

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 4

October – December 2003

From the President....

We are completing our 7th year and what a year it has been! We have accomplished so much this year, and it is exciting to see what is possible when we all work together.

Many of you are asking about the *Family History of Ionia County* book and want to know when you will actually receive it – well, I am sad to say that it has been delayed until after the first of the year. Ginny **FORSTOT**, representative of Turner Publishing Co., states that, due to a combination of the delay in proof-reading and the number of books that Turner is currently working on, we will be unable to meet our deadline of December 1st. Gift certificates will be available to those of you who ordered books for Christmas gifts, so contact me and I will make sure you get what you need.

We have completed the index for the *1881 History of Ionia and Montcalm Counties* by John **SCHENCK**. Lori **FOX** is taking orders for this book which will be a companion to the book which many of you already have. This is a wonderful tool, which will make searching through the original book much easier. Please note this is an ALL-NAME index. Many thanks

to Merrilee **MORRISON-COTTER** and Lori Fox for going through the book and creating this valuable resource. Copies will be available for \$15. Contact Lori Fox at (517) 647-6262 for details.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Dottie **PIECHOCKI**, co-editor of our newsletter, for her years of service. Dottie regrets that she has to step down from this position which she has handled so eloquently for the past three years. I will miss working with her on this and wish her the best of everything in the future.

Replacing Dottie will be Kimberly **PENNOCK** of Smyrna. We welcome Kimberly's enthusiasm and knowledge. Please contact Kimberly with any articles or items of interest that you would like considered for our future newsletters. Kim can be reached at the following e-mail address or telephone: (616) 794-1022 smyrnamipathwaynet.com

The cemetery committee has been very busy this summer, walking and recording several cemeteries in the county. They now need transcriptionists who can type the data into a camera-ready format for publishing. If you are willing to help with this, please contact Janis **KENYON** at (517) 647-4245. The sooner we get this information typed

and proofread, the sooner we can publish it. Thank you to all of you who have worked so diligently on this project.

We have contributed a total of \$2,000 of our \$5,000 commitment to the building project of the Lake Odessa Area Historical Society for the future home of our society library. If you have ideas for fundraisings or would like to help on future fundraising projects, please let us know. We are excited about this project and need your input. We would also like to form a "Library Design Committee" to help decide how this space will be used, what our needs will be for furniture, lighting, etc. If you are interested in participating in this part of our society please let me know.

Remember October is Family History Month. Spend time sharing your history with your family members.

God Bless You.
Pam **SWILER**, President

"The most interesting information comes from children, for they tell all they know and then stop."
~ Mark **TWAIN**

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

- Dolores **COOK**
11850 S. Peoples Road
Fenwick, MI 48834-9735
(989) 637-4794
 - Maureen **CROSS**
646 - 2nd Street
Lake Odessa, MI 48849
(616) 374-8287
E-mail:
<mcross@cablespeed.com>
Researching: **DOTY**
 - Ernest & Evelyn **GEIGER**
10824 Five Mile Road
Belding, MI 48809
(616) 794-2408
Researching: **SPARKS, FROST**
 - Rosemary **HICKEY**
932 Washington Blvd.
Lake Odessa, MI 48849
(616) 374-7698
Researching: **O'MARA**
 - Marie **O'MARA**
310 N. Linden
Marshall, MI 49068
Researching: **O'MARA**
 - James "Rick" **WAGGENER**
224 San Antonio Way
Walnut Creek, California 94598
(925) 938-2556
E-mail: <sequoia@pacbell.net>
Researching: **SHAMP,**
McCLURG, DUNHAM,
WAYMAN, RIBBLE
- Please Make Welcome Our Newest First Families Members:*
- 172. Lauren Leslie
BARTLETT
3838 Kern St.
Sacramento, CA 95838
(916) 920-0659
E-mail: <Laurenbhaven@aol.com>
Researching: **WILLIAMS,**
MAYO, RITENBURGH,
WRIGHT
 - 173. Tresse Fern **GILLILAND**
HOLDRIDGE
500 Hilltop Dr. Apt 135
Redding, CA 96003
Researching: **GILLILAND,**
BEVER
 - 174. Jack V. **WILLIAMS**
7502 Clifftop Way

- Bakersfield, CA 96003
Researching: **SHEPPARD, MILLS**
- 175. Edith Elaine **CHAMPLIN**
WEBSTER
6521 Reeder Rd.
Lyons, MI 48851
Researching: **ST. JOHN,**
WHEELER
 - 176. Dale George **SWILER**
5128 Webber Rd.
Leslie, MI 49251
Researching: **SAXTON, SWILER,**
PELTON, COPENHAVER
 - 177. Darlene **SELLECK KERN**
1114 Dillon Circle
Lansing, MI 48917-4059
Researching: **BREEN, BUCKLEY,**
HERENDEEN, SELLECK
 - 178. Kathleen Lenore
WOODROW
3100 SW 41st
Oklahoma City, OK 73119-3230
Researching: **WITT**
 - 179. Diane Ruth **COOK**
KLARICH
753 Golden Shores Dr.
White Lake, MI 48386
(248) 360-2566
E-mail: <DCKlarich@cs.com>
names: **REED, BEEBE, LOVELL,**
COOK
 - 180. Elden Ray
SHELLENBARGER
2999 N. Broadway
Hastings, MI 49058
(269) 945-9222
Researching: **KNAPP, BYWATER,**
SHELLENBARGER
 - 181. Carole M. **MACK**
FISCHER
608 Tennyson
Rochester Hills, MI 48307-4248
Researching: **ANDREWS, STILES**
 - 182. James Frederick **CAHOON**
10580 Grand River Ave.
Lowell, MI 49331
(616) 897-7835
Researching: **HATCH, WEDGE,**
ALDEN, WHITE, CAHOON,
RUNYON, COVERT, LEE,
HICKS
 - 183. Geraldine **COMPTON**
MOLTMAKER
14336 S. State Road
Lake Odessa, MI 48849
(616) 374-7008
Researching: **COMPTON**

