

# IONIA COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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## MISSION STATEMENT

The Ionia County Genealogical Society is a non-profit volunteer group whose mission is to create awareness and preserve family histories within the Ionia County area.

The focus of this group will be to develop genealogical resources and to assist all those seeking local history.

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Volume 9 - Number 1

January - March 2004

**From The President...**

Happy New Year! May the Lord fill your year with many blessings! The past year has been great! Be sure to read through your Annual Report it will give you an idea of what has been happening in your society.

As we enter this New Year we are excited about new projects and events taking place. Keep reading your newsletters so that you don't miss out on something you might want to become involved with.

Our first meeting of the year gave us a jump start as we had a Show N Tell and also had a panel of "experts" available to help with members' brick walls problems. It was wonderful! It was great to see so much enthusiasm as people told their stories and found others in the audience to share their histories with. I would like to invite those of you who are not able to attend the meetings to write a paragraph of introduction and tell us what families you are researching and any issues that you are having difficulty resolving. We will publish them in an upcoming newsletter and who knows maybe you too can find a new "cousin!"

As always, our society needs your help with other things, too. We have developed a Design Committee for the layout of our new library which is nearing the stage of breaking ground. If you are interested in helping, contact Gary Veale who is coordinating the information and bringing it back to the historical society's committee. Your board of directors has already put together a dream list for the library.

We are still in need of a publicity person to work with me on getting press releases out to the local newspapers. If you are interested in working on this please contact me.

Thank you to all of you who have been so supportive this past year. We appreciate all you do and look forward to working with you again in the future.

**Have a great year!**

Pam Swiler, President



## WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS

Mr. & Mrs. Bruce THOMAS  
106 Rock Ridge Drive  
Clancy, MT 59634  
(No further information)

Charlotte DELVERO  
16230 Beverly Road  
Beverly Hills, MI 48025  
(284) 642-6052  
acdcl2@juno.com  
Surnames: **McCOY & BRIGGS**

Cheryl A. IRISH  
1660 Dick Road  
Ionia, MI 48846  
(616) 522-9428  
irishc2@chartermi.net  
Surnames: **McLEOD, IRISH,  
ROSE, ROSS, VANHOUTEN,  
JENSEN, SHEFFER, & LEIF**

Ann D. CHRISTMANN  
1718 Patchester Drive  
Houston, TX 77079  
(713) 461-8669  
christmanno@earthlink.net  
Surname: **KING**

Ardith GRAHAM  
356 White Oak Drive  
Cave Junction, OR 97523  
(541) 592-3035  
ardy@cavenet.com  
Surnames: **HANCORNE,  
LIBERTY, & SMITH**

Marilyn M. KLINESMITH  
517 W. Riverside Drive  
Ionia, MI 48846  
(616) 527-4519  
Husband: Carl J. KLINESMITH

Mr. Keith BAILEY  
303 N. Jackson Street  
Ionia, MI 48846  
krbailey@chartermi.net



## NOTICE

ICGS is currently working on the Lakeside Cemetery, which is the only cemetery in Odessa Township. ICGS has completed Sebewa Township cemeteries and are will be working on several others in the near future. If you have information to contribute or would like to offer your assistance please contact Lori Fox at [lorifox@power-net.net](mailto:lorifox@power-net.net) for details.

## PLEASE NOTE THIS CHANGE

Jim MOSES'  
new email address:  
[jmoses@power-net.net](mailto:jmoses@power-net.net)

## *In Deepest Sympathy*

We are sad to report we have lost First Families member John Ford MCDOWELL (#92). Ford was a member of the Goodmoot family and has been a supporting member of our society since 2000. Ford passed November 21, 2003 at the age of 63 years.

### Condolences

Extended also to:

John WAITE, whose aunt, Mary Jean FRENCH passed after a long illness.

Pat ZANDER and family. Pat lost her father, W. Clarence REED, aged 96, of Reed City, MI on Dec. 26th.

