

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 4

October - December 2002

Dear Friends,

As we near the end of another year, I want to thank all of you for the hard work you have done to make this organization a success. We are now at 199 members and look forward to working with many of you on future projects. We have seen many successes this past year and we owe it all to you, our members, who have contributed so much.

In this issue we honor Ionia county men and women who served in the military. Dottie **PIECHOCKI**, our editor, asked for your input and was overwhelmed by the response. We would both like to thank all of you who contributed stories and photos. We regret that not all of them will fit into one issue, but rest assured that they will appear in future issues! Some people submitted multiple stories and there may only be one of their articles in this time - the others will appear in future issues. Thank you very much for ALL the contributions!

Looking ahead to the next year, we are in need of some volunteers. Before you say, "No, I can't possibly take on one more thing!" . . . please, take a minute to review our "Help Wanted" list and see if you can give just a little time to help.

Thank you!
Pam **SWILER**, President

HELP WANTED LIST

1. **Volunteers to work at the library** - Hours are either 10:00 to 2:00 on the last Saturday of the month; or they are immediately following our general

meeting until 5:00 p.m each month. Dates we need to fill in 2003 are: Feb. 8 and 22; Mar. 24; Apr. 12; June 14 and 28; July 12 and 26 (this is Depot Day and we need lots of volunteers on this date); Aug. 9 and 30; Sep. 13 and 27; Oct. 11 and 25; Nov. 8.

2. **Data entry** - During any of the last Saturdays each month, we need people to input data into our computer at the depot. If you can help, please let me know! Many hands make light work!

3. **Committee members for First Families of Ionia County Society** - This is a fun and busy group, meeting the first Tues. of each month. If you are interested in working with them, contact the chairperson, Jim **MOSES** at (517) 647-7310. The committee starts meeting again in Jan. 2003 to work on applications and banquet plans for the year.

4. **Obituary File Committee** - This is a newer group. Sandy **HEINTZELMAN** has been busy inputting obituaries on our website, but she really could use some help. Also we need people to cut out obituaries (Ionia County ONLY) from *The Daily News* in Greenville, the *Grand Rapids Press*, and the *Lansing State Journal* and glue the obits onto 4x6 index cards, indicating the source and whether you have put them on the website already so that we do not duplicate the work of someone else.

5. **Library** - Sue **CASTRO**, our librarian for the past couple of years, needs to turn it over to someone else. Everything is well organized, so the hard part is done; someone can just maintain it. Sue has agreed to train the new person and serve as advisor, but we need someone in place by Jan. 2003. If this

sounds like something you could help with (or share with another) please contact Sue Castro at (616) 527-7642.

6. **Surname File** - We need someone to maintain our surname file. An easy job that could be done about 4 times a year, it involves filing surname cards and 4-generation charts and following up with members who have not completed theirs (there are MANY of you who have not done this!). Remember, the surname file is a great way to locate others who are researching the same families you are - they can't find you if you are not in the file!

7. **Book Projects** - We have several book projects going which require various tasks to be completed. We need people NOW to help us promote feature pages to businesses, organizations, churches, schools, etc. If you have some sales experience and would like to help, we need you!

Election of Officers -

Several officers' terms expire this year. We encourage *you* to take an active part in your society's government. The positions that will expire at the end of this year are: President (Pam **SWILER**), Recording Secretary (Gary **VEALE**), and Trustee (Marilyn **STEWART**). If you would like to run for any of these positions, please let us know immediately. We will elect officers at our annual meeting in January, but there is only one more meeting before then.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

- Pamela & Michael **CARMICHAEL**
6080 Worthington Road
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48301
(248) 626-1850
E-mail:
<mfcarm@concentric.net>
Researching: **KIDDER, LAWRENCE, LUTHER**
- John J. **FAHEY, Jr.,** & his wife, Ann
8787 Borden Road
Muir, MI 48860
(989) 981-6717
No e-mail address
Researching: **FAHEY, HERALD, LOFTUS, BOLGER, HENNELY, STILES, DELAVERGNE, BUSHONG, KLINE**
- Shirley **FERRIS**
15935 Billa City Road
P.O. Box 312
Groveland, FL 34736-0312
(352) 429-0211
- Suzanne **GUERNSEY**
8184 Borden Road
Muir, MI 48860
(989) 981-6605
E-mail:
<plainjane@cmsinter.net>
- Denise **HERRIGES**
20411 Mada Street
Southfield, MI 48075
(248) 353-3196
No e-mail address
Researching: **COMPTON, SWILER**
- Shirley M. (**HALLER**) **LICH**
1900 Henderson Road
Portland, MI 48875
(616) 374-4570
E-mail:
<jslich@home.ionia.com>
Researching: **LEPARD, HALLER, PARMETER, LICH**
- Kimberly **PENNOCK**
9666 Button Road
Belding, MI 48809
(616) 794-1022
E-mail:
<smymami@pathwaynet.com>
Researching: **SPENCER, INMAN, PENNOCK**

- Patricia A. **ROHWER**
760 SE 7th Ave
Hillsboro, OR 97123
(503) 844-9528
E-mail:
<prohwer@msn.com>
Researching: **MORTON, HOYT, HANDY, SIBLEY, SQUIRE, HATCH, OLMSTEAD**
- Kathy **SLED**
119 Trowbridge St.
N Meaford, Ontario
CANADA N46-164
Phone - not available
No e-mail
Researching: **COMPTON, SWILER**
- Larry **WARREN**
6699 Oaklane
Lyons, MI 48851
(989) 855-3661
- Russell **WARREN, DDS**
P.O. Box 561
Beaverton, MI 48612-0561
(989) 435-2121
- Stephen **WARREN**
124 A Shady Lane
Eustis, FL 32726
(352) 357-7759

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

- Jacob **FACE**
2820 N. Oakland
Forest Drive Apt 209
Oakland Park, FL 33304-7815
Phone/ e-mail unknown at this time
- Tom and Jackie **GILLILAND**
751 Washington Blvd
Lake Odessa, MI 48849
(616) 374-8017
- Renee **MILLER**
110 Esplanade #226
Pacifica, CA 94044-1362
Phone/ e-mail unknown at this time
- Marilyn **RANSOM**
<mlnransom@chartermi.net>
[2nd letter is a small L]
- L. J. [Jane] **STEWART**
2544 Buckeye Dr
Cosby, TN 37722
<trmljs@planet.com> (4th letter is a small L)

Welcome returning members:

- Diane **BARNUM**
6800 E. Brown Road
Lake Odessa, MI 48849
(616) 367-9507
<dbarnum@2xilar.net>
Researching: **REDINGTON, SALMOND, MULFORD**
- John & Jane **COOK**
2182 Musgrove Hwy
Lake Odessa, MI 48849
(616) 374-8487
Researching: **MUTCH, COOK**
- Rose (**ADAMS**) **LABAN**
1590 Applecroft Lane
Holt, MI 48842-1744
(517) 694-8737
E-mail: <labanra@yahoo.com>
Researching: **ADAMS, MARCY, STERLING**

☺ *A gossip is someone with a great sense of rumor.*

MAILBAG

Clark **TINNEY** from Tucson, AZ writes:

"My grandmother, Emmaline **WHEELER FRAZEE's** death record of October 7, 1916, shows her parents as M. or Mr. Wheeler and her mother Pheba **OATLEY** who was born in Ohio. Grandmother was born either 1857 or 1859, supposedly at Eaton Rapids. She was married to James Frazee July, 1882, at Portland and is buried at N. Eagle Cemetery. I am trying to establish more regarding her parents as I believe they lived in and around Ionia County."

