

# 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 8 - Number 1

January – March 2003

### *From Your President*

I would like to begin the new year by thanking all of you who have contributed your valuable time to make our society a success. I wish that I could personally thank each and every one of you in this newsletter, but space does not allow that. I hope you know just how important you are to the growth and success of our society. I appreciate all the new ideas that are presented to me on almost a daily basis, and most of all I appreciate all of those who actually step up and help to make those ideas a reality. Without you, our society could not be where it is today.

2003 will bring us new challenges and new excitement as we work towards the goal of raising funds for our new building project. Our book project is well under way, and we are really excited about the response we have received. We have extended the deadline (again) due to the response we had from people who want to participate. February 28 is the absolute last deadline - there will be no more extensions! Now I need those people who signed up to help with the committee to contact me so we can start the next phase of the project. There were 20 people who signed up to help -- now is when I need you!

This year I have decided to step down from the First Families of Ionia County Society committee in order to steer my time in another direction for the society. We have several projects in

progress that require my time now. Jim MOSES continues to be the chairperson for the group and will do a fine job because he has a great team working with him. *YOU* can be a part of that team - just give Jim a call and he will tell you how! This group requires *LOTS* of hands, so help out where you can.

We now have over 200 members, and only a few are involved with the various projects of the society. If you are one of those people who think you don't have time, think again! We are all busy people with families and commitments - you *CAN* find time, too. Your time is greatly appreciated by the rest of us. I thank you in advance for thinking of ways you can help.

Included in this edition of your newsletter is the latest membership listing as of December 31, 2002. Please check your information and let me know if corrections are needed. It is so important that you keep us updated with current addresses, phone numbers, e-mail addresses. You don't want to miss out on that one cousin who is out there looking for you! Snowbirds need to let us know when you will be returning so that we can make sure your newsletter arrives safely to you.

Also included in this edition is an every name index of the newsletters for 2002. We thank Patricia BRAVENDER for once again completing this for us.

The annual report for 2002 is included for you, and it contains the financial report along with an update from our board members regarding committee

successes. Take time to read what your society has been doing for you!

The ICGS mailing address has been slightly changed; please make a note of it. It no longer requires a route number. The Post Office has informed me that they are no longer using route numbers in our area, and that we should not be using it anymore.

~ Pam SWILER, President

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### **CONGRATULATIONS!**

Jim Moses was one of eight people nominated for this year's **Lucy Mary KELLOGG Award**, which is given annually to one person who has demonstrated exemplary dedication to the genealogy world. Jim was nominated by the board members of ICGS to receive this award, and even though he didn't win this year, we felt that he was in good company with the other people who were nominated, and he is a winner even without the award! We are proud and pleased to have Jim as a member of our society and we thank him for all he does to promote genealogy and educate those around us.

◆ ◆ ◆

*One of the many things no one tells you about aging is that it is such a nice change from being young.*

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

- Patricia E. **EIERMAN**  
1410 Golden Lane  
Broadview Hts., OH 44147  
Phone not given  
E-mail not given  
Researching: **DOTY, ROSE, HAMPSHIRE, MARCH, WINSLOW, BLANCHARD, BUCKLEY, STEELE, WRIGHT.**
- Carole M. **FISCHER**  
608 Tennyson  
Rochester Hills, MI 48307-4248  
(248) 853-0118  
E-mail:  
<momfischer@comcast.net >  
Researching: **STILES, BAKER, CURTIS, PALMER, REWS, FITZPATRICK**
- Martha G. **HARRIS**  
103 Sunset Ave  
Penn Yan, NY 14527  
Phone not listed  
E-mail: <rjay@eznet.net>  
Researching: **GIFFORD, WHELOCK, CORNELL, MOREY, WALKER**
- Lorene K. **KEALY**  
6758 Dwight Way  
San Bernardino, CA 93404  
(909) 889-7273
- Norma J. **ROSE**  
1583 David Highway  
Ionia, MI 48846  
(616) 527-3767

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

- Bernadine **COOK**  
New e-mail address:  
<bfcCook@michonline.net>
- Jane **STEWART**  
New e-mail address:  
<tmiljs@earthlink.net>
- Debra **TRINTER**  
New e-mail address:  
<dtrinter@lvcm.com>
- Jerry & Delores **GARDNER**  
P.O. Box 101 instead of Box 29

☺ *The amount of sleep  
required by the average person  
is about five minutes more.*

## IN DEEPEST SYMPATHY

We extend our sincere condolences to the following friends and members who have lost loved ones recently:

Helen M. **FOLTZ KENNY-SELLECK**, mother of Patricia **CURRIGAN** and Dorothy **BENNETT**, passed away on 2 April, 2002.

William **FOX**, Sr., father-in-law of Lori Fox, died 6 Dec. 2002. His funeral was at St. Patrick's Church in Portland.

Velma **MUTCH** lost her cousin.

Joan **McCORD's** sister passed away.

Fred **CHRISTOPHER**, husband of Peg, died recently. Peg has been a speaker for our society on two different occasions, and Fred attended her speaking functions with her.

## NOTICES TO MEMBERS

Please note that the First Families meetings location has been changed to Jim Moses's home instead of Pam's.

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**PLEASE** - Would the person who borrowed the Bennett records two years ago at the First Families banquet please return them. First Families records are the property of the Ionia County Genealogical Society and are not for loan. Thank you.

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### Research Coordinator Position Available:

Dale **JACKSON** has chosen to step down from his position as Research Coordinator for ICGS. Dale has served in that position since it was created and is ready

to move on to other endeavors. We thank Dale for his labors and now are wish him success in his future missons.

The position of Research Coordinator, has been filled by Patricia Currigan. Pat has been a member of our society since 1998 and we are thrilled to have her in this position. Pat resides in Holt, Michigan with her husband, John. Pat is often seen at the Library of Michigan and has worked on many projects that benefit genealogists everywhere. Thank you, Pat!



## LIBRARY NEWS

The following publications are available from the ICGS at the prices listed (postage and handling is extra):

Tax Assessment lists (these list all the people who paid property or personal property taxes in each particular township for the year or years listed. These lists include the person's name, number of acres, section number, and value of property. Each book includes two lists: alphabetically and by section number.):

1888 Danby Twp	-	\$3.00
1877-1885 Easton Twp	-	\$5.00
1881-1885 Easton Twp	-	\$5.00
1886-1890 Easton Twp	-	\$5.00
1844 - 1850 Keene Twp	-	\$5.50
1877 Odessa Twp	-	\$3.00
1878 Odessa Twp	-	\$3.00
1883 Odessa Twp	-	\$3.00
1884 Odessa Twp	-	\$3.00
1885 Odessa Twp	-	\$3.00
1887 Odessa Twp	-	\$3.00
1888 Odessa Twp	-	\$3.00
1889 Odessa Twp	-	\$3.00
1891 Odessa Twp	-	\$5.00
1892 Odessa Twp	-	\$5.00

1851-1852 Sebewa Twp - \$3.00  
1854 Sebewa Twp - \$3.00

### CEMETERIES OF SEBEWA TOWNSHIP

This softcover book is over 200 pages and includes both east and west cemeteries including tombstone readings as well as sexton's records, etc. - \$15.00

PLAT MAPS of all 16 townships and the cities/towns for the years 1875 and 1906 are available at 25 cents each sheet. These maps are reduced to 8½ x 11 paper.

REPRINT of JOHN SCHENCK'S 1881 History of Ionia and Montcalm Counties with Illustrations. This is an exact reprint of the 1881 book. There is a limited index. An all-name index is in the process of being completed for this book by the end of the year. \$52.00 plus \$4.75 postage. [see p. 14 for excerpts!]