- 184. Anita J. **AMY**
4363 Council Crest
Battle Creek, MI 49014
(269) 968-6738
Researching: **McCLEOD**
- 185. Geraldine M. **ULREY**
2059 Wyndham Hills Dr.
Holt, MI 48842
(517) 699-0309
Researching: **McCLEOD**
- 186. Darlene Kay (**FERRIS**)
LOWERY
P.O. Box 218
Muir, MI 48860
(989) 855-3588
E-mail: <dLowery@ionia-mi.net>
Researching: **HOPKINS, MILLS,**
GREEN, SHEPPARD
- 187. Nathan Joseph **LOWERY**
same as 186
- 188. Christopher Joseph **LOWERY**
same as 186
- 189. Nichole Kay **LOWERY**
same as 186
- 190. Lucinda Lou **BEIERSTETEL**
HOBNER
10546 Clintonia Rd.
Portland, MI 48875
(517) 647-6935
Researching: **SELDEN, FIFIELD,**
SPARKS
- 191. Michael J. **HOBNER**
same as 190
- 192. Lola S. **MARTIN**
120 Reasoner St.
Lansing, MI 48906
(517) 482-8462
Researching: *same as 190*
- 193. Joseph Lyman **WEBSTER**
1617 Hayes Rd.
Muir, MI 48860
(989) 855-2229
Researching: **ST. JOHN, WHEELER**
- 194. Curtis Earl **WEBSTER**
6521 Reeder Rd.
Lyons, MI 48851
(517) 647-6942
<pwebster@power-net.net>
Researching: **ST. JOHN, WHEELER**
- 195. Jane L. **WALKINGTON**
1872 Portland Rd.
Portland, MI 48875
Researching: **STONE**
- 196. Gordon L. **WALKINGTON**
1872 Portland Rd.
Portland, MI 48875
Researching: **SAGE**

- 197. Leora Louise **MOORE STUTES**
2002 Byrnes Rd.
Lansing, MI 48906-3403
Researching: **MOORE, MICHENER, GOODWIN, FERGUSON, TUTTLE, TALCOTT**

- 198. Gary Richard **WICKERHAM**
775 Twigs Lane
N. Muskegon, MI 49445-2559
Researching: **DOWNING, PEACOCK, DAVENPORT, PRESTON, BAIRD**

- 199. Shirley Jo **WOODRUFF**
5511 Concord Circle
Idaho Falls, ID 83401
Researching: **RANNEY**

- 200. Nancy Ann **POTTER HICOK PORTER**
9514 Blue Water Hwy.
Lowell, MI 49331
Researching: **POTTER, TAYLOR, McKELVEY, HOUGHTON, BAKER, CHICKERING, WOOLDRIDGE**

and

- 62. (adding more ancestors) June Raymond **FELLMER GORMAN**
965 Hess Lake Drive
Grant, MI 49327
Researching: **SMITH, TOWNSEND, TOME**



Crawling the Web!

Pam Swiler shares the following: "I just ran across an interesting website, 'Courthouse Experiences' <<http://www.bcpl.net/~dmg/courthouse.htm>>. Not every county is listed, but the ones listed gave helpful information regarding the attitudes of those working in the courthouses. I might suggest that if you have had a positive or negative courthouse experience you add them to this site. I now know how to prepare myself for several courthouses I want to visit later this year."
- Kathleen **BURNETT**, List Mom

The Vintage Voice

~ news & notices from early newspapers

The following articles from *The Portland Review* were submitted by Ford **WRIGHT**, who included this introduction:

"[Ballooning] was probably more of a business than a sport at that time....The **BALDWIN** brothers were from Collins, four miles north of Portland; they and several others from the same area made Collins 'the balloon capital of the country' at the turn of the century. They did ascensions from Washington State to New York, and eventually had a balloon factory in Chicago."

reprinted from *The Portland Review*, July 4, 1897 for the July 4, 1991, issue:

A TRAGIC ENDING

Portland's Independence Celebration Nearly had It.

LADY BALLOONIST LANDED IN GRAND RIVER.

Tangled in the Ropes Rose Miller Sank from Sight.

Tangled up in her parachute, Rose **MILLER** was taken from the bottom of Grand river, Saturday afternoon, in an unconscious condition. A few seconds more and she would have been dead.

Portland's fourth of July celebration came near ending in a tragedy Saturday afternoon. Rose Miller made her first trip in a balloon under the direction of Baldwin Bros. Cutting loose she fell with the parachute about 12 feet from the west bank of Grand river, opposite **RAMSEY**'s ice houses, in 10 feet of water. Boats were sent out from the east side but before they reached the spot the woman had gone

down for the last time.

Several hundred people stood on the east bank and on the upper bridge and watched the drowning woman's struggles, powerless to aid her. A man stood on the bank a few feet from her and it is claimed he could easily have reached the parachute ropes from the water's edge, but was evidently too excited to think of offering assistance. No one seems to know who the man was. Before starting on her trip to the clouds Rose Miller had been securely fastened to the parachute and she could not get away in the water. She could be seen by the man who rescued her lying among the weeds in deep water. Her escape from death is nothing short of a miracle. Her home is in Kibby Hollow, near Carson City.

HUDSON was first to reach the deep water. Grasping a floating rope he pulled the parachute and the drowning woman to the surface. Charles **HAIR** assisted him in getting her into the boat. She gave no signs of life and both of the men believed her dead. Dr. **ALTON** had witnessed the accident from the east side and drove rapidly to the spot, arriving in time to direct the work of resuscitation. The Miller woman soon regained consciousness and was taken to a room at the **WELCH** house, where a representative of the **REVIEW** heard her story.