### REMINDER!

Membership Fees are Due  
\$15.00 Annually

Membership to the ICGS  
Makes a perfect gift!

Send payment to:  
ICGS  
13051 Ainsworth Rd.  
Lake Odessa, MI 48849-9406



# First Families Highlight

## Member No. 17



Debra J. (Stadel) Eddy

Debra was born **Debra Jean Stadel**, in Fort Meade, Anne Arundel Co., Maryland. She is the daughter of **Robert Lewis Stadel** and **Carol Jean Myers**. Debra resides in Charlotte, Eaton County, Michigan with her husband, Bruce and their children. Debra is employed by Charlotte Public Schools as a secretary and has been an active member of our First Families of Ionia County Society Committee since becoming a charter member in 1997.

Debra descends from several lines that were in Ionia County prior to 1880. They include **Ebenezer Norton Lowrey**, who first arrives in Ionia Co. in 1858; **James Dodds**, who appears in some old family letters in 1849 and then again in the 1850 census; **Harriett Ann Welch**, who appears in a marriage record in 1867 when she marries **John Lowrey**; **Henry B. Aungst** and his wife,

**Sarah Ann Bills** and son, **Andrew "Jack" Jackson Aungst** came to Michigan when Jack was at the age of 11 in 1877. Jack lived in Odessa Township until his death at age 75. Other ancestors include **Hugh Dodds** and **Eleanor J. Dodds**. Hugh arrives in 1847 and Eleanor in 1859 according to various documents such as a patent for Wood's Grubbing Machine which was bought by Hugh Dodds on December 21, 1860 and a warranty deed dated May 9, 1864 between **Lawson McDonald** and Hugh Dodds.

Debra's parents were married May 25, 1946 and resided in the Woodland, Barry Co., Michigan area. They had three other children, Douglas, David and Daryl. Carol died July 31, 1992 from breast cancer in Barry Co.

Robert Lewis Stadel was the son of **Roy Elza Stadel** and **Maude Lunita Serrine**. Carol Jean Myers was the daughter of **Murray Glenn Myers** and **Eleanor Lenora Wilson**. It is Carol's line that Debra has followed back to the 1800's. Debra was meticulous and has provided a wealth of valuable material in her research. Anyone who is researching any of the surnames Debra has documented will be thrilled to see how much information is available in her First Families application. More information is available in the *Family Histories of Ionia County* book, which is scheduled to come out this month from the publisher. Debra has included many biographies on various family members in that book.

Thank you, Debra for your fine research project which we are proud to have on our shelves at our library.

The Ionia County First Families Project is growing! **Many thanks** to Lori Fox, who has updated the surname list. Lori has expanded the online list from 5,000 names to more than 14,000 names! You can view the index at: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~miionia/ff.htm>



## *First Families Member Celebrates 90 Years Young!*



A 90<sup>th</sup> birthday party was held for First Families of Ionia County Society member, **Richard "Dick" Heaven** on Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup> at the Boston Bible Church in Saranac. The party was put together by his children and was open to the public, and although not well publicized, was well attended. Dick and his wife Eleanor enjoyed the day and having friends and family join them in his special celebration.

Richard Heaven is a charter member of the Ionia County Genealogical Society and served as one of two of the first trustees on our board of Directors.

Happy Birthday, Dick!

*Show me first the graveyards of a country*

*And I will tell you the true character of the people.*

*- Benjamin Franklin*

***Imagination is more important than knowledge***

- Albert Einstein

The children of a prominent family, chose to give their patriarch a book on their family's history. The biographer they hired was warned of one problem. Uncle Willie, the 'Black Sheep' of the family, had gone to Sing Sing Prison's electric chair for murder. The writer carefully handled the situation in the following way:

"Uncle Willie occupied a chair of applied electronics at one of our nation's leading institutions. He was attached to his position by the strongest of ties. His death came as a true shock."

### **Index Is Now Available!**

The All-Name index for the 1881 History of Ionia & Montcalm Counties Michigan book is complete!