If you are interested in any of these publications or to ask about postage costs, email Lori Fox at <lfox@mvcc.com> or call at (517) 647-6262.

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Please note that the genealogy department of the Allen County (Indiana) Library was closed on 14 December and will reopen around 1 February, 2003. The library itself will still be open, but the genealogy material will be moved ahead of the rest.

"Patriotism is not a short and frenzied outburst of emotion but the tranquil and steady dedication of a lifetime."  
-Adlai E. STEVENSON, Jr.

*We are pleased to share more of the veteran stories we began in our last issue and thank our readers for their overwhelming response!*



## Ionia County Men In the Service of Their Country

GEORGE WATSON HULL



My great grand-uncle George W. Hull was born 8 September 1835 in Croydon Common, Co. Surrey, England, and baptised at St. James, Croydon Common, on 8th September 1836 (from film of the church records). His father John HULL came from a family of Anglican clergymen and medics, and his mother Elizabeth WILLIS's father was a

surgeon. John himself was a Cambridge University graduate. However, John was jailed for insolvency in 1841, and the family came on hard times and never recovered. George emigrated to the USA when he was about 20, presumably in hopes of a better life. Two sisters of George were my father's father's mother and my mother's mother's mother.

On 15 Dec 1863 at Grand Rapids, George enlisted as a Private in D Co., 1st Regiment, Michigan Engineers & Mechanics, and mustered in the same day. He was described as having blue eyes, sandy hair & complexion, 5 ft 10 ins, a Laborer; and his enlistment is credited to Spring Lake, Ottawa Co. On 10 June 1865 he was promoted to Artificer; he was mustered out 22 Sep 1865 at Nashville, Tenn.

ESTHER BARBER HULL



By the census of August 1870, George had married Esther Barber (also English), widow, who had children Anna & Lewis by her previous marriage. They were resident in Ionia village. On 30th January 1872 his wife Esther bought from Allen B. MORSE a piece of land next to Merritts Addition (what was to become 760 Harrison Street,

just outside the city limits of 1873), where they lived thereafter. [For those interested in names, the Notary Public was R. P. **SHERMAN**, the witnesses being Sherman and G. W. Hull. The property sold for \$325 and the Inland Revenue fee was 50 cents!] At this period George was recorded as a Laborer; in 1880 as a farmer; by 1891 he had a laundry business at the same address.

G. W. Hull was on the list of the Grand Army of the Republic, for Michigan post 211 and was in the Report of 30 June 1899 as having died in Dec 1898 (incorrect date). George died in Ionia Twp 25 Nov 1898, and after a funeral service at St John's Episcopal church on the 27th, was buried in Highland Park cemetery, Geo. **HALLUND** (?) & Son, Undertakers. The death notice in the Ionia Daily Standard of 26 November called him a 'widely known old veteran'. George Hull's funeral service and his burial were on the same day, Sunday 27th November 1898.

George was recorded as never having had any children of his own, but his step-son Lewis A. Barber might have had descendants down to the present day - I'd be most interested in making contact if there are any! His widow Esther was still resident at the family home in 1903, according to the 1903 plat map.

Much of the US information was researched for me by Joanne **HARVEY** of Lansing, with additional information from other kind people such as Marilyn **WEBSTER**, who sent me copies of plat maps, & a lot of info about **MERRELL** the photographer and other most useful background information about Ionia village & city - much of it on her own initiative.

PS: Does anyone know where copies might be of the 1890s registers of St. John's Episcopal

Church in Ionia City, the one that was built in 1842 (according to the 1881 history book)? I have searched the LDS library catalogue, and all they seem to have are those for the Methodist Episcopal church, 1871-1926. They don't have those for St. John's (Protestant Episcopal) church, which would be in communion with the Church of England and therefore the one that my George Hull would attend - having been baptised & brought up in the C of E.

~ submitted by Eric **ROBERTS**  
5 Victoria Road  
Cirencester, England GL7 1EN  
<feric.roberts@btinternet.com>

### GEORGE E. STEWART

"Soldier Boy Buried at Belding

Belding, Feb. 26 [circa 1900] - When the remains of George E. Stewart, the soldier boy who gave up his life in the Phillipines, arrived last Friday, preparations were being made to hold appropriate funeral obsequies with military honors, but were thwarted by the authorities, under the advice of the health officer and undertaker, and the remains were buried at once.

Stewart was shot March 13 by a Filipino near Guadelupe, and buried there until removed by the government a month ago. His two sisters and mother as well as many friends, are very indignant that his body should be hustled off to the cemetery, claiming there was no danger from contagion, as the body was properly cared for or it would not have been transported 10,000 miles. He was 29 years old and a member of Co. B, Twenty-second United States infantry."

### DARIUS HOLDEN

Darius Holden served in the Union Army from 1861 to June 15, 1865. He arrived in Muir, MI, and settled in the woods in Ronald Twp on September 1, 1865. He later bought 160 acres of Sections 35 and 36 of Ronald Twp. He

was wounded in the leg by a bursting shell at the battle of White House Landing, then suffered a broken shoulder while serving near Harrisburg, PA. He died at his farm in Ronald Twp in 1920 and is buried in the North Plains cemetery.

~ submitted by Louise **COOK**

### GEORGE D. KING

George D. King was born 13 Nov 1839 in Washington, Orange Co., VT, the 6<sup>th</sup> child of Nathaniel King 2<sup>nd</sup> and Elmira (**BEAN**) King. He moved with his parents and siblings to Campbell Twp, Ionia Co., about 1854.

On 13 Aug 1862 in Campbell Township, he married Hester Ann **DREW**.

George had enlisted in the Union Army 11 Aug 1862 and was mustered 4 Sep 1862 into Company I of the 21<sup>st</sup> Michigan Infantry as a Private. According to the muster roll, he had blue eyes, light hair, a fair complexion, was 5 feet 8 inches tall, and was a farmer.

The Regiment was composed of some 1008 officers and men; they reported to Cincinnati, OH, and soon moved into Kentucky to join General Buell's forces in the division commanded by General Sheridan. On October 8, it engaged the Confederates at Perryville, and during the next two months moved on to Shepardsville, Bardstown, Springfield, Danville, Crab Orchard Springs, then back to Lancaster, New Market, and Cave City, Kentucky. In late December of 1862, it attacked the rebel force at Murfreesboro, Tennessee, and for three days battled the enemy in the great battle at Stones River. George was wounded in this battle on 31 Dec 1862, and was discharged 13 May 1863 on account of the wounds he had received. He received a pension of \$4 per month.

George returned to Ionia Co., and he and Hester settled on a farm in Section 5 of Campbell Twp. They had the following children: Gertie

C., born 12 May 1864; Riley Herbert, born 18 Dec 1865; Henry O., born 4 Mar 1868; Miner W., born 20 Jan 1870; Orson E., born 5 Oct 1871; Arthur Franklin, born 18 Aug 1873; Earl Augustus, born 29 Mar 1875; Royal George, born 18 Jan 1877; William M., born 13 Jan 1879; Benjamin B., born 7 Feb 1881; Mary Melisa, born 3 Aug 1888, and Buel, born 5 Jun 1890.

George died 11 Sep 1892; Hester died 22 Jan 1912. They are both buried in Bowne Mennonite Cemetery, Kent Co., MI.

~ submitted by great-granddaughter  
Sandy HEINTZELMAN

### GERALD ARTHUR YOUNG

Gerald Arthur Young was born August 17, 1948, in Battle Creek, MI, the son of Garry Argyll Young and Elsie Sarah CURTISS. Jerry was one of three children, the only son. He has two sisters, Patricia Young DUKES and Shirley Young HANFORD. He spent his early years in Hastings, Michigan, and attended the public schools in that town, earning his G.E.D. Certificate at a later date.