Mr. Tinney is also looking for information about Ionia County Poor Farm records that would list people there around 1870.

If you can help Mr. Tinney with either of these, contact him at <kitcat4155@msn.com> or by regular mail at Clark A. Tinney, 4155 Megan Drive, Tucson, AZ 85712-1427



LIBRARY NEWS

Congratulations to society member, Dale R. JACKSON of Lake Odessa who recently published his third book on the Jackson family. This beautiful hardcover book is entitled *The History of the Edward Jackson Family* and is 663 pages chock-full of wonderful information, photos and copies of documents supporting the information. Nice work, Dale! We are pleased to be able to have a copy of this book on our library shelves for members and we thank Dale for that donation.

If you would like more information about the Jackson book, contact Dale at <djax@iserv.net> or by mail at 14720 Carion Dr., Lake Odessa, MI 48849.

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The **Know Your Junk Antique Appraisal** was a success again this year. The crowd was down a little from 2001, but we still took in \$176 for the afternoon. Glen RAIRIGH of *Americana Appraisals* did a spectacular job not only of providing appraisals of the items brought in, but entertaining those in attendance, too. He has agreed to return again next September, so we will be making plans for that.

The find of the day belonged to Alice WARD who brought in a piece of Clewell Arts & Crafts pottery that she bought for 25 cents at a garage sale. The piece ended up with an appraised value of \$600.

Carol ENGLE of Lake Odessa brought in a piece that no one could identify. She had purchased it from the local antique store simply because she and her husband collect copper items and she thought it was interesting. We were all curious about what it was

and learned that it was a very elegant water boiler/humidifier, which dated from the early 1920's.

Proceeds from this show will go towards the \$5,000 commitment we have made to the building of the Frieght House in Lake Odessa. Remember, this will be the new home of the ICGS library, so we really appreciate your support on this project. We welcome any and all donations toward this very worthwhile project.

★ ★ ★

Just a reminder - we still have several copies of the reprint of John Schenk's *1881 History of Ionia and Montcalm Counties* available. The cost is \$52 which you may order by sending a check payable to the Ionia County Genealogical Society at 13051 Ainsworth Road, Rt 3, Lake Odessa, MI 48849-9406.

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Also . . . don't forget about our new book project - the *Family History of Ionia County*. The deadline is Oct. 30 to submit YOUR family history. Turner Publishers will only publish the number of books ordered, there will not be one available later! Remember - the last book published on the families of Ionia county was in 1891! It may be another 100 years before someone does it again - don't miss out!

NOTE TO MEMBERS

Please help us save postage - notify us of address changes as soon as possible. Each time we get a newsletter back, it costs us \$.37 - then it costs us an additional \$.55 to re-mail it. Do your part and keep us up-to-date! Thank you in advance for your cooperation!

IN DEEPEST SYMPATHY

Our condolences go to Ann LAKIN SLOWINS and family who lost her mother Marian Addie PRYER Lakin at the age of 101 years on February 11, 2002, in Grand Rapids

Sympathy is also extended to LaVerne AVES who lost his brother, Layton Aves, M.D., on May 4, 2002 .

Edward Lewis MINARD, stepson of member, Geraldine Minard of Saranac, died August 15, 2002. Our deepest sympathy goes out to Geraldine and family.

Donald Edward BLANK, Pam Swiler's great-uncle, died September 14, 2002, at his home in Centreville, St. Joseph Co. He was the last living sibling out of 9 children in that family. He was born April 24, 1922, and lived his entire life in the same area. He worked for the county road commission for many years.

THE LITTLE GREEN TENTS

The little green tents where the soldiers sleep, and the sunbeams play and the women weep, are covered with flowers today; and between the tents walk the weary few, who were young and stalwart in 'sixty- two, when they went to the war away. The little green tents are built of sod, and they are not long, and they are not broad, but the soldiers have lots of room; and the sod is part of the land they saved, when the flag of the enemy darkly waved, the symbol of dole and doom. The little green tent is a thing divine; the little green tent is a country's shrine, where patriots kneel and pray; and the brave men left, so old, so few, were young and stalwart in sixty- two, when they went to the war away!

—Walt MASON, Chicago: AC McClurg. 1916



Ionia County Men In the Service of Their Country

JOHN LOWREY

John Lowrey, born 10 February 1840 in Trumbull County, Ohio, was the second of six children born to Ebenezer Norton Lowrey, Sr., and Jane McMULLEN. The Lowreys moved from Trumbull Co., OH, to Ossian, IN, then in 1858 to a farm in Berlin Twp., Ionia Co., MI. John was married in Ionia to Harriet Ann WELCH on 5 May 1861. They settled on a farm in Berlin township, where they raised four children, Sarah Elva (who married Fred RUSSELL, and later, Frank MITCHELL); Bernice Jane (a schoolteacher who married "Jack" AUNGST); Franklin W. (a carpenter and deputy in Lake Odessa who married Vira GATES); and John Thomas (a grocer in Saranac and Lake Odessa who married Blanche PATRICK).

John Lowrey enlisted in the Union Army in February 1865, while on a visit to relatives in Wisconsin, using the alias of John McMULLEN. At that time, he and Harriet had one child and another on the way. Since his enlistment occurred under such unusual circumstances, I wonder if it went against her wishes. After serving in the Wisconsin Infantry five months as a Private in Company D, 37th Regiment, he was discharged on 27 July 1865, in

Washington, D.C.

Harriet died on 24 May 1917 from injuries received after being struck by a freight train in Lake Odessa, while walking home from town. She was deaf and didn't hear the train's whistle blasts. John lived another nine years, passing away at his home in Lake Odessa on 8 July 1926, at the age of 86. They are buried in Lakeside Cemetery.

Frank Lowrey, John's son, served in the Spanish American War in Company I, 34th Michigan Volunteer Infantry. During the war, he contracted malaria, from which he later received a pension.

EBENEZER LOWREY, JR.