"I was somewhat confused by the number of shots fired as signals," she said, "I knew I was over the river but calculated that the wind would carry the parachute to the west bank. The water looked very inviting as I was coming down, but I am not a swimmer and when I struck it I went to the bottom. I struggled to keep my head out and my feet got tangled up in the parachute ropes. I could not see the boats coming and expected to die. The last time I went down my hands were over my face and I was trying to hold my breath. That is the last I remembered until I heard someone ask for a doctor. Yes, I suppose I will be as anxious to go up again as I was today."

The woman was kept under blankets and stimulants were freely

administered. At 4 o'clock Sunday morning she started with Baldwin Bros. for Ithaca, where she made an ascension yesterday.

While the woman was struggling in the water a still more pitiful scene was being watched on the opposite bank. A dog had been sent up and his parachute lodged in the top of a tree, 30 feet from the ground, where he hung, head downward, nearly a half hour, his tongue protruding and moaning so as to be plainly heard all over the neighborhood. The work of rescue was necessarily slow, but a limb was finally sawed off and the dog lowered to a point where he could be taken down with a ladder. From expressions heard in the crowd it is evident that the practice of sending up dogs is extremely unpopular in Portland and Baldwin Bros. will be winners if they omit it in future.

Portland did not have a large crowd Saturday, but all had a good time and the celebration is generally voted a success.

PORTLAND, MICHIGAN,

TUESDAY EVENING,

JULY 20, 1897.

AIR SHIP SEEN AGAIN

**RESIDENTS OF IONIA SAW
STRANGE LIGHTS IN THE
SKY.**

**They Declare it Must Have
Been an Air Ship – Seen at
Different Times in Other Parts
of the County – Why Don't
Someone Lasso It?**

What is this thing of mysterious shape which floats over Ionia county? It has been seen in nearly every town and descriptions tally. Most people who have seen it declare it to be an airship, and while their neighbors are winking at each other they go right on

believing it. It was last seen in Ionia and the Standard says:

That air ship is afloat again. It is a perturbed spirit, that cannot rest, except by day; with the shades of night, it flies swiftly hither and thither, an intangible something cognizable, occasionally to the sight, but to no other sense. It is about a week ago, at about the hour of 9:30 in the evening, that a young woman on Central hill caught sight of it, apparently about a mile away, to the south-east, and travelling rapidly in a south-west direction. Her exclamations attracted about a dozen people, mainly the households of Carl GUBYERSON and Steve RIKER, who all saw it, and could not account for it on any theory but that of an air ship. No form was discernable [sic], but there were several lights, which were ranged close together and moved rapidly without altering relative position and the motion was straight forward, without the wabbling [sic] which would come from lights attached to a kite. The general appearance of the lights as described was similar to those shining from a street car's windows. The "what is it" disappeared from view in a few minutes.

These successive appearances to so many credible witnesses, in different sections, is certainly very strange; but were it an air ship, it would have been apprehended before this. What it may be, the Standard will not venture to guess.

*from The Portland Observer, Wed.,
Sept. 1, 1897, p. 1*

As "prosperity" has not struck The Observer delinquent subscription list to any alarming extent, we ask all who can possibly do so to pay what is due us between now and the 10th. We are willing to divide up the time – we will carry our subscribers part of the time if they will do the same by us, pay at least once a year, or arrearages and part of a year in advance. We hope to have a general response to this appeal between now and September 10th.

Ionia people have hard work getting

away from that town. The gold seekers got no further than Chicago on account of the "sudden sickness" of the treasurer; and last week, it is reported, that George SCOTT, formerly of the shoe firm of Scott & GADD started to go to Rocky Ford, Col., and he got only as far as Grand Rapids, and even then he went out Sunday so a constable wouldn't pinch him. His partner found out, after he had gone, that the firm's indebtedness was \$700 more than Scott had reported. His bank account was attached and he squared up by telephone by paying his partner \$360.42. The way of the transgressor is hard – and it isn't very far – from Ionia – either.

Harris JONES of Eagle was in Grand Rapids on Sunday last. While getting on a street car at Reed's Lake he was "touched" for his pocketbook which contained \$165 and at last reports he was still shy that much. He is not an editor, but a farmer, who are the only people carrying around that much money these days.

The *Tribune* editor is cited to appear before Justice BENNETT next Monday for slapping the face of a peddler whose chief business seemed to be the insulting of women and children. We'll try to make it interesting for him. – Muir Tribune [published in the *Observer*]

This is probably the same fellow who was here last week selling paper and envelopes and insulted every woman who would not buy of him. He was peddling without a license, too, and should be prosecuted for it.

The game of ball at the race track last Thursday afternoon was the rottenest exhibition of alleged ball playing ever seen in the place even for green hands. There were several changes in the nines of the week before, when a national league game was played compared with the game last week, when the score stood 42 to 29 in favor of the west side. There was enough "chewing the rag" to satisfy anybody and there came very near being a fight, which would have

near being a fight, which would have been a disgrace to the town. If ball can't be played in a friendly way it had better not be played at all.

The following two articles and the photo on this page were contributed by Linda DeJONGH of Clarksville, who writes: "The clippings are from 1930. From the reverse side of the clippings, it would appear that they were from the Grand Rapids paper. I don't know if the *Herald* or the *Press*."

AT CLARKSVILLE

The home of the state class D basketball champions has a population of 400. It is situated 30 miles southeast of Grand Rapids just off M-16.

There are 42 boys in high school and 36 reported for basketball this season. Twenty-two of the 36 will be back next year.

Robert STEVENS, coach of the team, is also superintendent of the school.

Of the five regulars on the team, two are farmer boys, one works in a general store, while the other two are sons of the village blacksmith of Lake Odessa.

Gilbert HANSON, captain of the

team, is the biggest radio "bug" in town.