This is a nice hard cover publication and a must have for those who refer to Ionia or Montcalm County histories regularly. This new edition is available to you for \$17.00 (\$3.00 shipping if necessary).

We also have reprints of the 1881 History of Ionia and Montcalm Counties Michigan book available for \$52.00 each. Well worth the expense.

To order either of these wonderful publications please contact:

**Lori Fox**  
3011 Knoll Road  
Portland, MI 48875  
(517) 647-6262

Make checks out to:  
Ionia County Genealogical Society



## From the SARANAC/LOWELL Area

I have been researching my **Denny/Bigley** families for several years. After my father (**Lyle Denny, Sr.**) passed away we were sorting his personal belongings. I happened by an old dusty box with a few old yellowed envelopes, pictures and an old ledger in it. This dusty old box turned out to be a treasure chest of family information. My Grandmother Denny had saved almost every obituary that came her way that had to do with the Denny/Bigley families and some friends. There was a list of family members that included my Great Grandmother/Father (**Joseph B. and Mary Jane Dennie**). The list included birthdays, deaths and marriages. No Dennie is not a typo, there are two different spellings of our surname which has made it very difficult to trace the family as there were Dennys in the area that apparently weren't related.

I am working on those relationships. As I read the old obits I began to know these people as relatives and not just somebody on a piece of paper. As a bonus from the information gleaned from these old obits I was able to locate our Great Great Grandparents (**Joseph W. and Adeliah Mary Denny**) who lived and farmed in the Lowell area for many years. My living relatives had no idea they were in this area. After researching information from these old obits and other information I know our ethnic origins, religions and the migration paths from Canada and New York the families took. My Grandmother Denny's only brother **Lloyd Bigley** wrote down in the old ledger the whole Bigley/Westbrook Family from the earliest family in New York (1700's) to the present. He included birthdays, deaths and marriages. He also had information about the spouses. The ledger proved to be a very valuable asset and I rely on it to aid my research. I must note that researching my Denny family has been a learning experience to say the least. I hated history when I was in school but nowadays it's not so bad, now one of my brothers refers to me as the family historian. With help from my computer, my Family Tree Maker software and the internet I have documented over 200 names from five families which I am still researching. Sometime in the near future I will put our family history into story form so my family will know their "ROOTS". Maybe in future newsletters I can tell our family history to the readers as well. Until then keep looking in those old dusty boxes you never know what you might find.

Submitted by Lyle G. Denny, Jr.

*Genealogy is not fatal, but it is a grave disease*





The Department of Michigan  
**Blue Star Mothers  
Of America  
Charter Members**



The following mothers having one or more sons or daughters serving in the armed forces of the nation do apply for a charter in The Department of Michigan Blue Star mothers of America, and are to be known as charter members of Lake Odessa Chapter No. 93. Organized May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1944.

Ila Hamp  
Lera Blakley  
Opal Bartlett  
Mrs. Roy Braden  
Mary Brown  
Edith Berndt  
Jennie Brock  
Gertrude Charley  
Rose Erwin  
Hazel Fisher  
Esther Kart  
Alma Fontaine  
Rena Fender  
Elsie Gilliland  
Ina Gattner  
MarjorieHersheiser

Alice Haskins  
Florence Hunt  
Ann Miller  
Mable McCaul  
Grace Miller  
Fern Miske  
Martha McLeod  
Anna McCurdy  
Vera McCartney  
Emma O'Mara  
Maysell Rush  
Mable Smith  
Myra Smith  
Genevieve -  
Shoemaker  
Naomi Shaw

Kate Torrey  
Grethel Walters  
Mable Willman  
Mable Holbrock  
Mrs. Kenyon  
Mrs. Klein  
Erma McKinley  
Violet Haas  
Elizabeth King  
Ethel Buche  
Carrie Rheam  
Lottie Cunningham  
Lottie Barker  
Maud Fisher

The objects of the Blue Star Mothers of American shall be patriotic, educational, social, and for service; to maintain true allegiance to the government of the United States...to assist mothers of service men to get acquainted, and to foster democracy...to be ever alert against invasion of un-American activities; to uphold the American institutions of freedom, justice and equal rights, and to defend the United States of American from all enemies.