On July 3, 1967, Jerry enlisted in the U.S. Army. After his basic training he was sent to Germany for a tour of duty. When his time in Germany was completed he was given a short furlough home, then was sent to Viet Nam as a heavy equipment operator. He was equally at home operating a 20-ton crane as

he was driving a half ton pick-up.

While Jerry was in Viet Nam he became friends with a spunky black dog. He named the dog "Outrigger", Rigger for short. The dog was badly injured in an accident and Jerry helped nurse Rigger back to health. Then, he had Rigger sent back home to his parents in Hastings until he was discharged from the Army.

Jerry was honorably discharged as a Spec 5 from the 79<sup>th</sup> Engr. Co., U.S. Army on February 4, 1970. Upon his release from the Army, Jerry worked for Piston Ring in Hastings, then accepted employment with Michigan Bell Telephone Company. He is still employed with this company although the name has changed to Ameritech.

Jerry married Darlene Carol JACKSON on June 7, 1980, in Lake Odessa. The couple have two sons, Jason Richard and Brian Travis. They purchased the Jackson family farm on Bliss Road in Odessa Twp. in 1988. This is the farm that Darlene's grandfather, Carl Jackson, owned, and where her father, Daryl Jackson was raised.

Jerry, Darlene and Brian are all members of the First Families of Ionia County Society. Jerry is also the son-in-law of Daryl Jackson, First Families Member #6.

~ submitted by Bonnie Jackson

### ROBERT KEITH TODD

My brother Robert K. Todd was born in Clarksville, MI, on July 7, 1909, to Lewis and Mina RICHARDSON Todd. He graduated from Clarksville High School, then attended Western State Teachers College, as it was called then. He farmed on the family farm and also taught at the Lake School in Campbell Twp. In 1942 he enlisted in the Army and served until discharge in 1945. He was stationed at Camp Claiborne in Louisiana, Camp Howze in Texas, Camp Croft in South Carolina, and was mustered out at Jefferson Barracks in Missouri with the rank of sergeant.



He served with the 103rd division called the cactus division, seeing service in Europe. He had training in chemical warfare, small arms, and at the end was trained as a counselor to help men who were leaving the Army to find jobs. He died in Florida in 1995

~ submitted by Jean MILLS

### GEORGE DANIEL WEBER



My uncle, George Daniel Weber, was born June 15, 1925, in Lebanon Twp, Clinton Co., MI. He was the son of William and Catherine (GEORGE) Weber. George's ex-wife is Jenny EDDY. George's children are: Renee, Helen, George, Vivienne, and David. George Weber served in the Navy during W.W.II.

George lived in Portland for most of his adult life and retired from T.R.W. in 1983 after 30 years of service. He enjoyed nature and spirited discussions about social, religious, and political issues. He died of complications of diabetes on August 20, 2002.

~ submitted by Deb (SONDAY)  
TRINTER

### ROY A. SLOWINSKI

PFC Roy A. Slowinski served in the US Coast Artillery during World War II. He was born on May 4, 1908, in Berlin Twp, the son of Roman and Anna **KRIEGER** Slowinski. He attended the Durkee School and later SS Peter & Paul School in Ionia. Prior to the war he was working in Pontiac in the foundry of the Pontiac Motorcar Company. Following his service he settled in Grand Rapids where he met and married Margaret **BOYLE**. Roy was an avid fisherman, spending many hours with his brothers in the enjoyment of their shared hobby. Roy and Margaret had no children and both died just months apart in 1981. I remember such good times with him when I was growing up. This is just a small tribute I can do for him, to continue his memory.

~ Submitted by Marilyn **RANSOM**

### JOHN J. CURRIGAN

John J. Currigan was born July 1925 at Lyons, Mich., the son of John W. Currigan & Marion **LAWRENCE CROSS**. Seaman 1st class John J. Currigan, enlisted in U.S. Navy - WWII - June 1943, assigned to Navy Armed Guards. Served on 3 Merchant ships delivering supplies: S. S. Jessie Bellingsley to England, Africa, & Italy; an oil Tanker between Venezuela, Texas & Philadelphia; S. S. John Ireland to Russia & Italy. Honorably discharged Dec.



1945. He retired from Oldsmobile after 41 years in Engineering's Experimental Sheet Metal Dept. He was married 1945 to Leona **HALSTEAD** at Lyons, and, in 1972, to Patricia (**KENNY**) **VOWELS** at Dimondale.

~ submitted by Patricia B. Currigan

### The Five **RACE** Brothers of Kiddeville, Otisco Township

Frederick and Lucinda (**COLLINS**) **Race** lived in Kiddeville, Otisco Twp, Ionia Co. Losing only one son, Sidney, in the Civil War, the family's biggest loss was of their parents. Frederick died Jan 1, 1864, and his wife died January 3, 1864. They are buried at the Old Methodist Cemetery on M44 in Belding.

Charles, Sidney, and Delos **Race**, of the First U.S. Sharpshooters (Berdan's Sharpshooters) must have been excellent shots, for all applicants had to pass a shooting test. To enlist in Berdan's Sharpshooters, you had to put ten bullets in succession within a ten-inch circle at 200 yards at rest and 100 yards offhand. As there were only 2570 sharpshooters, it would seem unique to have three of them in one family and also to have five sons from one family in the civil war.

Frederick and Lucinda's daughter - my 2<sup>nd</sup> great Grandmother - Marinda M., married Charles W. **PALMER** on

January 18, 1850, in Otisco Twp. Charles was buried in the Orleans Cemetery in 1855, and Marinda re-married John **KELLY**. Marinda's brothers were:

Delos M. - Enlisted in Company K, First U.S. Sharpshooters, March 10, 1863, at Ionia, for 3 years, age 18, mustered March 15, 1863. Transferred to company D, Fifth Infantry, Dec 23, 1864. Mustered out at Jeffersonville, Ind., July 5, 1865. Killed by the Indians in New Mexico. (Michigan Soldiers and Sailors, Published by the State of Michigan in 1915).

Charles N. - Enlisted in Company K, First U.S. Sharpshooters, Jan 23, 1862, at Ionia, for 3 years, age 18, mustered March 4, 1862. Re-enlisted at Brandy Station, VA, March 11, 1864. Transferred to company D, Fifth Infantry, Dec 23, 1864. The last one of Berdan's Sharpshooters in service. Mustered out at Jeffersonville, Ind., July 5, 1865. (Michigan Soldiers and Sailors) Born about 1840, the censuses show he lived in Syrna in 1870, Orleans in 1880 and Owosso in 1894. He married Albina **KELLY**, daughter of James and Lydia Melissa (**GRIFFIN**) Kelly on February 8, 1867 in Otisco Twp. He died 6 July 1912 at the Michigan Soldiers Home in Grand Rapids.

Sidney J. - Enlisted in Company K, First U.S. Sharpshooters, Dec 30, 1861, at Ionia for 3 years, age 24, mustered March 4, 1862. Died Washington, D.C., Oct 13, 1862, of wounds (in the arm) received in action at Bull Run, Va. Aug 30, 1862. Buried in National Cemetery at Alexandria, VA. Grave No. 1801. (Michigan Soldiers and Sailors).

George Barney - Ionia County. Enlisted in Company F, Second Cavalry. Sept. 11, 1861, at Greenville, for 3 years, age 19, mustered Oct. 2, 1861. Discharged at expiration of term of service at Nashville, Tenn., Oct 22, 1864. (Michigan Soldiers and Sailors, Published by the State of Michigan in 1915). Born 6 May 1841 in Sardina, Erie Co., NY. He married

Harriet **SIMMONS** on 6 Jan. 1880 at Ionia. They lived in Fairplains Township, Montcalm County.