Ebenezer Norton Lowrey, Jr., born 7 February 1842 near Youngstown, Trumbull Co., OH, was the third child born to Ebenezer "Norton" Lowrey, Sr., and Jane McMullen. At the outbreak of the Civil War, he enlisted as a private in Company B, 16th Michigan Regiment. Ebenezer was wounded at Cold Harbor, carrying to his grave a bullet he received there, and struck seven times in the battle of Gettysburg. He received an honorable discharge in July 1865.

After Ebenezer and his brother John returned from the War (brother Archie died in service), their father gave them each 40 acres in Berlin Twp. Ebenezer's farm, called Lowtanlee, increased in size over the years, eventually reaching 360 acres. It was situated where I-96 is today.

On 3 July 1867, he married Caroline Gertrude THOMAS, daughter of John Thomas and Mary HAWLEY. They became the parents of nine children, two dying in infancy. Surviving were Willard T., a civil engineer, who married Crystal _____ and lived in British Columbia, Western Canada; John Carl, who married Myrtle REED; Richard Roy "Bud", a school administrator, who married Hattie B. LOCHER; Harvey Hawley, who

married Evelyn Grace CURTISS and had a long, distinguished career in education; Ebenezer Norton "Ed", an Ionia Co. sheriff and guard at the Reformatory for several years, who married Frederika DINGMAN; Earl E. "Pete", who married Virginia Fay COURTER and was employed by Standard Oil Company in Saranac; Hazel J., who married Loraine Frederick HIRE, both teachers; and Carrie Thomas Lowrey, a genial and happy-hearted person, devoted to her family.

Ebenezer, Jr., died on a snowy day, the eighth of May, 1923.

~ the preceding two articles were
submitted by Debra STADEL
EDDY

William Erastus HULL

The eldest son of Rowland and Alvira (LEE) HULL, William Erastus was born in Canada in 1831 but moved to the United States at an early age. The family lived in several states before settling in Keene Twp, Ionia Co., MI, in the 1840's. Erastus married Sarah AYRES, also of Keene, in 1852, and they had two children, Wealtha and Carrie.

In 1862, even though he had a wife and two small children, Erastus, as he was called, after hearing speeches at the Keene Grange Hall concerning the cruelty to slaves, enlisted in the Civil War as a private in Company M, 6th MI Cavalry. He spent considerable time under the command of General George Armstrong CUSTER. Erastus's memoir gives various personal anecdotes about General Custer whom he obviously admired. Private Hull was involved in many of the well-known battles of the Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania campaigns. He was captured and imprisoned for four months, most of which time was spent at the infamous Libby

Prison. He also was injured when his horse fell on him while crossing a stream. At the war's end Erastus participated in the Grand Review in Washington, D.C. He was honorably discharged at Ft. Leavenworth, KS, for medical reasons in July 1865.



Erastus returned to Keene Twp. where he resumed farming, building a house on Section 10 on what is now Scott Road. The illnesses, injury and effects of exposure from the war years took a toll on his health, and within fifteen years, he was receiving an Invalid Pension. During his life in Ionia Co., Erastus was an active Mason, served as Treasurer of Keene Twp. and also on the school board; he was active in the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. Hull died in 1907 and is buried in the Marble Cemetery in Keene Twp.

~ submitted by Donna FOY,
great-great granddaughter

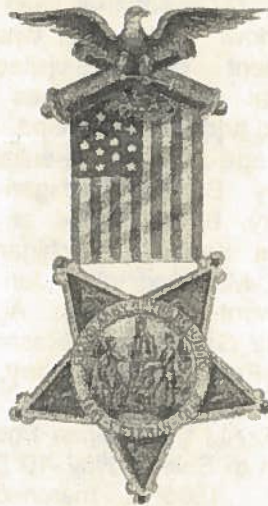
WILLIAM EASTON

William H. Easton was born Jan 18, 1847, at Manchester, Washtenaw Co., MI. He enrolled 12 Aug 1862 at Manchester in Co B, 17th MI Vol. He transferred Dec 1, 1863, to the 27th Co 2nd

Battalion, from which he mustered out on 29 June 1865. He was taken sick at the camp near Falmouth about 14 Dec 1863 with Lyphus Fever, and both feet badly frozen, 6 toes were amputated. He received a pension from Detroit for \$12 per month starting 31 Oct 1876, for the loss of three toes on each foot. His residences after discharge were Manchester 1867-1868; Ionia 1868-1870; Central Lake 1870 and on.

He was married twice, first to Minerva S. MABIE on 28 May 1871, in Palo. She died in 1901. He married 2nd, Nettie EDMONDS BEACH, widow of Guy Beach, on June 14, 1904 at Ionia, MI. He was 57, she was 41.

~ submitted by Cindy BRYANT



Grand Army of the Republic badge

Engraved on the north face of the Civil War Memorial resting on the lawn of the Courthouse is "Ionia County furnished 2464 Soldiers and Sailors".

GEORGE ELLSWORTH

According to Schenck's "History of Ionia County", Cyrus

PEASLEY, George ELLSWORTH, and Benjamin Ellsworth entered Boston, MI, as settlers in 1847. Benjamin was my great-great grandfather. Born in Mass. on 8 Feb. 1784, he moved with his parents to Grafton Co., NH, marrying first Hannah COTTON, and upon her death, her sister, Dolly. They and their children moved to Cortland Co., NY, before coming to MI. Benjamin (d. 8 June 1856) and Dolly are buried in Saranac Cem. On his tombstone are the words, "Soldier of War of 1812." He served 1812-1814 in the First Reg't of the Vermont Militia.

John Adams Ellsworth, son of Benjamin and Dolly, was born 10 October 1828 in Truxton, Cortland Co., NY. He came to MI with his family and lived in Saranac. He was a farmer, and for a few years, a partner in a general store. He married in Ionia on 10 May 1851 Laura Catherine FISH, who was born in Whitehall, NY, and came to MI after her father's death, with her mother, Rosetta CASE Fish. John Ellsworth was appointed Captain in the 21st MI Infantry in 1862. He was injured in TN, and after a hospital stay, came back to Saranac. In 1865 the family moved to Minnesota where John died 17 July 1901.

Marion John Ellsworth, son of John and Laura, was born in Saranac 26 September 1862. He spent most of his life in MN where he died 29 April 1932. He served in the 15th Minn. Infantry during the Spanish American War.

Each of these three men had a connection to Ionia County, but only John Adams Ellsworth was in service with a Michigan Company. My mother, Katherine Ellsworth, was the daughter of Marion and Catherine McGEE. She died at the age of 100 in 1992.

~ submitted by
Elizabeth C. CONNELLY

LEONARD E. MORSE

My great-grandfather, Leonard E. MORSE, was born 12 April 1845, Lodi, Washtenaw Co., MI, the son of Thomas Jefferson (1806 NY-1879 MI) and Christina K. (STOLLSTEIMER 1809 Germany) MORSE. Christina died in 1847, and in 1849 Thomas married Christina SAYBINS and moved the family to the Portland area, where Leonard grew up, marrying in 1870, in Dexter, MI, Lois Jane LEE (1839-1915), daughter of Frederick K. LEE (1795 VT-1879 MI) and Mary DeARMOND (1800 N.S.-1848 MI) of Freedom, MI.