CLARKSVILLE WINS

- by Heinie MARTIN

DETROIT, March 22 - (A.P.) - The class D state high school basketball championship went to Clarksville high school here tonight, 24 to 23, but not without a heart-breaking fight put up by Rock, a sturdy upper peninsula outfit.

Rock, fighting an uphill battle all the way, came from behind with a minute to play when RABIDEAU,

1930 CLARKSVILLE CLASS D STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONS



Photo by H. R. ...
Lake Odessa, Mich.

L - R : Floyd NORCUTT, Elwood (Stub) SULLIVAN, Floyd SCHWAB, Frances HANSON, Gilbert HANSON. and coach R. I. STEVENS. School Superintendent

star center, scored a clever goal to make the score 23 to 22 for Rock. Previously Clarksville had held a slim lead from the start of the second quarter.

The 1-point lead that was Rock's, however, was blasted a few seconds before the final whistle when **NORCUTT**, Clarksville forward, sent home a goal to put his team a point ahead and win the game.

Hanson took the ball from scrimmage to start the game and dribbled down to make the first basket for Rock, and Rabideau put Rock ahead by two goals a minute later, and the scoring began to come faster. Rock took time out when the score was 8 to 7 in Clarksville's favor.

Rabideau proved Rock's scoring ace, scoring five points as the quarter ended with the score 8 to 9 in Rock's favor. Norcutt put Clarksville one point ahead with four minutes to go in the second period when he shot one from close in. Hanson followed a minute later with another for the Clarksville outfit, giving them a 3-point lead.

The Clarksville team gave a better display of teamwork under the basket and **KAUHOLA**, Rock forward, missed a pair of free throws that would have brought up his team from a position three points behind. The half ended with the ball in play near Rock's territory with the score: Clarksville 12, Rock 9.

Rock Puts Up a Hard Fight

Rock put up a hard fight to score as the second half started, but F. Hanson got the ball and dribbled to the net to score for Clarksville. Rabideau took his time to make a pair of free throws, bringing his team up to within three points of Clarksville.

With three minutes until the third quarter, Rock pulled up to within a point of their opponents, the score standing at 16 - 15. Then **SCHWAB** dropped one in and put Clarksville ahead again. Both teams set up a hard defense and there was no more scoring, the

third quarter ending with Clarksville leading 18 to 15.

Clarksville forged into the lead by four points shortly after the final quarter opened. With the score 32 to 17 for Clarksville, and 5 minutes to go, Rock took time out to map a last minute attack. Kauhola and Rabideau sent home a basket apiece immediately after time out was taken, and they brought Rock in the running again, the score standing at 22 to 21 for Clarksville.

Rabideau put Rock 1 point ahead after the teams came out of time out, the score being 23 to 22. From then on it was a wild scramble. Clarksville ran in Schwab for **NEEB** and the Rock team tried to put up a defense that would hold back the hard fighting Clarksville team. Norcutt had his big chance to tie up the score on 2 awarded free throws, but he missed them both.

With less than a minute to go Norcutt won the game for Clarksville when he sank a shot from directly under the basket. Rock couldn't break through to score and the game ended with the score: Clarksville, 24; Rock, 23.

Rock—23		
G	F	PF
Kauhola, forward		
2	0	0
JOHNSON , forward		
	1	0
Rabideau, center		
5	4	1
U. TROMBLY , guard		
1	0	3
A. Trombly , guard		
0	1	3
9	5	7

Clarksville—24		
Norcutt, forward		
4	1	1
G. Hanson , forward		
1	0	1
Schwab, center		
3	1	0
F. Hanson , guard		
3	0	0
Sullivan, guard		
0	0	3
11	2	5

Officials—**POWERS**, Penn;
PARKER, Mt. Pleasant, and

CHURM, Grand Rapids. Score at half—Clarksville 12, Rock 9.

The next excerpt comes from "*Ionia in 1891, A DIRECTORY AND GAZETTEER OF THE CITY OF IONIA, MICHIGAN*, edited and published by Edward J. **WRIGHT**. Our thanks to Joni **McC**ORD for submitting this:

The Ionia County Fishing Club is even more than its name implies. Its prime object is the improvement and protection of the fish and game products of the county. Since its organization in 1888 it has caused 300,000 trout and other fish to be planted in the waters of the county, and if its work proves effective the waters in the vicinity of Ionia will soon be among the best fishing in the state. The officers of the club are as follows: President, H. L. **BAILEY**; Vice-President, T. M. **FISH**; Secretary, F. A. **SESSIONS**; Treasurer, L. B. **TOWNSEND**; Directors, Russell **WARD**, J. T. **WEBBER**, John W. **DYE**, O. S. **TOWER**, T. F. **McGARRY**.

Joni follows up with this note: "The year is 2003 and there is still a Sportsmans Club in Ionia. It is known as the Ionia County Fishing and Hunting Club. The Lodge of the present organization is located in the Bertha Brock County Park on M-21, approximately 3 miles west of Ionia. The members of the Club work diligently to improve and protect wildlife in the area. Officers of the club for 2003 are: President, Joe **VAARBERG**; 1st Vice-President, Dane **DROSTE**; 2nd Vice-President, Brian **COBB**; Secretary, Warren **THOMPSON**; Treasurer, Jerry **GREGORY**; Directors, Terry **McPHERSON**, Red **KISELA**, Dennis **SITZER**, Bill **WHORLEY**, C. J. **BASLER**, Jim **McPHERSON** and John **KLEIN**."

"A conclusion is the place where you got tired of thinking."
~ Steven **WRIGHT**, Comedian



CHAMPS
1906

Clarksville Baseball Club

Linda DeJongh was able to make out the following names written on the reverse of this photo:
R. PENDER, R. LENHARD, J. SHEPARD, ? ROUSH, L. LENHARD, E. CORNEUG, L. HARRIS, B. GOODSELL, H. SHE___. The mascot was "Sport."