In witness whereof we have hereto set our hands and seal of the Department of Michigan Blue Star Mothers of America this tenth day of August in the year of our Lord 1944.

Signed: Esther M. Whetzel President, , Dept of Mich.  
Signed: Mebla R Gurden, Secretary Dept. of Mich.

*Transcribed from the original by Pamela K. Swiler  
The original is part of the museum collection of the Lake Odessa Area Historical Society*



# Mystery Hat Ladies??



## From Our Mailbag...

"The ladies in this picture are from the Smyrna area. **Lucy Engalls Gardner** (Jerry's grandmother) is the first one top row. Her hat is black and her face is partially hidden by the hat on the lady in front row. I'm wondering about the identification of the rest of the ladies. The picture was taken June 2, 1948."-Sent to us from **Delores & Jerry Gardner**, Russian Mission, Alaska.

If anyone knows who these fine ladies are and what the significance of the hats is, please let us know! We will publish the answer in a future newsletter.



# Speaker Reviews.....

**October 11, 2003...**

Our own **Marilyn Cahoon** gave a talk on the history of the Boston-Saranac area at the October 11 meeting of the Ionia County Genealogical Society. Marilyn said she grew up in Keene Township but has lived in South Boston for the 49 years of her marriage. In the olden times there were three settlements in the area--South Boston, Waterville and Saranac. The first permanent settlers were the **Worcester English** family who came in 1836 from Vermont. They came with others, and the families sold wheat and started orchards in the area. White's tavern was the first place where people visiting could stay. When new people came they would stay with the earlier settlers until they had a house of their own. It wasn't long before the first birth in Boston, that of **Betsey Ann Gould**, in 1837. Marilyn also gave us information on first marriages, schools, the post office, and other things. The town of Waterville never grew. A man named **Robert Hilton** bought much land there and laid out a town at his mill site, but for some reason nothing came of his plans. However, Saranac grew up around a saw mill, built by a **Mr. Hooker**. After the saw mill was established, a furniture business sprouted. After a few name changes the town became known as it is today--Saranac. The railroad came and the lifestyle of the town changed from mostly subsistence to manufacturing. Marilyn added a few anecdotes about local people, ending with one about the first power plant, which would be operational only for certain hours of the day, so people would have to get out their kerosene lamps at night. As a courtesy, the man at the power plant would blink the lights off and on just before shutting down so people would have time to get the lamps lit.

**November 8, 2003**

**Elizabeth Kelley Kerstens**, CGRS, CGL, who was instrumental in the development of Clooz and GeneWeaver, was our speaker in November. She is the author of Clooz and did the programming for GeneWeaver. Ms. Kerstens told us about the human genome project, which mapped the 100,000 genes we humans have. During the mapping process it was discovered that there are about 3,000 genetic diseases (and the list is still growing). This means that many people are at risk for contracting a genetically-based disease. From half to two-thirds of the known diseases are not genetically-linked so far, so there is a lot that can be learned from putting together a family health history. This history starts with the youngest person and goes back with blood relatives only. It is not the same as a genealogy family tree. It can help us toward prevention of certain diseases. Parents, children and siblings of the subject of a medical genogram (which is a graphic representation of the family health history) have a first degree graphic representation of the family health history) have a first degree