Leonard and Lois resided in Lyons, and raised 4 children there. Leonard was a farmer, served 2 different terms as Lyons Postmaster, ran a grocery store, was an agent for the Union Telephone Company, and a member of the GAR. He died 18 March 1930, Michigan Soldier's Home, Grand Rapids. Buried in Lyons Cemetery.

Leonard enlisted in Company C, 1st Infantry, 23 Sep. 1861, at Ann Arbor, Washtenaw Co., MI for 3 years. His regiment was sent to Washington D.C. and attached to 1st Brigade,

Hooker's Division, Army of the Potomac. He had duty at Bladensburg, Md., and at Annapolis Junction guarding the Washington and Baltimore Railroad; duty at Hamilton, Fortress Monroe, Va.; joined the Army of the Potomac in the field seven days before Richmond, Va.; battles of Mechanicsville, Gaines Mill, Peach Orchard and Savage Station, Glendale and Turkey Bridge, Malvern Hill; at Harrison's Landing; movement to Fortress Monroe, thence to Centreville, Va., Gainesville; 2nd Battle of Bull Run. He was wounded at the 2nd Battle of Bull Run (Manassas) 31 Aug. 1862 near Centerville, Va, being shot in the left leg and treated in Washington, D.C. The wound wouldn't heal properly and it was discovered he was under 18 years of age. Mustered out 2 November 1862 and discharged for wounds received in action 25 November 1862. G.Grandfather used to tell me how proud he was that President Lincoln visited the hospital where he was being treated and shook *his* hand.

At age 19 he re-enlisted in Battery B, 1st Michigan Light Artillery, 6 Jan. 1864 at Grand Rapids, Kent Co., Michigan for 3 years. Mustered in 11 Jan. 1864. He went to Athens, AL, and Atlanta, GA. Battles in Resaca, GA, Lay's Ferry, Colhoun Ferry, Rome Crossroads, Cave Springs, Turkey Ridge, AL, then began Sherman's March to Sea 15 Nov.-10 Dec. 14 April 1865, marched to Washington, D.C. via Richmond, Va. Marched in Washington, D.C. in Grand Review Parade, 24 May 1865, moved back to Detroit, Michigan, for mustering out on 14 June 1865.

Leonard's son Frederick Lee, born May 4 May 1875, Portland, served in the Spanish-American War from June 22, 1898 to July 7, 1899 as Private, Hospital Corps attached to the 34th Michigan Volunteers. He served in Cuba, in the Army of Pacification and Army of Occupation.



FREDERICK MORSE

Honorably discharged, Fort Wayne, Mich. July 7th, 1899. Married in 1900 Nellie HIGH, daughter of George and Mahala (WHALEY) HIGH and settled in Lake Odessa, where he practiced medicine until his death 30 April 1923. Nell and Frederick had 2 children, George, who became a Dentist and practiced in Lake Odessa, acting as Mayor at one time, and Frances L. who married Firman LaLONDE. They resided in Ann Arbor, MI.

Frederick also served in World War I at Medical Officers Training Camp, Fort Riley, Kan. 1917; as 1st Lieutenant Company #15, 304th Cavalry, Camp Stanley, Leon Springs, Tex., 1918; Asst. to Surgeon, 21st Battalion, U.S. Guards; Surgeon; transferred to El Paso, promoted to Captain M.C.; transferred to 15th Trains and Mil Police Camp, Fort Bliss, El Paso; transferred to Demobilization camp, Camp Owen, Beirne, Texas as Chief Medical Officer; Transferred to Camp F. Bliss, El Paso, Texas with Demobilization Camp as Chief Medical Officer and Camp Surgeon about May 4, 1919. Discharged Aug. 23, 1919.

The MORSE military service record carried forward. Irving MORSE, a grandson of Leonard, born in Edmore, MI, 11 September 1895, enlisted 12 Dec



IRVING MORSE

1917 after Leonard had said, "Son, go and enlist. Don't let it ever be said that anyone by the name of Morse waited to be drafted". Irving served as a Pvt. in the 77th Aero Squadron, Barron Field, TX. Discharged 29 May 1919.

Leonard's Great Grandson John J. **CURRIGAN**, born 11 July 1925, Lyons, son of John W. and Marion **LAWRENCE** Currigan, served in WW II - June 1943 to December 1945 in the U.S. Navy Armed Guard, on 3 merchant ships, including the S.S. *Jessie Bellingsley* and the S. S. *John Ireland*. Honorably discharged Dec. 1945, he

married Leona **HALSTEAD** in 1945, and in 1972, Patricia **KENNY VOWELS**. He retired from Oldsmobile after 41 years.



JOHN J. CURRIGAN

John J.'s son Ronald **CURRIGAN**, born 11 May 1950, St. Johns, MI, enlisted January 1969 in the Army. Stationed in Vietnam, he was wounded at Pleiku. Sent to Valley Forge Hospital, Valley Forge, PA, December 1969 to January 1971. Discharged with rank SP/4.

Ronald Currigan, Jr., great-great-great-grandson of Leonard, born 26 October 1981 reported to Ft. Jackson, S.C., June 1999, for training with the U.S. Army Reserves. Presently stationed at Ft. Bragg, N.C.

Both of my husbands were also Veterans. (1) Vern A. **GALLOUP**, born 4 July 1918 in Greenville, raised and went to school in Ionia, enlisted 7 April 1941 and was a S/Sgt. stationed with Battery "A" 511th AAA Battery, Hickman Field, Honolulu, when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor, 7 Dec. 1941. He returned stateside March 1943 and we were married 14 March 1943 in Ionia. He was transferred to the European theater, September 1944, as S/Sgt. with the 808th Field Artillery attached to the 9th Army. Discharged with

points, 25 July 1945. Died 22 May 1956 in Grand Rapids, burial Balcom Cem., Ionia. Worked for Fisher Body in Lansing and the Ionia State Hospital.



VERN A. GALLOUP

(2) Russell Lee **STEWART**, born in Muskegon (his mother, Mrs. Peter **VANDERVELDE**, resided 619 Townsend St., Ionia), 24 October 1929, enlisted U.S.N. 17 January 1951. Stationed stateside and Newfoundland, U.S.N.A. Discharged, 19 November 1954, Rank ATL.



RUSSELL L. STEWART

~ Submitted by
Jane (Currigan) Stewart

BENJAMIN BALDERSON

My great-grandfather, Benjamin Balderson, served in the Civil War as a private in Co. F, 43rd Ohio Volunteer Infantry. Enlisted 19 November, 1861 at Oberlin Ohio, discharged 23 December 1864 at Savannah Ga. His occupation at time of enlistment was given as sailor. Benjamin was in battles of New Madrid, Mo., Corinth, Miss., Siege of Vicksburg. With Sherman in campaign against Atlanta including battles of Resaca, Dallas, Big Shanty, and Kenesaw Mountain, GA. After the fall of Atlanta participated in Sherman's March to the Sea.