Clarksville, who thinks this team played at a ball diamond on Morrison Lake.

Pay a visit to the
**Hubbardston Area
 Historical Society at
www.hubbardston.org**

Their mailing address is:
**P.O. Box 183
 Hubbardston, MI 48845**

SPEAKER REVIEWS

by Jim MOSES

Lori Fox was the first speaker for the July meeting of the Ionia County Genealogical Society. Her topic was "documentation." Lori explained that documentation is "the proof behind the names, the dates, and the places," and it is also something that many of us have not done as we research our ancestors. Documentation is essential to good genealogy, and that means writing down a source for EVERY name, date and place. Some of us tend to collect names, but the names are worthless without the proof.

Lori explained various types of documents and how we can list

the sources, and, toward the end of her talk, she gave us some hints as to where we might find some of those elusive bits of paper. When the Social Security System started, and people wanted to start collecting benefits, many people applied for delayed birth certificates, so if you have an ancestor for whom you can't find the proof of birth, you might be able to find a delayed certificate.

Primary evidence is evidence that was written down at or near the time of the event by at least one person involved in the event. Often, though, it is difficult to find primary evidence. One of the best ways to locate it is to turn to secondary evidence. These

sources may point us back to the beginning.

A last piece of advice was to look in close-by places to where your ancestor lived, especially if that ancestor lived close to a county line. The documents you need may be just a short distance away, in the other county.

When Lori was finished, Jim Moses took the podium and talked about documentation, also, but his talk was about documenting the artifacts that are passed on from our ancestors to us (not just the certificates and other pieces of paper, but the "hard things"). He told us how to let others learn about these artifacts. If the object is the coin that an ancestor carried in the Civil War, it could be placed in a container with a tag on it, explaining what it was. The tag usually tells who owned it and when, but it can also tell a story or point to where a story has been recorded, such as the story that the coin also was minted in the year of his birth.

If an artifact has an uneven surface, or a hole in it, the tag can be attached right to the object. Rings, pins, medals and other such objects are easy to label. Jim showed us an artifact that not only can document something of the life of his great-grandmother, but can also show us a little of her personality. When this particular artifact was passed around the room there was quite a bit of laughter.

One of the most important things to document is old photographs. These should be preserved and copied if possible (so that people can see and hold the copies and not touch the original). Each photo should be labelled (only pencil should be used so that ink won't soak into the paper). For those photos where writing is a problem because of the type of paper, there is archival tape that can be applied.

Several other methods of

documenting your artifacts were discussed and, between Lori and Jim, most of the things we might find in our possession could be preserved in such a way that our descendants will know their stories, too.

The guest speaker for our August meeting was Jerry **MORTON**, whose talk was entitled "The Sound of Words," which is also the title of a book he has written. Mr. Morton grew up in Benton Harbor and worked at the *Battle Creek Enquirer*, and he gave us some very interesting information on some of the newspapers in Ionia County. The earliest ones were here by 1842.

Jerry's interest is in a process called "hot type" printing, which uses letters, set into words on metal, and then the words are put together to make the plate for printing. The *Freeport News* and the *Clarksville Record* used this process, and when the Record ended on 12/31/1999, there were only seven papers in the country using this process.

As Mr. Morton explained the process he also gave histories of some of our local papers. Small town newspapers are great for genealogists because they cover all of the small events that make up the life of the town, including who was visiting from out-of-town, ox roasts, parades, and many other things besides births, deaths and marriages. The history and the process were witnessed by us through a slide show that showed how these family operations work all over the country. We even saw copies of the newspapers from the other papers using the "hot type" process.

Knowing how the newspaper worked, and how the information was gathered, can help us understand these symbols of our lives.

A frequent speaker in Ionia, Shirley **HODGES** was welcomed

back in September to talk on "Genealogy and Genetics." Shirley likes to mix humor into her talks, and so we were laughing often as she explained that we need to look at our ancestors as more than just the occupation listed in the census. They were people who had certain traits and did many things, just like the rest of us.

Genetics helps us determine our own uniqueness. Our health and our heredity are more than just genetic facts. We have inherited many things from our parents, our grandparents, etc. Shirley talked about some of the many diseases that come to us through our genes and said that for many of us this is a most important reason to research our families. The UCLA School of Public Health says that about one-third of all diseases and conditions are hereditary, such as heart problems, cancers, diabetes, and many more. Since she has learned so much of her own genetic history" she has had information available to her that can help her doctor diagnose and treat symptoms more effectively.

Some people think that all they need to do to compile their genetic history is to find out what people died from, but it is just as important to know what diseases and conditions they had during their entire lives, as well as the types of lives they lived. It has been shown that we only need to go back about three generations to have enough evidence to determine patterns in our histories. It is often difficult to ask questions of the older people about the different things that happened in their lives, but if we impress on them that we are trying to learn so we can protect our families, most people will tell us about themselves.

One thing that most of us have never thought of doing is keeping a personal medical history, including all medications, diseases, [health] conditions,

operations, and other things. We can then pass this on to our children.

Many things were emphasized in her talk, like the fact that about 15,000,000 Americans are "ticking time bombs for cancer." With a little research we might be able to know enough about ourselves to avoid the conditions that might bring on the cancer, or have regular check-ups so that if it happens it will be caught early.

Shirley gave us a lot of very useful information about protecting ourselves and our families from genetics-based problems. This is a subject we all need to study.

Cathy LARSEN was the contributor of the 1903 Ionia HS graduation article and photos featured in the July - Sept issue of the *Newsletter*. Thanks, Cathy!

"How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving, and tolerant of the weak and strong. Because someday in your life you will have been all of these."