graphic representation of the family health history) have a first degree relationship because they all share 50% of the genes of the subject. Each generation away from the subject shares half of what the previous generation had, in the genes, so within a few generations the gene pool becomes very different. However, some diseases pass on from generation to generation and it is very helpful to know about them. GeneWeaver is a way to understand the relationships. It is a computer program that uses all sorts of information about individuals to get the medical histories correct, and to be able to show possibilities of certain diseases happening. You can select anyone in your family tree, and the program will use that person as the beginning person, and then go back three generations from there, looking for medical information that you have entered. There are different tabs where you can enter/search for information—health, health events, medical conditions, and others. There are 12 screens where you may enter information on males, and 13 for females, so you can gather a lot of data about someone. The reporting facilities are good, too. There is a medical pedigree report which is similar to a regular pedigree chart, but it gives death information only. Other features of the program are an individual health history questionnaire that can be printed out as a blank form for your relatives to fill out. Also there is on-line help, such as a list of out-dated medical terms that will help us understand the names of diseases that were used in the past. You may find both Clooz and GeneWeaver advertised in most genealogy magazines. Ms. Kerstens is also the editor of "Genealogical Computing", a quarterly magazine devoted to the use of computers in our genealogy (with columns on how to do certain things on-line, and reviews of genealogy software).

#### First Families Banquet - December

The First Families of Ionia County Society had its seventh annual banquet on Saturday, October 25, 2003. Twenty-nine new members were inducted, and one member was given a new certificate with additional names because she found more direct ancestors who lived in Ionia County before 1881. The event was attended by more than 100 people who enjoyed a good meal, looked at displays of Native American artifacts and newspaper articles about **Chief Okemos**, enjoyed watching a flint knapping demonstration by **Mike Cook**, and listened to our speaker for the night, **Mark Waters**. The following is a short report on Mark's talk.

Mark Waters, who is part Native American himself, has studied the culture for many years and gave an interesting talk about the people who came here long before Ionia County was even thought about. He started with telling us about the theories of migration to North America just as the last ice age was ending. One of the main theories are that the 'paleo' people came across the Bering Strait just as the glaciers were receding and spread across North America. The other is that some came then, but they met people who had come earlier.



Anyway, the culture survives today, and, in fact is in a renaissance because many people are studying to recapture what the culture was like before. The early people were not like today's people. They learned to hunt by watching wolves; they hunted mammoths, giant beavers, sloth's and bears, to name a few. At first they used wooden spears, and later developed the use of stone tools. Much later agriculture appeared on the scene, so some groups settled down. They didn't move as much as before because they started relying on the crops. There were many societies of Native Americans throughout North America. Temples and mounds of various sorts have been found, as well as many other pieces of evidence.

Mark said that the people in the Ionia area were here by about 12,000 years ago. The river system in Ionia County was very desirable because they often traveled by water, and they were traders. Before agriculture developed they would move four or five times a year, and had hunting and fishing camps in various places. The Iroquois people started farming early and built long houses. The wickiwam (what is now usually called 'wigwam') was a dome-like structure. Mark told us about how these were built, with the door facing the rising sun. He has built one and uses it for purification ceremonies.

The Chippewa, Ottawa and Pottawatomie were the three major groups of natives in our area. They formed a confederation called 'People of the Three Fires'. Mr. Waters described their common language, which has several dialects, and then went on to describe the regalia that he was wearing, giving information about each piece of clothing and other decoration that he was wearing. He talked about how the leather was tanned, how certain things he was wearing would have been traded for, and what some of the things meant (for instance, eagle feathers were given for acts of bravery or for service to others, and they could be passed on to the next generation). Yellow, red, black and white are sacred colors. The eastern peoples also used the tattoo.

Mark concluded by talking about powwows, which are large ceremonies with lots of dancing, talking, food and stories. There are several powwows around our area and he encouraged us to attend one. He also taught us a few words. His talk was very informative.

Submitted by Jim Moses



# *Women's History Month*

In 1911 in Europe, March 8 was first celebrated as International Women's Day. In many European nations, as well as in the United States, women's rights was a political hot topic. Woman suffrage — winning the vote — was a priority of many women's organizations. Women (and men) wrote books on the contributions of women to history. But with the economic depression of the 1930s which hit on both sides of the Atlantic, and then World War II, women's rights went out of fashion. In the 1950s and 1960s, after **Betty Friedan** pointed to the "problem that has no name" —the boredom and isolation of the middle-class housewife who often gave up intellectual and professional aspirations —the women's movement began to revive. With "women's liberation" in the 1960s, interest in women's issues and women's history blossomed.