Benjamin Balderson was born at Bosworth, England, 2 March, 1829 and immigrated to US in 1847 with his parents where they settled at Avon, Ohio. He married Mary Crisp, at Avon, 11 May 1857. Benjamin and his family migrated to Portland, MI, in 1869 where he purchased a farm north of the town. He died 16 Sept., 1903, and is buried in Portland Cemetery. [His obituary reads:]

"Benj. Balderson died quite suddenly at his home in the northeast part of the township at about noon on Wed. last. Deceased was a native of Leistershire, Eng., where he was born April 22, 1829, and was thus 74 years of age at his last birthday. He came to America, and to Loraine, Avon Co., OH, in 1847, and here he was married to Mary A. CRISP, who survives him, in 1857. They came to Portland in the spring of 1869, and have resided here ever since, and all but two years have occupied the place where he died.

Almost at the beginning of the war he enlisted in the 43rd Ohio and was with SHERMAN in his march to the sea. He was one of the charter members of John

MEGARAH Post of Portland and was one of its most ardent members since it was mustered in. He was an honorable, ardent man in all his dealings with his fellow men and his word was sufficient in any transaction.

Beside the widow he is survived by Fred W., Horace K., Mary BARNES, John C., Sarah, and Will of Portland, and Edward of Eagle; by a brother John of Fenwick; and a sister, Mrs. Sarah PERRY STEWART, of Saginaw.

Funeral services were conducted from the M. E. Church in Portland on Friday afternoon last by Rev. BUELL, the Post attending in a body and acting as escort to the remains, which were interred in Portland Cemetery. Four sons of deceased acted as pallbearers."

RICHARD J. BARNES



My father, Richard J. Barnes, served in France in WW I as a PFC

in Co. B, 128th Infantry, 32nd Infantry Division. He enlisted at Ionia on April 16, 1917, and was discharged May 16, 1919; at the time of enlistment his occupation was farmer. He participated in 3 major offensives, Aisne-Marne, Oise-Aisne, and Muse-Argonne. He was born 25 June 1898 at Portland, MI, and died 25 May 1976 at Portland and is buried in Portland Cemetery. He married Lucille GILBERT in 1936 and had 2 sons, Richard and Gary Barnes.

~ Preceding two articles
submitted by Richard Barnes

IN FLANDERS FIELDS

In Flanders fields the poppies
blow
Between the crosses, row on
row,
That mark our place; and in
the sky
The larks, still bravely
singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns
below.

We are the Dead. Short days
ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw
sunset glow,
Loved, and were loved, and
now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the
foe:
To you from failing hands
we throw
The torch; be yours to hold
it high.
If ye break faith with us who
die
We shall not sleep, though
poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

"Written by Major John McCrae,
a surgeon attached to the
Canadian 1st Field Artillery
Brigade, on 3 May 1915 sitting on
the rearstep of an ambulance
parked near the dressing station
beside the Yser Canal, just a few

hundred yards north of Ypres in Flanders beside the little cemetery (called Essex Farm). McCrae could see the wild poppies that sprang up from the ditches and the graves." - from *The Heritage of the Great War*, webmaster Rob Ruggenberg, <http://www.geocities.com/~worldwar1/default.html>



VICTORY MEDAL (WW I)

JOHN H. McARTHUR

My grandfather, John H. McArthur, was a Corporal in the 3rd Michigan Infantry from August 1864 to May 1866, in the Civil War. Most of that time was spent at Murfreesboro, TN, and Huntsville, AL. He married Gratia TAYLOR and they lived on what is now MacArthur road south of Saranac. His three sons were Palmer, Francis and George. John died in 1917 and is buried in Broomfield Cemetery, Isabella Co., MI.

I had two uncles in World War I, Frank and William ELENS who both served in the Army, mostly in France. They lived on Goodemoot Road, Orange Twp., and are both buried in Tuttle Cemetery.

My brother, Pvt. George H.

McArthur, was in the Army from 1943 through 1945, and fought in battles in France and Germany. He lived in Ionia, now lives in Wyoming, MI, and retired as an accountant.

The one I am most proud of is my grandson, T/Sgt. Bryan YEOMANS, US Air Force, stationed in F.E. Warren Air Force Base, Cheyenne, WY. He went into the AF in 1985, was in Korea for a year, then went to Saudi Arabia to teach the Saudis how to fire our weapons. He is married to Lisa and will retire from the Air Force in a few more years.

~ Submitted by
Grace WEDDERBURN



CLARK R. PARSONS

Staff Sgt. Clark R. Parsons was born to Glenn & Evelyn Parsons, Oct. 11, 1933. Clark went to the North Bell School & Lowell High School. He enlisted in the Air Force in Feb. 1952 & became a weather observer. He was sent to Korea in 1953 to 1954. While in Korea he met up with two of his high school alumni, Ronald COLLINS & John PORRITT. They had played football together at Lowell.

Upon returning from Korea, Clark became reacquainted with a former 4-H friend, Greta L. NASH, and they later married. Together they raised five children, Angela, Cheryl, Merlene, Jeffery, and Carmen. They spend their retirement traveling, doing volunteer work with a nature center in Gulf

Shores, AL, church, and most importantly – spending time with twelve grandchildren.

[caption on back of picture: Parsons - Collins – Porritt at the 73rd Truck Co. where Collins is stationed 5 Nov 1953. In 1950 we were playing football together (our thoughts Ha! We won't be in Korea the same time in 1953) A person never knows!]

~ submitted by Clark R. Parsons

DENNIS HOLLY

Dennis Holly entered the Navy after graduation from Portland High School in 1967 and served for 4 years, one of those years being spent in Viet Nam. He was stationed at the Small Craft Repair Facility, DaNang, from June 1968 - June 1969, as an Engineman 3rd Class. Dennis has lived in Ionia Co. his whole life, except for the time in the Navy, and currently works for TRW in Portland, where he has been for over 30 years.

