, rolls 18-218 (with New Jersey);
- M784, North Carolina, 1864-1866, 2 rolls;
- M787, Pennsylvania, 1864-1866, 107 rolls;
- M788, Rhode Island, 1862-1866, 10 rolls;
- M789, South Carolina, 1864-1866, 2 rolls;
- M791, Texas, 1865-1866, 2 rolls;
- M792, Vermont, 1862-1866, 7 rolls;
- M793, Virginia, 1862-1866, 6 rolls;
- M795, West Virginia, 1862-1866, 4 rolls

Cynthia G. Fox is the Chief of the Military and Civil Records Unit of the National Archives and Records Administration. (Article taken in part from the whole article which may be found on the NARA website - for more information, go to www.NARA.gov)

They say wisdom comes with age, but sometimes age comes alone.

Highlight on First Families of Ionia County Society Member No. 10



Gordon William Garlock

Gordon was born the son of Merton Ralph **GARLOCK** (born June 2, 1920, and died May 12, 1995) and Elaine Virginia **HILL** (still living). He was born in St. Johns, Clinton County, Michigan. Gordon currently lives in Lake Odessa, Michigan, and is an active member of the Lake Odessa Area Historical Society as well as our society.

Gordon's mother has completed quite an impression genealogy record for Gordon, going back many generations, and she continues to work diligently on that never-ending project.

Gordon's father is the son of Michigan residents Ira John **Garlock** and Ruth **POWELLI**. Ira John was born March 25, 1885, in Gratiot County, and his wife, Ruth was born January 20, 1891, in

Montcalm County. They were united in marriage on March 10, 1910.

Gordon's First Family line follows his grandmother Ruth Powell's line back through her father's family. Her father was **Horace Hulbert Powell** who was born in Ronald Township, Ionia County, Michigan on March 24, 1859. He married **Sarah Zorah SMALL**. Both he and Sarah died in Montcalm County. Horace was the son of **Joseph P. Powell** and **Ruth Ann GOODWIN**. The Goodwin line will become very familiar to readers in future issues as we introduce other members of our society.

Horace died from the results of an accident involving a truck. The accident occurred on West Main Street when Horace was driving his horse and cart and was struck by **Merle BUSSELL** who was driving a large 5-ton truck loaded with lumber. Mr. Bussell claimed he never saw Horace because the light from the electric street light blinded his vision. The police investigated and claimed that the accident was unavoidable because Horace did not have his vehicle well-lit. The horse was injured and had to be put down.

Ruth Ann Goodwin was the daughter of **Chancey Goodwin, Sr** and **Sarah HUBBARD** who were both born in Connecticut.

The history of **Joseph P. Powell** may be found in the *Portrait and Biographical Album of Ionia and Montcalm Counties* published by Chapman Bros. in 1891, page 395. There is a portrait of him in this chapter.



If you are interested in more details on this line, contact the ICGS First Families Committee and refer to First Families No 10.

2001 – 20002 Calendar of Events - Ionia County Genealogical Society

February 2002

- 5 7:30 p.m. First Families of Ionia County Society Committee Meeting at Swilers'
9 1:00 p.m. Regular Membership Meeting; Lori Fox will present "Making Sense of the Census"
23 10:00 - 2:00 Depot Museum open to public for research
28 7:00 p.m. Board of Directors Meeting at Swilers'

March 2002

- 5 7:30 p.m. First Families of Ionia County Society Committee Meeting at Swilers'
9 1:00 p.m. Regular Membership Meeting; David McCord will present "Mid-Evil Era History"
28 7:00 p.m. Board of Directors Meeting at Swilers'
30 10:00 - 2:00 Depot Museum open to public for research

April 2002

- 2 7:30 p.m. First Families of Ionia County Society Committee Meeting at Swilers'
13 1:00 p.m. Regular Membership Meeting; program topic is "Resources at Western Michigan University Archives" – Sharon Carlson is the speaker
25 7:00 p.m. Board of Directors Meeting at Swilers'
27 10:00 - 2:00 Depot Museum open to public for research
27 Ionia Women's Festival – Volunteers needed to help at our booth. Contact Pam Swiler or Lori Fox.

May 2002

- 7 7:30 p.m. First Families of Ionia County Society Committee Meeting at Swilers'
11 1:00 p.m. Regular Membership Meeting; program topic TBA
23 7:00 p.m. Board of Directors Meeting at Swilers'
25 10:00 - 2:00 Depot Museum open to public for research

UPCOMING SPEAKERS & EVENTS:

- June 8 - Carol Callard: topic is "Canadian Research"
July 13 - Pam Rietsch, "the map lady", will be speaking on using maps.
August 10 - Shirley Hodges will be speaking on "Church Records: The Tie That Binds".
September 1 - Deadline for First Families applications
September 14 - Jim Lyons: "Researching the Revolutionary War Soldier"
October 12 - Marilyn Steward - Using Family Tree Maker for Organizing Your Genealogy
November 9 - TBA
December - No meeting

** All regular membership meetings are held on the second (2nd) Saturday of each month, except December, at 1:00 p.m., in the Community Room of Lake Manor on Emerson Street, Lake Odessa, just west of the Depot Museum. The public is welcome and refreshments will be served. In addition, the Depot library will also be open following each monthly meeting until 5:00 p.m.

ICGS Newsletter:

Editor: Pamela Swiler

Asst Editor: Dottie Piechocki

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FAX: 616-374-8424 or email: <pkswiler1@juno.com> or <pkswiler@voyager.net>

The Board of Directors is pleased to present to you the 2007 Annual Report of the Board of Directors. This report provides an overview of the company's performance over the past year, including financial results, strategic initiatives, and governance matters.

Over the course of 2007, the company has achieved significant milestones and maintained its commitment to excellence. Our financial performance remains strong, and we have successfully implemented our strategic plan, which focuses on innovation, operational efficiency, and customer satisfaction.

The Board of Directors has actively engaged in its oversight responsibilities, ensuring that the company's interests are protected and its long-term success is secured. We have also focused on enhancing our corporate governance and transparency, providing you with clear and timely information about our operations.

As we look ahead to the future, we are confident in our ability to continue to drive growth and create value for our shareholders. We will remain committed to our core values and our dedication to delivering exceptional results for all stakeholders.

We thank you for your continued support and confidence in the company. We are proud to be part of your investment portfolio and look forward to the opportunities ahead.

Respectfully,
[Signature]

The Board of Directors

For more information, please contact our Investor Relations department at [Phone Number] or visit our website at [Website URL].