Hiram S. – Ionia County. Enlisted in Company F, Second Cavalry. Sept. 11, 1861, at Greenville, for 3 years, age 21, mustered Oct. 24, 1861. Discharged at expiration of term of service at Nashville, Tenn., Oct 22, 1864. (Michigan Soldiers and Sailors, Published by the State of Michigan in 1915) Hiram was born in Genesee County, N.Y., May 18, 1839. He settled in Montcalm Co. in 1875, having married ten years before, at Fair Plains, in that county, Melissa **BAXTER**, born Feb. 10, 1842, in St. Lawrence County, NY, the daughter of Asa and Lucinda (**CAMPBELL**) Baxer. They had the following children: Effie, (married to Frank **LOWERY**), Ida (married to Wm. **INGERSOLL**), and Frederick. Race was employed as a laborer in Ionia Co. when he enlisted. In December of the following year, he was detailed at Franklin, Tenn., as a wagon-master for about four months. He took part in the following battles: Mossy Creek, Nashville, Blackland, Boonville, Corinth, Island No. 10, Cumberland Gap, Buzzard's Roost, Atlanta, Vicksburg, and Strawberry Plains; was altogether in 78 engagements and skirmishes. The first husband of Mrs. Race, James M. **EDMISTER**, served in 21st Mich. V.I., and died in Libby prison. Race was in 1894 constable of Crystal township, J.V.C. of Wm. B. **STEWART** Post, and his address was Crystal, Mich. (Biographical Sketches of Montcalm Co. Civil War Soldiers – from Presidents Soldiers and Statesmen, NY, H.H. Hardesty, 1896, Vol. 2)

~ sketch & poster following submitted by John A. **PALMER**, 1308 Riverview Road, Raleigh, NC 27610 <themapalmer@earthlink.net>

# 1ST REGIMENT

**BERDAN'S U. S.**

## SHARPSHOOTERS!

**Lieut. Winthrop, detailed from Washington to recruit for this Regiment will**

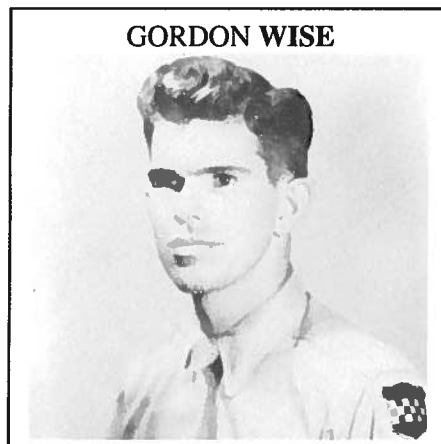
### “SHOOT IN”

**all who may apply, this day, in the field in rear of residence of S. Arnold Esq.**

**Shooting to commence at 8 o'clock, A. M. and at 2 o'clock, P. M. Saturday, 26, Oct., 1861.**

My cousin, Gordon Frank Wise, was a World War II Veteran of the 99th Infantry Checkerboard Division of the U.S. Army. Gordon, born 1924, son of Frank and Ruth **EDWARDS** Wise, enlisted in the Army in 1944. He was a resident of Palo from birth until enlistment. He lived there with his grandparents Ray and Ida **SPENCER** Edwards after his mother's death. His basic training was at Camp Van Dorn, MS. He went overseas on a troop ship in

**GORDON WISE**



October 1944 and saw action defending the Rhur River Northern Sector. There was heavy enemy resistance along the Siegfried Line in mid-December at which time he was wounded. After the war he was accepted as a student at Harvard University Medical School. After graduation he took his internship with the Army. He became an anesthesiologist and moved to Springfield, MO. In 1950 he married a Boston girl, Anne **McGRATH**. They had 3 girls and 3 boys. Gordon died suddenly of a heart attack in 1980.

~ Submitted by Philip G. **SMITH**

from the *LO Wave* Thurs May 23, 1929:

**FLAG CARRIED 30 YRS.  
BURIED WITH HIM**

**Chancey Fair's Last Ambition  
was to Carry the Old Flag Once  
More. Funeral Thursday.**

The funeral of Chancey **FAIR**, another of the few remaining veterans of the Civil war, was held at his home last Thursday.

Rev. G. J. **START** of the Congregational church preached. The local Post American Legion acted as pallbearers and color guard. Burial was at Lake Side cemetery. Mr. Fair, who was discharged in 1865, was given the flag which he had carried during the Civil War. He presented this flag, which was war worn, to the Ionia G. A. R., who in turn, gave him a new flag. This new flag he carried every decoration day. At his burial the Legion boys removed the flowers and wrapped the flag around the casket and it was buried with him - the flag he had so proudly carried so many years.

**OBITUARY**

Chancey Fair, son of Levi and Anna Fair was born in Tuscarawas County, Ohio, February 11, 1844,

where the early part of his life was spent. When twenty years old he volunteered and became a private in the 182nd Ohio Infantry. He was honorably discharged from service July 7, 1865, at Nashville, Tennessee. On April 16, 1867, he was united in marriage to Katherine **GERKEY**. They spent sixty-two years of their lives together, she passing away the eighth day of last September. Their early married life was spent in Ohio and Indiana, later coming to Michigan to settle on a farm near the Cheney school where they lived until they moved to Lake Odessa in 1895 where the remainder of their lives has been spent.

When the Civil War veterans organized the Bretz post in Lake Odessa he became a member, where he was a faithful attendant until the Post disbanded when their number became so few and feeble. He was color bearer for the Post and always took great pride in his flag which he turned over to the American Legion boys when his health became so feeble a few years ago. One of his last wishes being that he could carry the flag one more Memorial day. His health has been poorly for nearly seven years but [he] has been able to be around for most of the time, but since the sixth of January most of the time has been spent in his bed, but he was always cheerful and planning what he would do when he got well. After gradually failing for several weeks he passed away May 13, 1929, at the age of 85 years, 3 months and 2 days.

Seven children were born to this union of which four are living, three having died in infancy. Those who survive are Grant, who made his home with his parents, Hattie B. **RYNBERG** of Grand Rapids, Charles of Newaygo, Florence **HURLBUT**, and one grandchild, Nelson E. Hurlbut, of Lake Odessa, one sister and four brothers, besides other relatives and many friends.

from the *LO Wave* Apr 17 1947,  
25 yrs ago column:

Friday, Apr. 21, 1922

Marion **CRANE**, M.D., and a Civil War veteran, died Sunday. He was graduated from Ann Arbor in 1870 and practiced in southern Ionia County. In 1887 he opened up a drug store at Bonanza and moved it to Lake Odessa in 1888. Though he had not practiced much in 20 or more years, at one time he was the only doctor in this part of the county and had a large practice.

**LYNN FRED SIMMONS**

My grandfather Lynn Simmons was born 11 Oct 1898 in Belding, MI, to Ai M. and Lettie **McELROY** Simmons. He joined the Army in Jan 1918. Two of his brothers, Lyle B. and McElroy, also served in WWI. Ai's father Benjamin died serving with the 146<sup>th</sup> NY during the Civil War, and it must have been hard for him to see three sons leave for war.



Lynn served with the Coast Artillery Corps. in France and received service stripes for the Mus Argonne Forest.

In Oct 1918, Lynn wrote the following letter home to his mother and it was published in the Belding newspaper:

"Dear Mother:

I expect you are anxious to hear from me because I have not written for a long time.

I am in England now, quite a long distance from home.

It was a very long ride across the



Atlantic; one day there was a storm and it was quite rough. We did not get very good things to eat on the boat; one day all the fellows in my company went up on deck and started a rumpus, then we did get a little better. About half of the fellows got sick. Harmond [PALMATIER] was quite sick but I did not get sick though I thought I would any time. The boat we came over on was a freight boat fixed up for soldiers; it wasn't very nice. We saw a lot of whales and other kinds of fish; we saw some jelly fish, flying fish; they looked like little swallows.