~ George Washington
CARVER

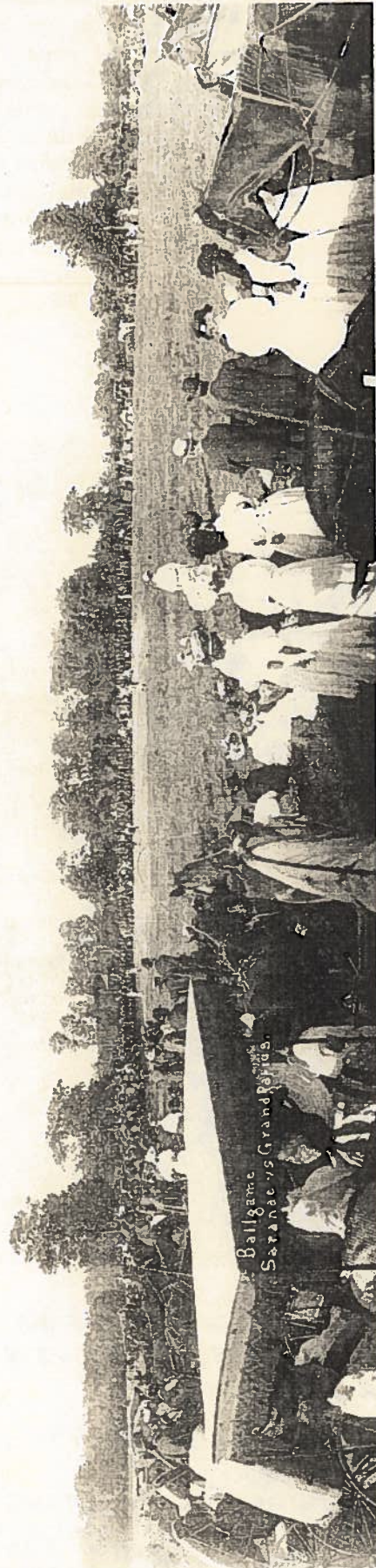


Clarksville Girls' Basketball Team circa 1932, courtesy of Agnes DAWSON, member of the Clarksville-Campbell Historical Society. The girls are:

Back row L – R: Agnes KNAPP, Veneta WIGFIELD, Coach Jeanette JACKSON, Virginia MARVIN, Helen McKENNA, Mildred HANSON

Front row: Margaret STUART, Wanda STICKLEY, Doris WICKHAM, Barbara TRANGUE, Helen GROFF, Mildred MICK

The photo on the left, captioned "Baseball Saranac vs Grand Rapids," is circa 1900 and was contributed by Marilyn CAHOON. Marilyn also found the photo below, to the great delight of your editor, whose grandmother is pictured center, left:



**Saranac High School Girls' Basketball Team,
1916 - 1917**

Back: Helen POOLE, Leah AYERS, Gertrude LOCHER
Middle: Dorotha YOUNGS, Hazel BOWEN, Francis DENNIS
Front: Escellie HENRY, Thelma HASKINS

"A man's mind stretched by a new idea can never go back to its original dimensions."

~ Oliver Wendell HOLMES, Jr.



**Saranac Boys' Basketball Team,
Ionia County Champions 1917**

Back: Don GAFFNEY, (Coach) Frank DALTON, Frank SHARP
Center: Dewey CONNER, Dwight NOYES KELLY (with mascot), Herb CONNER
Front: Clayton WILKINSON, Forrest GREENE

This photo was contributed by Donna RICHMOND HOLBROOK and her daughter Charlene SISSON.

~ from the *Grand Rapids Press*,
June 23, 1920:

**SHE'S VALEDICTORIAN AND
TENNIS CHAMPION**

Belding, June 23. — Not only did Miss Aileen **ARMSTRONG** score the highest standings in her class at Belding high school, but she also completed the course in three years and pulled down the tennis championship of Ionia county besides. She is one of the most remarkable pupils graduated from the local school in years. She is a member of a class of 19 girls and 4 boys. Miss Loretta **SHINDORF** is salutatorian.

**IONIA HIGH ALUMNI IN
REUNION FRIDAY**

A party of Grand Rapids men and women, graduates of Ionia high school, with their husbands and wives, attended the fiftieth annual reunion of the alumni Friday afternoon. Former graduates from many parts of the country were present and among those from Grand Rapids were Lee M. **HUTCHINS**, who delivered one of the addresses, and Mrs. Hutchins, Mrs. Laura **HORRIGAN WILLIAMS**, who gave readings, Mr. And Mrs. Henry James **KENNEDY**, Mr. and Mrs. Howard **ELLIS**, Prof. Arthur **HOLMES**, Mr. And Mrs. E. M. **DAVIS** and Miss Elizabeth **HEMINGWAY**. About 400 members of the alumni were present. Seated on the stage with the class of 1920 were two gray haired women of the class of 1871.

~ contributed by Pam Swiler

"Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work."

~ Thomas A. **EDISON**

MAILBAG

In response to the April – June edition of the Newsletter, we received the following:

"May 22, 2003

Dear Pam,

Speaking of bellings, we went to the 9:00 movie in Hastings a short time after we were married. When we drove in the yard after the movie Ben says, "we have been belled." The yard was covered with green leaves from the shot guns going off in the trees. Ben says they won't be back tonight as it was already late. I was sound asleep and if you do not think a charge of dynamite followed by seemingly all of the shot guns in Barry Co. and those big circular saws plus another charge of dynamite will wake a person up think again. Ben says well Clayton is here. Clayton ALLERDING always brought the dynamite for bellings. My sister who was at both bellings that night said there were not half as many to the second as the first. We had trouble getting those in the house. We were ready with the candy and cigars. They were very nice and damaged nothing.

Could you put a notice in the news letter that I would like the gentleman who asked me about Charles ENDRES family to get in touch with me. As you can see I am trying to type again.

~~ Greta Endres"

"One of the lessons of history is that nothing is often a good thing to do and always a clever thing to say."