~ Submitted by Dennis Holly

LEWIS MESSECAR

My great-grandfather, Lewis Messecar, was born in Townsend Twp, Norfolk Co., Ontario, in 1822. He married Harriet CULVER, also of Townsend, April 11, 1842. Lewis was the son of John Messecar and Sarah CLOUSE and Harriet's parents were Michael CULVER and Sarah KITCHEN. Lewis and Harriet moved to MI, and by the 1860's, had settled in Campbell Twp in Ionia Co. Lewis enlisted at the age of 42 in the 21st Volunteer Michigan Infantry at Hastings. He was 5 foot 9 with blue eyes and dark hair. He served with this unit until his death in 1865. The 21st was part of the 14th Corps commanded by General Jefferson C. DAVIS and was part of the Second Brigade

led by George P. **BUELL**. They were part of the Atlanta Campaign and marched to the sea with **SHERMAN**. In 1865 they were part of the army heading North through the Carolinas to meet up with **GRANT** and end the War. At the Battle of Bentonville March 19 to March 21 in North Carolina, Lewis was shot. In a book by Mark L. **BRADLEY**, "Last Stand in the Carolinas, The Battle of Bentonville", Lewis is mentioned. The following quote from the book is given by Lieutenant Marcus W. **BATES**, Commander of Company C: "Louis Messaker, one of my oldest and best men was the next to fall". The death certificate states that Lewis was shot "while charging the breastworks of the enemy". Lewis was shot in the abdomen by a minie ball and died the next day, March 20, in the hospital. Lewis left a family and the farm. One of his daughters, Elizabeth, married Nathan **TODD** and was my grandmother. Lewis is buried in the National Cemetery at Raleigh, North Carolina.

DAVID TODD

My great uncle, David Todd, was born in South Dumfries Twp., Brant Co., Ontario,



in 1845. His parents were James Todd and Eliza **SCOTT**

who had emigrated from the Border region of Selkirk Co., Scotland, in 1836 and settled near the hamlet of Glen Morris, near Paris, Ontario.

In 1854, David's brother, Nathan, came to Michigan, settling in Campbell Twp. David enlisted in the 11th Michigan Cavalry and served in Kentucky and Tennessee. His enlistment paper states that he was 5 foot 8 inches, fair complexion, dark eyes and light hair when he enlisted at Hastings, MI, on September 24, 1863. I have a letter from him in which he describes some of his life in the Cavalry. David was a farmer when he enlisted and held the rank of Sergeant. He died of inflammation of the lungs in the hospital on March 28, 1865, in Tennessee, and is buried in the National Cemetery there. A sadder end to the story is that his father, James, went to Nashville to be with him and died there and David's mother, Eliza, went there and brought her husband back to Campbell, where he is buried in the Clarksville Cemetery. There is a marker for David in Clarksville as well.

~ Preceding two articles submitted by Jean **MILLS**

FREDA (WISE) TOWNSEND



Freda June Wise was born at Greenville, MI on June 2, 1919, the

daughter of Albert and Edith **CURTIS** Wise, who bought a farm north of Belding on Ingalls Road in 1931. In 1937 Freda graduated from Cedar Lake Academy near Edmore. She then studied pre-nursing at Emmanuel Missionary College, Berrien Springs, and finally went to Boulder, CO, Sanitarium & Hospital, School of Nursing, receiving her RN degree.

Freda worked in Denver, and on May 12, 1944, joined the Army Nurse Corps as a 2nd. Lt., attended basic training at Colorado Springs, and then was stationed at Fitzsimmons Army Hospital, where she taught psychiatric nursing.

In December 1944, she was sent to Europe on the ship "El de France". Serving in field Hospitals in France, Belgium, and Luxemburg, her most memorable service was in a MASH type unit a couple miles behind the lines. With artillery shooting overhead from behind, the nurses worked in full combat gear including helmets. Freda was sent home on the Hospital Ship "Florence Stanger" in 1945 and discharged as a 1st. Lieut. later that year.

On April 12, 1947, she married Robert Lou Townsend at Orleans, MI. Their children are Daniel, Rex, and Roberta (Townsend) **HALL**. Freda is a member of the Seventh Day Adventist Church, Greenville, MI.

She worked for Dr. **SNIDER** and Dr. **SLADE** in Ionia; spent 18 years at the Belding Hospital, rising to Director of Nursing; then worked for, and retired from, Extruded Metals in 1984.

She is now a resident of Woodhaven Apartments in Belding and is also works as a volunteer nurse at Battle Creek Lifestyle Health Center.

~ Submitted by John A. **PALMER**, Raleigh, NC, son of Freda's sister, Nellie Iris (Wise) (1914-1996), wife of Harold K. Palmer (1912-).



PURPLE HEART

~~~~~  
**HAROLD JACKSON**

Harold Jackson was born in Campbell Twp., Ionia Co., on September 2, 1915, the son of Augustus Whitney Jackson and Lizzie Ann KAUFFMAN. He was one of fourteen children born to Gus and Lizzie.

Harold, or "Red" as everyone called him, lived and worked on the family farm on the corner of Jackson and **GOODEMOOT** Road all of his young life. He attended Bushnell School and the Clarksville High School.

In the fall of 1941, Red was drafted into the US Army. His basic training was in Camp Livingston, Louisiana. He was assigned to the 128<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 32<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division. After basic training he spent a few months in the States, then in April of 1942 he was sent to Australia, serving as a cook while he was there and really enjoying his job.

On December 19, 1942, Gus and Lizzie received a telegram from the US Adjutant General stating that Red was missing in action. Gus went to each of his children that day and told them of the telegram. When he was through informing friends and family, he went home and told Lizzie he needed to rest. He

never woke up from that nap, dying of a coronary thrombosis.

Jan. 9, 1943, brought another telegram from the US Government, this time informing Lizzie that Tech. 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Harold Jackson had been killed in action in defense of his country in the Southwest Pacific area on November 21, 1942.



On February 17, 1943, Cpl. Jackson, A. S., was awarded the Purple Heart "for military merit and wounds received in action resulting in his death." His final resting place is the Manila American Cemetery and Memorial at Fort Bonifacio, Republic of the Philippines, Plot F, Row 6, Grave 71. There is also a memorial stone in the Clarksville cemetery.

It is interesting to note that the Jackson - Mutchler Post - Post # 4461 Veterans of Foreign Wars was formed in Clarksville in Red's honor. The Post was later moved to Lake Odessa where it is located today. Red's picture and his Purple Heart are on display there.

Harold Jackson is the uncle of Daryl C. Jackson who is a First Families Member.

~~~~~

**JOHN LLOYD
MUTSCHLER**



John Lloyd Mutschler was born January 26, 1949, in Hastings, Barry County, the son of Lloyd Mutschler and Evelyn **MILLER**. He was one of thirteen children born to this couple, with four brothers, Marion, Richard, Lloyd and Bliss, and nine sisters, Judy, Jacklyn, Joan, Mary, Emogene, Rosa, Elaine, Shirley and Beth Jill.

John lived his entire young life in the Clarksville area, attending Clarksville Elementary School, then in 1968 graduating from Lakewood High School in Lake Odessa.

Following his graduation from High School, John enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps. His basic training was completed at Camp Pendleton in California. In December of 1968, after a short furlough home, John was sent to Guam and from there was transferred to Vietnam.

Lance Corporal Mutschler died in Vietnam on August 10, 1969, from a mortar shell wound he received while manning a defense position eight and a half miles northwest of the Vandergrift Combat base in the province of Quang Tr, Vietnam. He was 20 years old.