When we first started out it was very foggy for two or three days.

There were more boats besides our own that came over with us.

We saw the city of \_\_\_\_\_ and the city of Winchester. The trains are very much different than ours. They are very short; the freight cars are about 20 feet long and have only four wheels; they look like a toy train.

It rains about every day here, but not very hard; the place where we are is on a hill; about 30 fellows in our shack; we have to sleep on boards for a bed; a lot of the fellows got covered with lice, me with the rest.

We don't get any more to eat than we want now; about every guy in our company weighs about 10 pounds less than we did when we were in the U. S.

Lyle [his brother] will be very lucky if he don't have to go to France.

We have not been to France but we will be there before this letter reaches you.

We saw an old church that was 850 years old; it has the old kings and queens buried in it.

All the English people were very glad to see the U. S. soldiers come over to fight; a lot of the girls and women gave us milk and things to eat when we went through the cities.

This country is very much different than U. S. The fields are very green - they don't have fences

here; they watch their sheep just like they did in olden days.

It don't get dark here till about 11 o'clock and it gets light about 2 in the morning and have cold nights and warm days.

When you are eating dinner we are eating supper here; about six hours difference in time.

I could write a whole book full but we don't dare tell anything more so I can't write very much.

I guess Earl [COWLES] is in Ft. Dupont yet, he did not want to go to France very bad and I am sure I don't think very much of it myself; lots of the guys want to go to France but when they get this far they change their minds.

I suppose dad is still in the paper business and painting houses.

Has Roy [brother] gone to France yet? I had a bunch of Y. M. C. A. men and a lot of Red Cross nurses on one of the ships and I thought he might have been on one of them. I would like to be in Belding. I could go fishing with some of my friends. I would rather work in the Belding-Hall and have the good old meals I got at home than to own the whole of England and all the people in it.

I can't tell anything more this time but I will write again when I get in France, so will close.

From your loving son,

Lynn F. Simmons,  
Battery D, 2 T. M. B., A. E. F., via  
New York

October 30, 1918

Harmond and I have been transferred and sent over half of France on different details. It is a good thing the Soldiers don't have any money over here because everything costs twice and three times as much as it does in U. S.

I got a letter from Lyle, he is having a good time with the rest of the Yanks.

A soldier in U. S. don't know what hyking [sic] is till he is in France about a month. When I get home I will be able to walk to G. R. and carry one hundred lbs. all the way and get there in one day.

I will be in France six months by

the time you get this letter Nov. 26. I have been in nearly every part of the army, now I am in the veterinary corps taking care of wounded horses.

There are plenty of rabbits here around our camp but we don't dare shoot off rifle so we don't get any.

The way the Frenchman get their fish, they throw a garnade [sic] in the water and get all they want. We put some in a little stream but all we got was little minnows.

Once in awhile one of Fritzes birds comes over and shakes the ground around us, but we don't mind it any more.

I think we might be home by next fourth of July. They might keep us here all winter if Germany did quit, you know it would be pretty cold going across the Ocean this winter. For me I will ride a raft home if they only come across and sign that peace before winter.

My new address Pvt. Lynn F. Simmons, Bat D, 1 Trench Artillery Bn. A. E. F. A. P. O. 759. France."

Lynn was discharged on April 6, 1919. Lynn returned to Belding where he married Thelma NOSTRANDT and had one son, Donald Lynn. He worked in his father's broom factory and later was a custodian in the Ellis School. Lynn died in April, 1982, and was buried in River Ridge Cemetery.

#### DONALD LYNN SIMMONS

My father Donald Simmons was born 28 Sep 1922 in Benzie Co., MI, to Lynn and Thelma Nostrandt Simmons. He grew up in Belding, MI, and graduated from high school in 1939 at age 16. In 1942 he enlisted in the Army Air Corps and served in Okinawa, being discharged in Feb 1946. Don married Joyce RICHMOND of Smyrna, MI, in 1947, attended Michigan State College on the GI Bill, and graduated in 1953 with a BS in Journalism. During his career as a technical writer, he worked for Lear-Siegler, National Waterlift, and Rapistan-

DeMaagd, among others. He and Joyce had five children, four of whom are still living, and nine grandchildren. Don died 31 Jan 2002 at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans and is buried in Smyrna Cemetery beside his wife and stillborn son.



On 11 Feb 1943, Don's letter home appeared in the Belding newspaper, just as his father's had 35 years earlier:

"January 14<sup>th</sup>, 1943.

Dear Folks: It's high time I let you know that I got the gift you sent me. I want to thank you and tell you that I really appreciate a gift as useful to a fellow in the service as that is. It's very handy and saves precious minutes every day that would otherwise be lost, groping around in my barracks bag for the articles that I can keep all together in it.

Another thing that meant a lot to me, as I'm sure it has to all the other Belding boys who were remembered at Christmas time, is the thought that was aroused: 'We are sons of Belding, and all the folks back home are behind us. Their thoughts, prayers and best wishes go with us wherever we go. We will not be 'forgotten men' when the whole affair is done, but can return to Belding and find all the old friends we left behind.' It's a cheering thought.

Where such a statement can be very true about Belding, it might be

not quite so true for some of our larger cities. I'm proud that I hail from Belding.

I'm very glad to be one of those who represent you folks in the big fight. Just you wait and see what the boys from Belding can do when they get the chance. Chins up, everyone, and carry on! It won't be long.

One of the boys,  
Pvt. Donald L. Simmons"

~ submitted by Dorothea Simmons  
**PIECHOCKI**

from the LO Wave May 30 1929:

**'61 VETERAN RANKS THINNING  
RAPIDLY**

Lundy L. **BOWERMAN** was born in Crawford County, Pennsylvania, March 7, 1846, and died May 19, 1929, at his farm home near Lake Odessa.

When eighteen years old he volunteered and became a private in 103rd Pennsylvania Infantry and was honorably discharged from service the 25th day of June, 1865, at New Bern, North Carolina.

January 12, 1887, he was married to Elizabeth McGEE. Four children were born to this union, two dying in infancy and our dear Beulah passed away January 9, 1916. Ralph, a son and the widow with the grandchildren remain to mourn their loss.

The funeral was held at the home Tuesday, Rev. O. F. **BULMAN** preached the sermon and burial was at Lake Side cemetery.

from the Ionia Sentinel-Standard  
Wednesday, February 9, 1938:

**A FORMER IONIAN TO VISIT HIS  
OLD HOME AFTER FIFTY YEARS.**

Fred **SWEET**, an Alumnus of the Ionia High of 1888, has had a life of adventure as a war correspondent. After fifty years the first definite news comes to Ionia friends of former resident, Fred Sweet, a student in the Ionia high school, and a graduate of the class of 1888, who has sent letters

to Supt. A.A. and to George L. **JORDAN**, a classmate. Old residents will remember Mr. Sweet is a resident on Lafayette and North Jefferson streets whose father was a superintendent of the paint department of the Detroit, Lansing and Northern railroad shops here.

According to the letter to Mr. Jordan, Mr. Sweet has had a life of great adventure. After his school days he went to Florida. During the Cuban rebellion he was sent to that island as a war correspondent. Later he acted in the same capacity in the Spanish-American war. He was captured and imprisoned but managed to escape. However, he says, "I was just foolish enough to try it all over again and was seriously wounded in my endeavor to get the news."

Mr. Sweet's next excitement was in Mexico to report the trouble between that country and its rebellious Yaqui Indians. He reports a very rough experience there.