By the 1970s, there was a growing sense by many women that "history" as taught in school —and especially in grade school and high school —was incomplete with attending to "her story" as well. In the United States, calls for inclusion of black Americans and Native Americans helped some women realize that women were invisible in most history courses.

And so in the 1970s many universities began to include the fields of women's history and the broader field of women's studies. In 1978 in California, the Education Task Force of the Sonoma County Commission on the Status of Women began a "Women's History Week" celebration. The week was chosen to coincide with International Women's Day, March 8. The response was positive. Schools began to host their own Women's History Week programs. The next year, leaders from the California group shared their project at a Women's History Institute at Sarah Lawrence College. Other participants not only determined to begin their own local Women's History Week projects, but agreed to support an effort to have Congress declare a national Women's History Week.

Three years later, the United States Congress passed a resolution establishing National Women's History Week. Co-sponsors of the resolution, demonstrating bipartisan support, were Senator **Orrin Hatch**, a Republican from Utah, and Representative **Barbara Mikulski**, a Democrat from Maryland. This encouraged even wider participation in Women's History Week. Schools focused for that week on special projects and exhibitions honoring women in history. Organizations sponsored talks on women's history.

(Continued on next page....)



Organizations sponsored talks on women's history. The National Women's History Project began distributing materials specifically designed to support Women's History Week, as well as materials to enhance the teaching of history through the year, to include notable women and women's experience.

In 1987, at the request of the National Women's History Project, Congress expanded the week to a month, and the U.S. Congress has issued a resolution every year since then, with wide support, for Women's History Month. The U.S. President issues each year a proclamation of Women's History Month.

To further extend the inclusion of women's history in the history curriculum (and in everyday consciousness of history), the President's Commission on the Celebration of Women in History in America met through the 1990s. One result has been the effort towards establishing a National Museum of Women's History for the Washington, DC, area, where it would join other museums such as the American History Museum.

The purpose of Women's History Month is to increase consciousness and knowledge of women's history: to take one month of the year to remember the contributions of notable and ordinary women, in hopes that the day will soon come when it's impossible to teach or learn history without remembering these contributions.

As the Women's History Guide at About, I focus on women's history 366 days a year. To honor this special month, I encourage you to explore this site, learning more about one important aspect of the history of all people. Women's history isn't just for women, although many women find that studying women's history helps them realize that women's place is everywhere.

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### **Epitaph of Lester Moore; Tombstone Arizona**

**Here lies Lester Moore  
Four slugs from a .44  
No Les No More**

In recognition of National Women's History Month, we have received the following articles. These pieces share the lives of women from Ionia County. Many thanks to our friends who've submitted your stories.



## Laura Lane Allen

Laura (Lane) Allen was born in Odessa Township, Ionia Co., Michigan the third of four children. Her family came to Odessa Twp. in 1877. Laura attended the Odessa Center School on the corner of Bippley and Jordan Lake Roads through the 8th grade. She then attended the Lake Odessa High School until it burned down her 10th grade year. She never bothered to return after that. She finished out the school year by having classes in the local churches which her father would take her to.

On December 5, 1921 Laura married William "Bill" Alden Allen in Ionia. Reverend G.J. Kruse performed the ceremony. They spent their entire lives farming in the Berlin Township area. They farmed for Bill's parents and also owned farms and land in sections 25, 26, 33 and 35. Laura was a busy housewife and mother. She spent most Saturdays making bread, pies and cakes for the family. Laura and Bill had four children, Bernice, Roger, Paul and Barbara.

Laura enjoyed her grandchildren. She embroidered a lot of baby blankets for her great grandchildren. She played the piano and the kids sang along. She enjoyed going to Florida with her sons, Roger and Paul.