Military services under the auspices of the U.S. Marine

Corps were held at the Clarksville Bible Church and John was buried in the Clarksville Cemetery.

It should be noted that the Jackson - Mutschler Post #4461, Veterans of Foreign Wars, was established partially in honor of John. This post was formed in Clarksville, then was later transferred to Lake Odessa. The Jackson name of the post is in honor of John's 1st cousin once removed, Harold Jackson, who was killed in action in New Guinea during WWII.

John was also a 2nd cousin to Daryl Jackson, First Families number 6.

~ Preceding two articles submitted by Bonnie Jackson



**NELSON "BOYD"
OBEIRNE**

Nelson "Boyd" Obeirne was born 30 Nov. 1915 in Berlin Twp., Ionia Co. Later his family moved to Boston Twp. where he attended the North Bell School. His mother Mamie E. BOYD was born in Niles, Ohio, in 1880, and died on 22 March, 1964, and is buried in the South Boston Cemetery on the family plot. Boyd's father Nelson M. was born 1869 in Berlin Twp. to Wm. & Caroline MERRILL

OBeirne. Nelson and Mamie had 4 children, Nelson Boyd, twins Scott and Walter Grant, (Walter died at birth) and a daughter that died in infancy, Ida Jean. Nelson, Sr., was our state Representative for 2 terms prior to 1926 when he ran for sheriff of Ionia Co.

Boyd attended Clarksville High School, then went to Barry Co. Normal where he received a teaching degree and taught at Kidsville near Belding for a year, then at a school near Morrison Lake. He also worked at the Piston Ring Factory in Hastings for awhile. Then WWII broke out and Boyd went to Camden, Arkansas, where he became a pilot in the Army Air Force, Squadron B class SE 43F, probably the first class to complete training as it was activated on the 1st of June 1942. Boyd went on to the rank of Lt. Col. with high awards in the 303rd Bomb Group 360th Sqdn. while stationed in Molesworth, England. He received the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal for bravery and 5 Oak Leaf Clusters, plus numerous other awards. He flew 35 missions on his 1st tour of duty then went back for the 2nd tour where he flew 15 more missions. (A notebook in the Saranac museum has the history of his Army Air Force Days.)

Boyd & Nancy (she was from Pa.) had 4 children, a daughter Scottie Ann died in infancy and is buried in a military cemetery in Japan, and 3 sons, Nelson D. born on 23 July 1947, Bruce R. born on 20 Jan. 1951 and Barry born Aug. 10 1952. All 3 boys were killed in a house explosion and fire on 4th May 1957 due to a gas leak in the house. Boyd's wife Nancy was severely burned. Boyd was spared as he was standing behind the door when he turned on the light switch. Boyd died 10 May 1968 and is buried in Arlington

National Cemetery with his 3 sons.

~ Submitted by Clark Parsons



MARJORIE JOHNSON

Belding Girl Wins Wings in Wasp

BELDING- Climaxing six months training in the army air force flying training detachment, Miss Marjorie Johnson received her pilot's wings in the women's army service pilots March graduating class at Avenger field, Sweetwater, Tex.

Miss Johnson is spending a short leave with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur B. Johnson, before reporting for duty as a service pilot. This duty may include ferrying planes from one point to another in this country.

A member of an air-minded family, Miss Johnson's brother, Aviation Cadet Donald A. Johnson, is with the army air forces in Marianna, Fla.; and her father, former Belding mayor, and mother, are flying during spare time at the Belding airport.

Before Miss Johnson started training in the WASP in September, she had a private pilot's license and 185 solo hours to her credit.

Miss Johnson, who was secretary of the Belding Foundry company before volunteering for the WASP, is a graduate of Belding Central high school. She attended Michigan State college.

~ from The Grand Rapids Herald,
Sund., Mar 19, 1944:

SPEAKER REVIEWS

by Jim MOSES

Lori FOX spoke to the July meeting of the Ionia County Genealogical Society about plat maps. Lori told us that "plat maps can be used to jump-start our research", explaining that Ionia County produces a new plat book every year, and these are great for showing where people live in the country. They can be used to show changes in ownership year-by-year, but these newer maps do not show the smaller plots of land. Older maps, however, show a lot more detail, even noting things such as the local sugar bush, the springs, swamps, creeks and rivers. Some of the churches are also shown on these older maps, as well as certain businesses, such as blacksmith shops, saw mills, the post offices, etc. Color was also used to show where the school district lines were. Once in a while there were even notes on these old maps showing when someone settled in the county, or where they were born. However, the older maps do not show the road names.

Ionia County published a set of maps in 1875, 1891 and 1906. Lori reminded us that our society has copies of the pages for all townships from the 1875 atlas for sale. Not only were there plat maps, but some of the directories are called "Rural Farm Directories", which are books of maps showing all of the farms. These directories and the plat maps can both be used to pinpoint when someone was in the county, and then you can expand your research by checking the tax rolls, and you can also check with the courthouse to get information on the deeds.

Lori said also that some of the plat maps show the towns and list the people living there. As a last comment she talked briefly about SANBORN fire insurance maps, which are mostly for cities. These

show the types of buildings, the roofing materials, etc. and can be helpful in determining what kinds of lives our ancestors lived.

The value of church records was explained by Shirley HODGES at our August meeting. Shirley has given us talks several times and she taught many things again. She told us that church records are among the best of all records because of the information they contain, and also because church records were kept before civil records began. Sometimes civil records may not even be available, but church records usually are.

Shirley told us that they are very good supplements because they can be used to tell the story of our families—births, marriages, deaths, christenings, church censuses, membership lists, minutes of organizations, biographies and many other types of information are contained in church records. Baptismal, marriage and burial records can even be used in place of some vital records.

Shirley reminded us that we should always check our home sources for these types of records before branching out and going to the church because we may be surprised at what information may be hiding in that old trunk, the box in the attic, or between the pages of the family Bible.

The value of church records depends on the quality of the records, what we are looking for, and our own perseverance. If we keep at it, they almost always point to other types of information. Depending on the religion, the quality and early keeping of records varies greatly. Some religions have kept records from a very early date, while others did not. In fact, some religions are quite new, so their records will not go back very far.

Shirley listed various types of records, and then gave the "usual" information that is on each type. One of the major things that

confuses people is the baptismal record. Many people confuse this with a birth, even though they may be several years apart.

If you wish to search church records you will almost always find good data. If you are not sure of the religion of your ancestors you can ask relatives. Family stories sometimes give religious information.

One source that is really good today is the pictorial directory. These books not only have photographs of the people in the congregation, they often list every name, and show the address of each family.

Women are mentioned in church records, which is sometimes the only place they are ever mentioned. This can be very helpful. If the person in your family was a deacon, priest, minister, or other important person within the religious organization there will probably be a biography somewhere.