When the world war came Mr. Sweet found that his previous wounds barred him from enlisting and so he donned a YMCA uniform and did his bit. Naturally that service was in the publicity department.

Mr. Sweet has lived in New York City a number of years and is now doing newspaper work there. He hopes and plans to come to Ionia next June to meet his old classmates, friends and acquaintances of half a century ago.

**CONDOLENCES**

Bonnie and Daryl **JACKSON** lost their father, Carl Jackson, aged 91 years, 7 January 2003. There will be no funeral service. Our sincere sympathy and prayers are with them.

"Character is what you are in the dark."

~ Dwight L. **MOODY**

## SPEAKER REVIEWS

by Jim MOSES

Marilyn STEWARD and Pam Swiler were the speakers for our October meeting. Their chosen topic was a discussion of some of the finer points of the popular genealogy program 'Family Tree Maker'. Quite a few of our members use this software to track their family histories (myself included), so it was good to have some parts of the program explained in some detail.

All who have the program can enter names, dates and places but some features are not used as well as they might be. Pam and Marilyn talked about the Family Page as a beginning, but then went a level deeper into the program for their discussion of the Source-Citation dialog box. This is a very important feature of Family Tree Maker in that when we use it properly we have documented our sources. They explained each button in this dialog box and showed us how to enter both a standard source (such as a book reference or a census reference) to sources such as personal interviews. This box can be used to write entire quotations so that we have a copy of the record as close as a click or two away.

Briefly discussed was the scrapbook feature, which allows us to import photographs into the program. Each individual and marriage has a scrapbook page that will handle photos, video, sound and scanned documents. With the scanning feature we can include a copy of that birth certificate mentioned on the Source-Citation page.

Another important feature that was explained was the research journal. This part of Family Tree Maker can allow us to leave all those notes at home when we go to a research facility because we can put our to-do list in the research journal. This area can be sorted so we have a new list each time we go to the library. There is a column

called 'To Do', and this is sorted by the first word, so we can enter 'birth' or 'death' or 'marriage' or 'census' as the first word and then have a listing of all the census records that we are currently looking for, for example. There is another column called 'Category', and Marilyn and Pam suggested we put a location in this field, so we can sort on 'Lansing' or 'Ft. Wayne' if we want. We can then print our list of things we need to do and take that with us to the library. By using the features of our family history programs we will be able to get much more out of them, and our research can speed along.

The speaker for the November ICGS meeting was Joni McCORD, who gave a presentation on the history of Ionia. Joni started out with two statements that we should all remember. The first was that history is becoming more visual. We must look around ourselves to see history. The second statement is that history is not only from the past, like a hundred years ago, but it is from yesterday, too. If we can start recording our own history as it is happening it will be much better for future generations when they try to interpret our times.

Joni mentioned several historical figures and things of note about Ionia, such as the fact that DEXTER came in 1833 and then brought his family to Ionia. She mentioned a diary that tells of adventures in the early history of the city. She and Joe did a 'looking up' tour of downtown Ionia and discovered much about its architectural history. If you just look at the storefronts, Ionia looks pretty much like any other small city, but if you look at the tops of the buildings you will see what was originally intended because all of the fancy work that was done there has not changed over the years (except maybe a paint job).

Joni passed out a large packet of information about the city, its parks, and its other attractions, and

she had a very nice display of pictures of buildings and memorabilia from the earlier days. As a closing, she talked about the prison school. Her dad worked at the prison--they even had an inmate who helped her mom with heavy lifting. Joni mentioned some interesting things about the prison back then--such as the fact that she and her siblings used to go inside the prison for haircuts, and the guards used to let her swing on the gate. She said that her sister went to the prison school, too.

When we hear stories like that we can see the value of writing things down because none of those things are possible today, and we would not even think of them if we were just studying what was written in textbooks. Without recollections such as these we would have a very incomplete picture of the past of Ionia (or anywhere else).



### Wonders from the Web!

Here is a neat memorial website for Vietnam Veterans:

<http://www.virtualwall.org>

### *America's World War I & II Memorials as Genealogical Resources*

"Dear Friends,

Please view my website: *PVT Donald B. CONRAD's Guide to America's World War One & Two Memorials*. The information is FREE OF CHARGE to everyone. The thousands of monuments and memorials are located by city and state and can provide researchers with genealogical resources. The site has many PHOTOGRAPHS of World War I monuments. Please feel free to link to my site. <http://web.infoave.net/~donbarb54/>

Thank you. Sincerely,  
Donald B. Conrad, 48 Carriage Lane,

Piney Creek, NC 28663  
<donbritcon@yahoo.com>  
(336) 372-4454"

Mr. Conrad, 73, and his wife,  
created the website in honor of  
America's heroes.

~~~~~  
Here is a neat site for English  
research: [www.englishorigins.com](http://www.englishorigins.com)  
They offer free entries for 48 hours.  
Thanks to Shirley **HODGES** and  
Vicki **DUKES** for sharing this  
information.

~~~~~  
Need a zip code? This is where you  
can find them! It is fast and easy!  
<http://www.elib.com/ZipCode/index.phtml> ~ Pam

~~~~~  
People researching Italian roots  
should check out Dale Jackson's  
newest addition to his website:  
<http://www.iserv.net/~djax/Itlaimar.esearchFrame1Source1.htm>