In 1952 the Allen family moved to Lake Odessa near the fairgrounds. The grand kids loved to camp out at the grandparents home so that they could attend the Lake Odessa fair each year. Four of the grandsons were in 4-H and showed at the fair.

Laura lived to be 98 years old - an accomplishment by itself. She died on September 3, 2002 at Tendercare,

Hastings, Barry County, Michigan, and rests with her husband and daughter, Barbara, in the Lakeside Cemetery in Lake Odessa.

Source: Material gleaned from the biography submitted by Bernice Hamp for the Family History of Ionia County book. More on the family of Laura Lane Allen can be found in the Family History of Ionia County which is scheduled for release January, 2004.

## Elizabeth Monimia Locke/Moore/Treat

The American Civil War was much like all wars in one respect - the men marching off to war with flags waving and the bands playing patriotic music, while the true heroes, the mothers and wives were left to care for their homes, the crops, and raise the children. More than a few wives were left as widows, and when applying for compensation, at the mercy of an unsympathetic government.

Elizabeth Monimina Locke was born 3 October, 1830 in Putnam, Washington Co., New York to Joseph and Joanna (Woodstock) Locke. On 23 August, 1849 Elizabeth married John Ransom Moore, a shoemaker in Nankin, Wayne Co., Michigan. John Ransom Moore, had been raised by his maternal grandfather, George Soule, after both his mother and father died while he was still an infant. George Soule was a sixth generation descendant of another George Soule who was a Mayflower passenger and the Soule family seemed to be involved in every event in America's history. When the Civil War broke out the federal government started asking for volunteers. On 30 August, 1862 John R. Moore enlisted in



Co. I, 4th Regiment, Michigan Infantry. On 2 July, 1863 John paid the ultimate sacrifice in the Wheatfield at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, his body being placed in an unmarked grave.

Elizabeth was left at home with 5 sons, the oldest being 12 and the youngest being born in May 1862, unable to find out what had happened to her husband for nearly 6 months. Then came years of fighting with bureaucrats to receive the monthly allowance of \$8.00 plus \$2.00 per month for each child.

On 8 June, 1868 Elizabeth married Thaddius Justus Treat, a veteran of Co. B, 54th Regiment, Indiana Volunteers. Though unable to work a full day due to a medical condition sustained during the war, they did have two sons, making a total of 7 children for Elizabeth to care for along with an invalid husband.

By the time of her death from stomach cancer on 27 October, 1918 she was blind, suffering from memory loss and confusion, and yet again fighting for her pension. To her credit in the next three generations she had 102 descendants.  
Submitted by Thomas Doty

### **Bertha Edith Milligan Brock**

Among the most influential women of the late 1800's, she was born on 18 August, 1860 in Ionia. Bertha Edith Milligan was one of two children of William Milligan and Minerva Murray who reached adulthood, the other was a sister, Edith who lived in Los Angeles, California. William Milligan came to Ionia in 1857-58 as a contractor to get out the ties for the Detroit & Milwaukee Railroad. Minerva Murray was born in Oakland County and came to Ionia County in 1844 with five siblings and her

parents, Eleaser and Julia (Doty) Murray. Julia's parents were Elisha and Rachel (Allen) Doty, who were among the early settlers of Berlin Township in 1836.

On 17 April, 1883, Bertha married Loren Philip Brock in Ionia. Loren ran the newspaper, Ionia National, from 1878 until being elected Registrar of Deeds for Ionia County in 1884. Bertha was Assistant Registrar. In this capacity she became interested in the history of the county. She was secretary of the Pioneer Society for many years. She contributed much time and many artifacts into the museum room at Hall-Fowler library in Ionia. She was a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Many of the articles in the Ionia County History, Branch, 1916, were her writings. She was also a member for many years of the Michigan Historical Society.

Her death occurred on 25 January, 1933 in Princeton, New Jersey after a lengthy illness. She was living with her daughter at the time. Two children were born to this union—Stewart Murray Brock and Gertrude E. Brock Clark.