Shirley told us a lot more about church records, but there isn't enough room here to write about it all. You just need to go to the records themselves to see what can be found—and don't forget to ask questions when you get to the church office—they might have things you never thought about.

Jim LYONS, another of our repeat speakers, came to the September meeting of the ICGS to talk about researching Revolutionary War records. Jim is an officer in the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and past president of the Sons of the Revolution, Michigan area. He told us that finding those who served in the war, from 1775 through 1783, is sometimes a challenge. Early census records are not much help because they do not mention anything about military service.

There were two categories of soldiers in the war: the Continental Line (or the standing army), and the militia, so the records will be in

different places, depending on which category of service was rendered by your ancestor. The militia was a part-time army; the men were called up to military duty for a short time, usually near their homes. The officers of these units were elected, and the captain had to file a report of his expenses so he could be reimbursed by the government. Sometimes these reports contained muster rolls. The standing army had different reporting procedures.

Jim gave us several sources of information about these men. Some of these sources are "Heitman's Historical Register" of Continental Army Officers, "Saffell's Revolutionary Record" of Continental service and the "National Genealogical Society

Index of Revolutionary War Pensioners". The Daughters of the American Revolution has index books that give information on people in the war, as well as books that list the links between those who served and women in the present. He told us that the Patriot Index lists not soldiers, but those people who helped the cause by donating food, blankets, shelter, etc.

The best genealogy information for us is to be found in the pension records, especially the widow's pensions. These documents are sometimes very complete, even containing actual pages torn from Bibles to be used as proof of children or marriage dates.

Other types of records are the actual war records and bounty land records that were given to people

for service.

You need to know about the area where someone lived, and the various migratory patterns, to be able to find all the information available for soldiers. Many people died before 1818 when the first pensions became available, and even if they lived, they did not automatically qualify for a pension—there had to be an extreme need for someone's application to be approved. While you may not find a record of payment you may still find the application, which is what contains all of the information anyway.

As a side note, the Library of Michigan has on microfilm copies of the pension applications. These can be very revealing. Sometimes these applications contain the only evidence available on people.

Highlight On First Families Of Ionia County Society

Member No. 13, Martha Marie Sweet

[no photo available]

Martha Marie MARION was born in Lansing, Ingham County, Michigan, the daughter of **Lawrence Vernon Marion** and **Wilma Esther CARR**. She married **William C. SWEET** on September 3, 1951, in Carson City, Montcalm County, Michigan.

Lawrence Vernon Marion was the son of **Mathew Bernard Marion** and **Grace Phoebe CHURCHILL**. He was born November 21, 1897, in North Plains Township, Ionia County, Michigan. He died on November 24, 1972 in Orlando, Florida. As of 1997, his wife, Wilma, was still living.

Mathew Bernard Marion was born November 8, 1880, in North Plains Township, Ionia County, Michigan. He died in 1948 in Jackson, Jackson County, Michigan. His wife, Grace, was born August 14, 1878, in Hubbardston, Ionia County, Michigan. They were married

April 26, 1897, in Ionia County, Michigan, in the presence of Frances **MARRON** of North Plains and Daisy **BROWNE** of Hubbardston. Rev. Jas. E. **LAUDERS** performed the ceremony.

Mathew was the son of **Mathew Marion, Sr.**, and **Bridget FAHEY** (also spelled **FEHEA**). Bridget was the 2nd wife of Mathew Marion, Sr. They were married in January of 1874 at the St. John's church in Hubbardston, Ionia County, Michigan. Thomas and Mary Fahey witnessed the wedding ceremony, both of North Plains. Bridget had also been married before to **Hugh KELLY**.

Grace Phoebe Churchill was the daughter of **Phoebe** and **John Churchill**, both born in New York.

Mathew Marion, Sr. and Bridget Fahey were both born in Ireland.

We are grateful for this wonderful Irish history and thank Marie Sweet for her contribution to Ionia County history.

2001 – 20002 Calendar of Events - Ionia County Genealogical Society

October 2002

- | | | |
|----|--------------|--|
| 1 | 7:30 p.m. | First Families of Ionia County Society Committee Meeting at Swilers' |
| 12 | 1:00 p.m. | Marilyn Steward & Pam Swiler - Family Tree Maker Workshop |
| 24 | 7:00 p.m. | Board of Directors Meeting at Swilers' |
| 26 | 10:00 - 2:00 | Depot Museum open to public for research |
| 26 | 5:30 p.m. | First Families Banquet |

November 2002

- | | | |
|----|--------------|--|
| 5 | 7:30 p.m. | First Families of Ionia County Society Committee Meeting at Swilers' |
| 9 | 1:00 p.m. | Joni McCord – "The History of the City of Ionia" |
| 21 | 7:00 p.m. | Board of Directors Meeting at Swilers' |
| 30 | 10:00 - 2:00 | Depot Museum open to public for research |

December 2002

No meetings

January 2003

- | | | |
|----|--------------|--|
| 7 | 7:30 p.m. | First Families of Ionia County Society Committee Meeting at Swilers' |
| 11 | 1:00 p.m. | Lori Fox will teach us to "Use Your P.D.A. [personal digital assistant] for Research". |
| 23 | 7:00 p.m. | Board of Directors Meeting at Swilers' |
| 25 | 10:00 - 2:00 | Depot Museum open to public for research -- Elaine Garlock, Hostess |

February 2002

- | | | |
|----|--------------|--|
| 4 | 7:30 p.m. | First Families of Ionia County Society Committee Meeting at Swilers' |
| 8 | 1:00 p.m. | Speaker to be announced |
| 27 | 7:00 p.m. | Board of Directors Meeting at Swilers' |
| 22 | 10:00 - 2:00 | Depot Museum open to public for research -- Host/Hostess needed |

March 2002

- | | | |
|----|--------------|--|
| 4 | 7:30 p.m. | First Families of Ionia County Society Committee Meeting at Swilers' |
| 8 | 1:00 p.m. | Speaker to be announced |
| 27 | 7:00 p.m. | Board of Directors Meeting at Swilers' |
| 29 | 10:00 - 2:00 | Depot Museum open to public for research -- Host/Hostess needed |

** 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

NEED TO REACH US? ICGS, 13051 Ainsworth Rd., Route #3, Lake Odessa, MI 48849, PH: (616) 374-3141

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IN THIS ISSUE
ICGS HONORS
OUR MILITARY
HEROES

LATE BREAKING NEWS!!
THE DEADLINE HAS BEEN EXTENDED
FOR FAMILY HISTORY OF IONIA
COUNTY BOOK PROJECT TO
NOVEMBER 30TH! THERE IS STILL
TIME TO GET YOUR FAMILY
BIOGRAPHY IN! REMEMBER - IT HAS
BEEN OVER 110 YEARS SINCE THE
LAST FAMILY HISTORY BOOK WAS
PUBLISHED - DON'T MISS OUT!