~~~~~  
Jan **SEDORE** writes: Another page  
has been added to the Eaton County  
GenWeb, this time it is the  
Vermontville, Michigan, Pioneer  
Society:  
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~mieaton/PioneerSocVermontvilleMI.htm>

~~~~~  
A new adoption list has been  
created on RootsWeb with two  
goals: the first is to establish  
biological ties for adoptive  
families and adoptees. The second  
goal is for adoptees to begin tracing  
their ancestries by being guided to  
other regional and surname lists  
with  
help and support from other  
members. Those interested can  
subscribe by sending an email to:  
<ADOPTION-GEN-L-  
REQUEST@ROOTSWEB.COM>

In case you missed this:

**[Free Internet Access to Invaluable  
Indexes of American and  
Canadian Heritage!](#)**

In honor of Family History Month  
[October 2002], The Church of  
Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints  
made indexes of American and

Canadian heritage available free to the  
public at the touch of a button. The  
1880 United States Census and the  
1881 Canadian Census, searchable  
databases of more than 55 million  
people, are now on the Internet at  
[www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org), signifying  
another great leap forward in online  
family history research.

The chances of today's Canadians and  
Americans finding ancestors in the  
online databases are extraordinary. If a  
person's family lived in one of these  
two nations during the 1880s and was  
counted in the census, becoming  
connected to the past is quick and easy.  
The censuses paint a portrait of two  
nations, capturing Canada as a  
burgeoning nation in its infancy and  
America embarking on its second 100  
years at the beginning of the industrial  
revolution.

Because many Canadians moved to the  
United States in search of employment  
during the 1880s, family history  
researchers who use the 1881 Canadian  
Census together with the 1880 U.S.  
Census - also released online by the  
Church in October 2002 - have a  
powerful tool. The 1880 U.S. Census  
covers the country's 38 states and eight  
territories, offering a comprehensive  
index on more than 50 million  
individuals.

April 1881 saw thousands of federal  
census enumerators venturing into  
crowded cities and remote villages  
throughout Canada to gather specified  
information on every man, woman and  
child. The project was the 1881  
Canadian Census. With forms in hand,  
these enumerators canvassed the 14-  
year-old confederation, often traveling  
hundreds of dusty miles to isolated  
farms. In the end, they had counted 4.3  
million people of diverse ethnicity.

The 1881 Canadian Census, extending  
even to the sparsely populated  
Northwest Territories, lists such  
valuable information as head of  
household, other household members,  
birthplace, ethnic origin, occupation  
and religion.

Robert **BOTHWELL**, professor of  
history at the University of Toronto

said, "The 1880s are a period in  
which Canada consolidated itself as a  
transcontinental political entity and  
in which a group of scattered and  
disparate settlements are unified into  
a single, quite successful political  
constitutional system."

Members of The Church of Jesus  
Christ of Latter-day Saints and others  
volunteered to do the indexing for  
the 1880 U.S. Census, which took 17  
years, and the 1881 Canadian  
Census, which took four years. The  
Minnesota Population Center at the  
University of Minnesota and the  
Institute of Canadian Studies at the  
University of Ottawa were partners  
with the Church to assist in the  
process of standardizing names and  
localities, and organizing the data for  
easy retrieval. The data also is  
available on CD.

"About 1,500 volunteers, most of  
them from the Church, extracted this  
data," says Raymond W. **MADSEN**,  
a manager of information records for  
the Family and Church History  
Department. "Without these  
extraction volunteers the entire  
project would not have been  
possible." Their completed work was  
then sent to full-time volunteers,  
genealogy specialists and computer  
programmers at Church headquarters  
in Salt Lake City who validated the  
data and created publication formats.

Extracting the data was just the first  
phase. Recognizing that the 1881  
enumerators and the volunteer  
extractors had inevitably committed  
errors, Madsen and his team looked  
at ways to "clean" the raw data once  
it had been recorded. The Church  
formed a partnership with the  
Institute of Canadian Studies at the  
University of Ottawa. Implementing  
a process that had been designed with  
the help of the University of  
Minnesota, researchers and  
volunteers spent hundreds of hours  
cleaning the data by standardizing  
the names and localities, as well as  
organizing the data so it would be  
easily retrievable. "Their task was to  
take the completed extraction work

# The Vintage Voice

*The Portland Observer, Thurs., May 20, 1915:*

## TABLETS SET ON GRAVES OF BOYS IN BLUE

Markers Proved by Government are Placed in Cemetery by Patriotic Societies.

## HOMAGE IS PAID TO 23 SOLDIERS

Men Who Fought for Preservation of the Union are Shown Recognition by Surviving Comrades.

Up in Portland cemetery markers have been placed on the graves of 23 resting boys in blue who gave up home and family ties during the stirring days of '61 - '65 to fight for the preservation of the Union. The markers are in the shape of small tablets, upon which is inscribed the soldier's name, rank, regiment, company and date of death. They are provided absolutely free by the federal government but put up at private expense, and members of the G.A.R. and W.R.C., the two local patriotic societies, are understood to be meeting this.

John W. VANHORN can be given much of the credit for securing the markers, having been at work on the plan for more than a year. The stones were sent to Mr. VanHorn's address and were set up in Portland cemetery under his supervision.

Following is the list of soldiers whose graves have been marked with the new headstones:

Joseph H. SOUGHERS, Private, Co. E, 192d Ohio V. I., died Nov. 6, 1910.

Jacob HAIR, Private, Co. I, 139<sup>th</sup> Ohio V. I., died Nov. 1, 1910.

Joseph HAZLETON, Private, Co. B, 13<sup>th</sup> Michigan V. I., died June 27, 1913.

Leonard LINDLEY, Private, 27<sup>th</sup> Michigan V. I., died December 29, 1913.

Wallace K. SPENCER, Private, Co. D, 98<sup>th</sup> N. Y. V. I., died April 27, 1912.

Alonzo BARRETT, Second Lieutenant, Co. C, 9<sup>th</sup> Michigan V.I., died June 29, 1912.

Robert B. MOE, Private, Co. E, 3d Michigan V. I., died April 6, 1910.

Loren F. JENKINS, Second Sargeant, Co. E, 27<sup>th</sup> Michigan V. I., died April 26, 1910.

John LUNGER, Private, Co. E, 27<sup>th</sup> Michigan V.I., died June 1, 1894.

Nelson ATWELL, Private, Co. I, 1<sup>st</sup> Michigan Cal. Vols., died Feb. 16, 1912.

Silas C. MANN, Private, Co. H, 148<sup>th</sup> N.Y. V.I., died April 12, 1911.

Norman T. SANDBORN, Sargeant, 2<sup>nd</sup> Michigan V. I., died August 19, 1913.

Daniel KING, Private, Co. G, 7<sup>th</sup> N.Y. Cal., died March 21, 1913.

Charles D. HUGHES, Private, Co. G, 4<sup>th</sup> Michigan Cal., died January 5, 1907.

Perry N. MOORE, Private, Co. K, 12<sup>th</sup> Indiana Inf., died April 16, 1904.

Isaac James SHEETS, Private, Co. D, 14<sup>th</sup> Michigan V. I., died August 5, 1914.

Benjamin Franklin LELAND, Sargeant, Co. F, 6<sup>th</sup> Maine V. I., died April 6, 1913.

Ira PALMITER, Co. E, 14<sup>th</sup> Michigan V.I., died May 31, 1913.

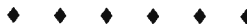
Columbus SANDBORN, Co. D, 21<sup>st</sup> Michigan V. I., died October 5, 1914.

David HELMS, Co. D, 27<sup>th</sup> Michigan V.I., died June 15, 1907.

Nathan C. WAY, 27<sup>th</sup> Michigan V. I., died Feb. 25, 1908.

William H. DARKEN, 27<sup>th</sup> Michigan V. I., died August 21, 1907.

Henry BRADLEY, Co. F, 15<sup>th</sup> Michigan V. I., died December 27, 1907.



Character is like a tree and reputation like its shadow. The shadow is what we think of it; the tree is the real thing."  
~ Abraham LINCOLN

and correct transcription errors, ensure that the sequences of the pages were correct, and standardize the coding of family and geographical names," Madsen says.

Stephen C. YOUNG, group manager of patron services at the Church's Family History Library, says: "The advantage of this database is that the whole census is indexed. You can type in a name, and if it was recorded, it will come up."

For those with British roots, a searchable index of the 1881 British Census is also online, bringing the total number of census names available for family history enthusiasts to 85 million.

Latter-day Saints are committed to family history. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is a world leader in genealogical research and has authorized the development of many important resources to encourage members of the Church and others to search their family roots. "We believe that families go beyond immediate family members," Madsen says. "We believe families are eternal, meaning we are connected to those who came before us."

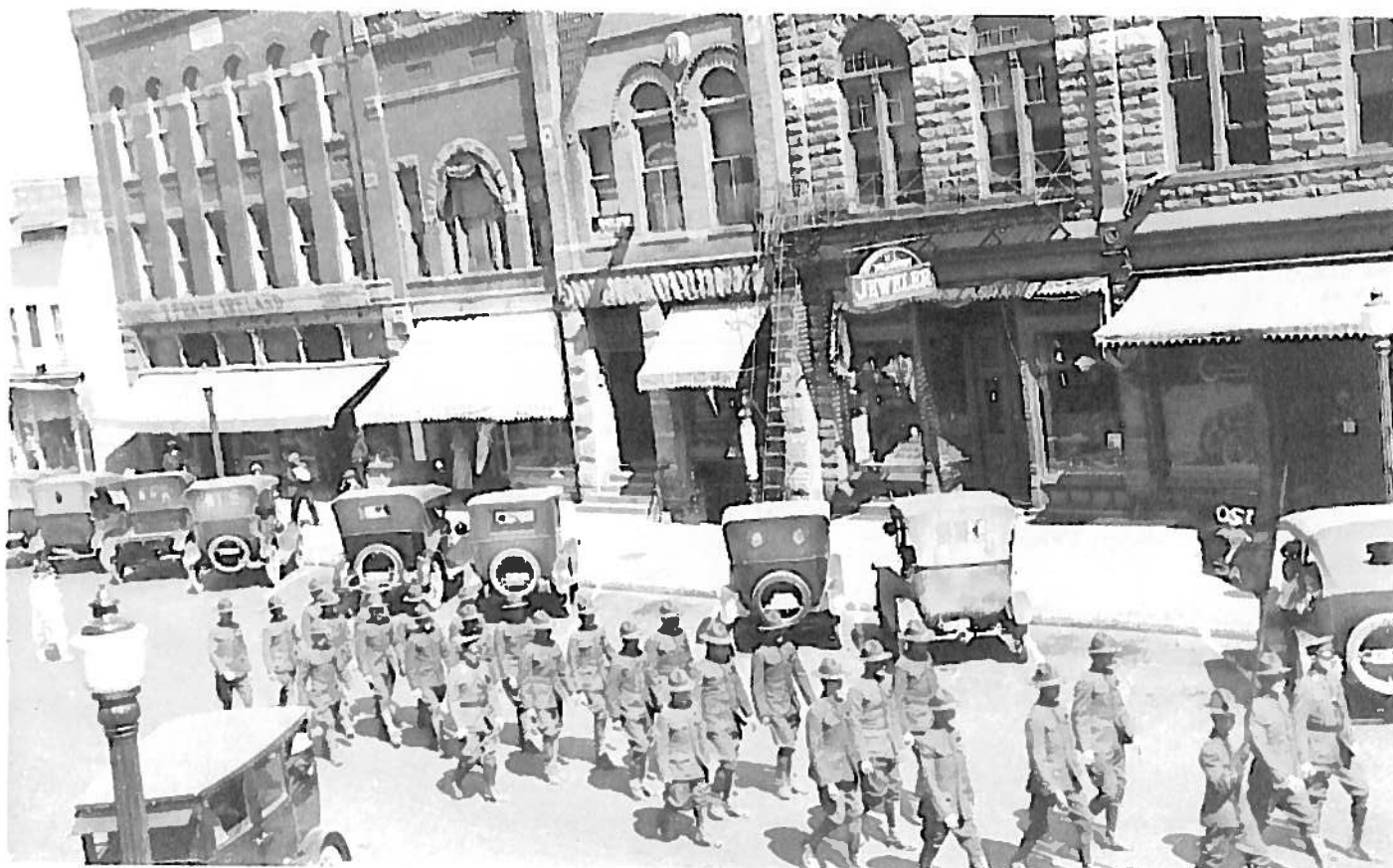
Source:

[http://www.familysearch.org/Eng/Home/News/frameset\\_news.asp?PAGE=Press/2002-10-23\\_Census.asp](http://www.familysearch.org/Eng/Home/News/frameset_news.asp?PAGE=Press/2002-10-23_Census.asp)

### One hundred years ago. . .

- Alabama, Mississippi, Iowa, and Tennessee were each more heavily populated than California. With a mere 1.4 million residents, California was only the 21st most populous state in the Union. The population of Las Vegas, Nevada, was 30.
- The American flag had 45 stars. Arizona, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Hawaii and Alaska hadn't been admitted to the Union yet.

*What a difference a century makes!*



*Belding, circa 1919. Hardware at left bears name "T. FRANK IRELAND". Can anyone identify the jeweler or any other businesses?*

*On the history of LYONS, p. 239:*

[from *Incidents of 1837*]

A story is told of William W. **FITCH** to show what an abrupt lover he was. Fitch had been engaged as a surveyor on the line of the Port Huron and Northern Railway and, when he finished his task, located at Lyons and boarded with Truman **LYON**. Lyon had a pretty daughter with whom Fitch fell in love, but the old man was not disposed to favor the suit, and when Fitch asked for the girl's hand he was told he could not have it. Piqued and mortified, Fitch vowed he would be married anyway, and set out for a tramp up the river, saying that he would stop the first girl he met, ask her to marry him, and, if she consented, marry her on the spot. He had not gone far when he stepped into the

cabin of a settler on the river, called **HOPKINS**. Hopkins' daughter being within, Fitch asked her to have him, and, Miss Hopkins consenting, the twain proceeded to the village and were united that very day.