The largest controversy that Bertha was involved occurred after her death when the park on M-21 west of Ionia was named Bertha Brock Park, "...in honor of her long years of historical preservation to Ionia County". The controversy arose when her name was removed from the park. It became such an issue that then state Representative Stanley Powell was involved. Many of the older residents stated that they... "remembered when the 200 acres were donated in her name for a park". Her name was returned to the park.

Submitted by Thomas Doty



## **ICGS Calendar of Events**

### **FEBRUARY**

- 3<sup>RD</sup> First Families Meeting 7:00pm at Jim's House
- 14<sup>th</sup> ICGS Meeting: Speaker – John Waite, Topic – Norwegian Research
- 26<sup>th</sup> ICGS Board Meeting 7:00pm at Pam's House
- 28<sup>th</sup> Depot Museum Open – Tom Pickens to host Piano Party 2-4pm

### **MARCH**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> First Families Meeting 7:00pm at Jim's House
- 13<sup>th</sup> ICGS Meeting: Speaker – Elaine Garlock, Topic – The Orphan Train
- 25<sup>th</sup> ICGS Board Meeting 7:00pm (location TBA)
- 27<sup>th</sup> Depot Museum Open – Kim & Dawn Braden to host
- 27<sup>th</sup> Festival of Tables – St. Edward's Catholic Church 11am – 1pm

### **APRIL**

- 6<sup>th</sup> First Families Meeting 7:00pm at Jim's House
- 10<sup>TH</sup> ICGS Meeting: Speaker – TBA, Topic – TBA
- 17<sup>th</sup> Eaton County Annual Workshop
- 22<sup>nd</sup> ICGS Board Meeting 7:00pm Pam's House
- 24<sup>th</sup> Depot Museum Open – Dawn & Kim Braden to host
- 24<sup>th</sup> Ionia County Women's Festival

### **MAY**

- 4<sup>th</sup> First Families Meeting 7:00pm at Jim's House
- 8<sup>th</sup> ICGS Meeting: Speaker – Jim Moses, Topic – Genealogy for Beginners, What You Should Know BEFORE You Begin"
- 8<sup>th</sup> Garden Day at the Depot – Lynda Cobb to host
- 27<sup>th</sup> ICGS Board Meeting 7:00pm at Pam's House
- 29<sup>th</sup> Depot Museum Open – Jackie Gilliland to host

### **JUNE**

- 1<sup>st</sup> First Families Meeting 7:00pm at Jim's House
- 12<sup>th</sup> ICGS Meeting: Speaker – TBA, Topic – By Popular Demand, Show 'N Tell
- 24<sup>th</sup> ICGS Board Meeting 7:00pm at Pam's House
- 26<sup>th</sup> Alumni Day at the Depot – Elaine Garlock & Laurine Henry to host

### **JULY**

- 6<sup>th</sup> First Families Meeting 7:00pm at Jim's House
- 10<sup>th</sup> ICGS Meeting: Speaker – Lori Fox, Topic – TBA
- 22<sup>nd</sup> ICGS Board Meeting 7:00pm at Pam's House
- 31<sup>st</sup> Depot Museum Open – Host TBA



**IONIA COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**  
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**Websites of Interest**

**1. <http://www.rootsweb.com/~migenweb/fgs/>  
Submit your family group sheet!**

**2. <http://www.michiganwomenshalloffame.org/>  
*The Michigan Women's Historical Center & Hall of Fame*  
213 West Main Street, Lansing Michigan 48933 • Phone: 517-484-1880**

**3. <http://www.funeralnet.com/index.html>  
Search for cemetery information, funeral homes, and obituaries.**

**4. <http://www.sentinel-standard.com/news/>  
*Ionia Sentinel Standard Newspaper***

**5. <http://www.womensmemorial.org/>  
WOMEN IN MILITARY SERVICE  
FOR AMERICA MEMORIAL**