~ Will DURANT

NOTICES TO MEMBERS & FRIENDS

ELECTION of OFFICERS

The following positions expire at the end of 2003 and are for two-year terms:

Vice-President (Lori FOX)
Treasurer (Lois CURTISS)
Correspondence Secretary (Bonnie JACKSON)
Trustee (Janis KENYON)

HELP WANTED

- 1) Newsletter coordinator who would take the original to the printer, pick it up when ready, get it prepared for a bulk mailing after putting mailing labels on it, and take it to the post office. This person should live in or near the Lake Odessa area to do this. Contact Pam Swiler.
- 2) Volunteers to work at the library. Contact Marion HARRIS.
- 3) Cemetery committee needs typist. Contact Janis Kenyon.
- 4) Building Design Committee - this is a new committee that will help to design the new ICGS library room. This committee would create a wish list of items we will need, and decide on layout, color, etc. of the new library room. If you are interested in helping with this, contact Gary VEALE.

REMINDER TO SNOW BIRDS

We need your winter address to help save on postage!

Thanks!
Pam

The Vintage Voice, cont'd.

from the *Portland Observer*,
Wed., May 5, 1880:

AROUND TOWN

The proposed constitutional amendment increasing the Governor's salary from \$1000 to \$3000 was defeated by a vote of nearly two to one, the vote in 68 counties being 48,186 yes, 89,118 no.

It will soon be time to expect a call from the census taker, and it may be well for those who are inclined in the least to prevaricate to know that lying to the census taker or refusing to answer his questions promptly carries with it a fine of not exceeding \$100. "Aged girls" are not excluded from this penalty when asked their age.

Mrs. George CRANE will open dress making rooms over CARWELL's May 1st. A share of your patronage is solicited.

Mr. Charles SMITH has sold his farm of 40 acres two miles east of Portland to Darius DINSMORE and his brother for \$2,000.

E. T. WELCH, of this village, has sold his yearling colt which he has exhibited on the street several times the past winter, to M. STEVENS, of Muir, for \$165.

The 5 o'clock train was over an hour late last night, caused by an accident at BLANCHARD's, by which the engine, tender and baggage car were thrown from the track.

"Old Tom" is dead. "Old Tom" was Mr. John STORM's sorrel horse. Mr. Storm had owned him for 30 years, and he was eight years old when he came into his possession, making him 38 years old at the time of his death, which occurred a short

time ago. He was a faithful worker up to two years ago, when, out of respect to his great age, Mr. Storm turned him out to graze.

Col. Samuel F. CARY delivered two rousing temperance addresses in the Baptist church on Monday and Tuesday evenings of this week, under the auspices of the W. C. T. U. Contrary to the expectations of all who were acquainted with the abilities of the speaker, the audience on both evenings was very small, the smallest, the speaker said, that he ever addressed in Michigan. That this was so indicates strongly that there is an apathy existing at present on the temperance question, for it is seldom that we are privileged to listen to addresses on this subject as entertaining and instructive as were these. Those who heard him do not feel satisfied to hear Mr. Cary carry the impression that Portland is dead on the subject of temperance, and it is probable that an effort will be made to get him here again at no distant day when it is almost certain he would have a crowded house.

Rachael KEEFER, wife of George Keefer, born in Franklin county, Pa., died in Portland May 2nd. Funeral services will take place at the Baptist church on Thursday at half past ten o'clock.

Many people at this season of the year seem to be imbued with the idea that the street, especially if it be a back street, or the neighboring lot if it happens to be unoccupied, is the proper place to deposit all the old rubbish which is taken out of the cellar or back yard, never realizing that if it is unsightly on their own premises, it certainly will be when dumped on somebody's else. Burn it up or bury it.

S. K. GATES has had the building which he purchased of S. H. PILKINTON removed to his premises near the foundry, thoroughly renovated and fitted up for an eating house, and has leased it to Mr. MATTHEWS for that purpose. Mr. Matthews has supplied it with new furniture and everything required for a first-class restaurant, and will be ready for business on Friday of this week. He will serve warm meals at all hours, and has a room especially fitted up for an ice cream parlor. He also takes daily and weekly boarders.

Dr. DELLENBAUGH has been appointed health officer of the corporation by the village board.

Mr. and Mrs. C. H. UPDYKE, who, some eight years ago were engaged in the hotel business in this village, spent two or three days with friends here last week. They are engaged in farming, owning a farm between Delta and Lansing.

Ionia has the measles, and it has 'em bad.

M. A. HEATH has sold the home and lot where he resides to Frank ESCH. The consideration was \$1,200.

A new millinery and hair store will be opened by Mrs. M. C. TATE at her old rooms on Kent street on Saturday the 8th inst. A good stock of millinery and fine hair goods will be displayed. A share of the patronage of the ladies of Portland and vicinity is solicited.

from the *Portland Observer*,
Thurs., May 25, 1916:

**THE OBSERVER IS AFTER
THE NEWS - THOSE WHO
HAVE ANY IN STORE
SHOULD UNCORK!**

When the editor approaches the average citizen in quest of news he is invariably told that

the citizen "doesn't know a thing" and that is about as near the truth as the nations of Europe are to effecting a prompt settlement of their differences. Everybody knows something and most people know a lot of somethings that are worth telling and would make breezy and newsy stories, but they just bottle it up in the walls of their dome and forget that it was there. Sometimes the editor is able to pry it loose word by word until he gets the story, when it would be the easiest thing in the world to let it all out in a rush. Pull the cork, brother, and let out the contents of your intellectual bottle and we will pass it on to others who are thirsty for news. You know a plenty if you only knew that you know it.

Your Choice of a Few Modern Houses

F. R. PATTERSON House -
\$1900.00

Hozial HORNER House -
\$2200.00

Mrs. Eli COLEMAN House -
\$2200.00

Edwin GRIFFIN House -
\$2550.00

Fred FRANCIS House -
\$2250.00

John W. VANHORN House -
\$1850.00

Mrs. Alvira RAMSEY House -
\$1600.00

If taken quickly.