~~~~~  
*On the history of PORTLAND,*  
*p. 329:*

**THE PRESS**

Portland was compelled to get on until Oct. 24, 1867, without a village newspaper. At the date mentioned **J. H. WICKWIRE** issued the first number of the *Portland Advertiser*, a seven-column folio of alleged neutrality in the matter of political opinions. Although Wickwire issued the paper at Portland, he printed it at Grand Rapids, which rather vague system of journalism was far from

infusing the elements of prosperity into the enterprise. Within a few weeks **Joseph W. BAILEY** bought half of Wickwire's interest and established the mechanical department at Portland. Wickwire & Bailey published the *Advertiser* thirty-nine weeks with considerable success, and at the close of that period Bailey became the sole proprietor. At the end of two years he changed the name to that of the *Portland Observer*, and enlarged it to an eight-column folio. In 1875 it was enlarged to a six-column quarto, its present proportions. Mr. Bailey still remains the editor and publisher. The paper is issued every Wednesday, and has a circulation of about twelve hundred and fifty.

~ from *History of Ionia and Montcalm Counties*, J. Schenck, 1881, available from ICGS.

## 2002 – 2003 Calendar of Events - Ionia County Genealogical Society

### January 2003

- 7 7:30 p.m. First Families of Ionia County Society Committee Meeting at Jim Moses's
- 11 1:00 p.m. Lori Fox: "Using your P.D.A (personal digital assistant) for genealogy 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 2003

- 4 7:30 p.m. First Families of Ionia County Society Committee Meeting at Jim Moses's
- 8 1:00 p.m. Dwain Dennis: "Ionia County Sheriff's Department History"
- 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 2003

- 4 7:30 p.m. First Families of Ionia County Society Committee Meeting at Jim Moses's
- 8 1:00 p.m. Sam Pardee: "The Sultanic Disaster"
- 27 7:00 p.m. Board of Directors Meeting at Swilers'
- 22 10:00 - 2:00 Depot Museum open to public for research

### April 2003

- 1 7:30 p.m. First Families of Ionia County Society Committee Meeting at Jim Moses's
- 12 1:00 p.m. John Waite: "Skeletons in Your Closet"
- 24 7:00 p.m. Board of Directors Meeting at Swilers'
- 26 10:00 - 2:00 Depot Museum open to public for research

### May 2003

- 6 7:30 p.m. First Families of Ionia County Society Committee Meeting at Jim Moses's
- 10 1:00 p.m. Roland Winter: "The History of the Grange in Ionia County"
- 22 7:00 p.m. Board of Directors Meeting at Swilers'
- 24 10:00 - 2:00 Depot Museum open to public for research

### June 2003

- 3 7:30 p.m. First Families of Ionia County Society Committee Meeting at Jim Moses's
- 14 1:00 p.m. Clyde Chamberlain: "Solitude in Stone"
- 26 7:00 p.m. Board of Directors Meeting at Swilers'
- 28 10:00 - 2:00 Depot Museum open to public for research

### July 2003

- 1 7:30 p.m. First Families of Ionia County Society Committee Meeting at Jim Moses's
- 12 1:00 p.m. Shirley Hodges: "Genealogy and Genetics"
- 24 7:00 p.m. Board of Directors Meeting at Swilers'
- 26 10:00 - 2:00 Depot Museum open to public for research

### August 2003

- 5 7:30 p.m. First Families of Ionia County Society Committee Meeting at Jim Moses's
- 9 1:00 p.m. Jerry Morton: "The Sound of Words"
- 28 7:00 p.m. Board of Directors Meeting at Swilers'
- 23 10:00 - 2:00 Depot Museum open to public for research

\*\* 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:

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