Your choice of One Dozen
Houses from \$600.00 to
\$1200.00 Also a good list of
Farms from 40 to 160 acres.

Real Estate C. C. RICE Agency

"A man can fail many times, but he isn't a failure until he begins to blame somebody else."

~ John BURROUGHS, 1873 -
1921 (American author)

Highlight on the First Families Of Ionia County Society

Member No. 16 JOHN R. WAITE



John Richard **WAITE**, born in Grand Rapids, Kent Co., MI, is the son of Richard Vern Waite and Joyce Elaine **HASKINS**. John attended Lowell Public Schools.

Joyce Elaine Haskins was born in Odessa Twp., Ionia Co., MI, the daughter of Lloyd J. Haskins and Alice Helen **SHUPP**. She married Richard V. Waite on June 19, 1955, in Lake Odessa. Richard was born in Spring Lake, Ottawa Co., MI.

Lloyd J. Haskins was born on November 26, 1892, in Odessa Twp., Ionia County, MI. He was the son of Allison Valmore Haskins and Eliza Ann **McROBERTS**. He married Alice Helen Shupp on December 30, 1916, in Berlin Twp., Ionia Co., MI. Lloyd died on December 26, 1983, in Ionia, Ionia Co., MI, at the age of 91. Cause of death was cardiac arrest following a five-year period of heart disease and three-year period of congestive

heart failure. He is buried at Lakeside Cemetery in Lake Odessa. Alice preceded him in death on March 8, 1973.

Allison Valmore Haskins was born September 6, 1871, in Odessa Twp., Ionia Co., MI. He married Eliza A. McRoberts on February 14, 1891. She dies on February 2, 1919 and he remarries to Lois Ann Sophia (**CROFF**) **POOL** (date unknown at this printing) and she dies on April 27, 1895, in Beatrice, Nebraska. Allison died in Jefferson, Grant Co., Oklahoma, on January 27, 1905.

The Haskins family in Ionia County dates back as far as 1846 according to the extensive documentation provided by John R. Waite. America Admiral Haskins was the first known to arrive at that time. America was the father of Allison V. Haskins. He was born in Bridgewater, Plymouth Co., Massachusetts, on June 1, 1806. On August 8, 1828, in Beckland, Franklin Co., Massachusetts, he married Mary Ann **DUNBAR LEONARD**, born in the same area.

In 1875 the Odessa Twp. plat map shows A.A. Haskins owning a 40-acre plot and a 20-acre plot in Section 22 which he purchased on September 20, 1846. In 1850 America is listed in the census along with Mary Ann Haskins and William Haskins.

America Haskins was an active resident of Odessa Twp., as is his descendent, John R. Waite. John is the current president of the Lake Odessa Area Historical Society, a board member of the ICGS, and youth pastor of his church, Lakewood United Methodist Church. We appreciate all the effort John has put into preserving the local and family history of Ionia County and more specifically, the Lake Odessa area. Thank you, John.

2003 – 2004 Calendar of Events - Ionia County Genealogical Society

November 2003

- 20 7:00 p.m. Board of Directors Meeting at Swilers'
29 10:00 - 2:00 Depot Museum closed to public for research – Christmas 'Round The Town will be on instead. Come and shop!

December 2003 -- No meetings --

- 27 10:00 - 2:00 Depot Museum open to public for research

January 2004

- 6 7:00 p.m. First Families of Ionia County Society Committee Meeting at Jim Moses's
10 1:00 p.m. Show 'n' Tell and Round Table Panel Discussion – BRING YOUR PROJECTS AND QUESTIONS!
22 7:00 p.m. Board of Directors Meeting at Swilers'
31 10:00 - 2:00 Depot Museum open to public for research – Elaine Garlock, Hostess

February 2004

- 3 7:00 p.m. First Families of Ionia County Society Committee Meeting at Jim Moses's
14 1:00 p.m. Topic to be announced
26 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**

March 2004

- 2 7:00 p.m. First Families of Ionia County Society Committee Meeting at Jim Moses's
13 1:00 p.m. Elaine Garlock – The Orphan Train
25 7:00 p.m. Board of Directors Meeting at Swilers'
27 10:00 - 2:00 Depot Museum open to public for research – **Host/Hostess needed**

April 2004

- 6 7:00 p.m. First Families of Ionia County Society Committee Meeting at Jim Moses's
10 1:00 p.m. Topic to be announced
22 7:00 p.m. Board of Directors Meeting at Swilers'
24 10:00 - 2:00 Depot Museum open to public for research – **Host/Hostess needed**

May 2004

- 4 7:00 p.m. First Families of Ionia County Society Committee Meeting at Jim Moses's
8 1:00 p.m. Jim Moses – Genealogy for Beginners: What You Should Know Before You Begin
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, 1059 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.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~milionia/>

ICGS Newsletter:

Editor: Pamela Swiler

Asst Editor: Dottie Piechocki

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

Ionia County Genealogical Society

13051 Ainsworth Road
Lake Odessa, MI 48849-9406

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

U.S. POSTAGE PAID
STANDARD
PERMIT NO. 8
LAKE ODESSA, MI

TO:

**2004 MEMBERSHIPS
DUE JAN. 1, 2004**

.....
Those interested in membership of the I.C.G.S. should complete the form below and send it with \$15.00
annual membership fee made payable to *Ionia County Genealogical Society*. Send to: I.C.G.S.; 13051
Ainsworth Road, Route 3, Lake Odessa, MI 48849-9406. Memberships run January through December.
.....

This is a renewal _____

This is a NEW Membership _____

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION:

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____

Zip Code: _____ Home Telephone: _____

E-mail Address: _____

List surnames you are researching: _____

Are you interested in becoming a member of the First Families of Ionia County Society? _____

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