

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 9 – Number 4

October - December 2004

From the President...

October is Family History Month. There are special programs available at the Library of Michigan and throughout the United States celebrating the lives of those who have gone before us. Please take time to share your history with your younger generations, even if it just means telling your granddaughter about your grandmother's favorite cookie recipe. Remember, family history is more than just dates and times. It is a total story of the lives of our ancestors.

Do something specific to advance family history, local history, or records preservation and access regardless of where you live. Volunteer at your local library or historical society and help them to reach their goals. This is a win-win situation you give them what they need, and in turn, you gather more information to help you in your research!

Have you been putting off contacting that great-aunt who you have wanted to ask questions of? Well, take it from Lori Fox-don't delay. Lori spent some quality time with her great-aunt Dorothy just before she passed away. Had she not done that, all the history and information she had gathered would be lost. Besides, she had a fantastic time visiting with a wonderful woman!

How many of you have said, "I am going to write about my childhood for my grandkids"? Have you done it? Make it a goal to do it for Family History Month! Remember how much you enjoyed reading your grandparent's diaries, letters, etc.? Just picture in your mind your descendents 100 years from now reading your memoirs. Do you picture them holding a blank piece of paper wishing that you had done it, or do you see them smiling and thoroughly enjoying learning about who you were? Set a goal to write a paragraph or two every night before you go to bed. You will be surprised at how quickly the pages will turn into books!

Lastly, the best news of all this month is that we have broke ground and are moving right along on our new building! This is exciting news! The foundation is in and it won't be long before we start seeing walls go up...a real dream come true! We thank all of you who have contributed to this worthy cause. We will be putting together a wish list for our new library space and hope that you will be able to help us out with it.

Pam Swiler, President

Ionia County Genealogical Society

**WELCOME
NEW MEMBERS**

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*Our Condolences
To*

The friends and family of Daryl
C. **JACKSON**, husband of
Bonnie Jackson, father of Chris
and Darlene.

Daryl passed away September
10th, the result of a tragic traffic
accident.

Cards may be sent to:
Bonnie Jackson
4775 Portland Road
Saranac, MI 48881

Please keep Bonnie and her
family in your prayers during
this time.

Fun Fact: About one hundred years
ago, it is estimated that about 87%
of adult males belonged to some
fraternal organization, such as
Freemasons, Odd Fellows, Knights
of Pithias, Elks, Moose, and Owls,
for example. The reason these
organizations were so popular is
that they were something of an
insurance policy as they all had an
obligation to take care of widows
and orphans of their members.

Ionia County First Families



Highlight On First Families Member
No. 20

Patricia B. (Kenny) Currigan

Patricia Bertha Kenny was actually born **BERTHA PATRICIA KENNY** the daughter of **Foster John Kenny** and **Helen Mildred Lindley** according to her birth record. She was born at the Union Street home of Ionia, Ionia County, Michigan.

Foster John Kenny is the son and only child of **John Edward Kenney** and "**Bertha**" **Elizabeth Sykes**. He was born May 1, 1905 at Muir, Ionia Co., MI. He died July 9, 1930 in Lansing, Ingham Co., MI. He married Helen Mildred Lindley on August 27, 1925 in Lansing, MI. Helen was born January 31, 1908 in Battle Creek, Calhoun Co., MI.

John Edward Kenney was born August 29, 1868 in Saranac, Ionia Co., MI. He is the son of **Francis "Frank" Kinney** and **Eliza Catherine Mc Nerney**. Frank was born in Ireland in 1820. He died in Ionia Co., MI in a railroad accident on March 8, 1880. His wife, Eliza, dies November 13, 1903 in Ionia, MI

Pat Currigan's mother's line also has a rich history in Ionia County. Helen Mildred Lindley was born the daughter of **Edna Mae Faulkner** and **William Thomas Lindley**.

Edna was born December 30, 1886 in Ionia Co., MI the daughter of **Lizzie "lone" Anderson** and **Frank Warren Faulkner**. She died on October 7, 1934 in Traverse City, Grand Traverse Co., MI. Her husband, William Thomas Lindley was born January 6, 1888 in Sebewa, Ionia Co., MI. They were married June 26, 1907 in Ionia.

Lizzie "lone" Anderson was born in Ionia Co., MI February 26, 1853 and dies there December 8, 1940. Her husband, **Frank Warren Faulkner** was born in New York and died in Ionia, MI on December 30, 1905. They were married on November 18, 1875 in Ionia Co., MI

This is a small portion of the wonderfully rich history compiled by Pat Currigan. We thank her for sharing it with us. If you would like to see more – stop in and see our society's collection of First Families of Ionia County Society histories.

Patricia is currently married to John J. Currigan, and they reside in their home in Holt, Michigan. Pat is a very active member of our society and is often seen doing research at the Library of Michigan.

DECENDANTS OF WAYWARD ANCESTORS

Now, there's a society for the REST of your ancestors! The Descendants of Wayward Ancestors is accepting Charter Member applications for this, the newest national hereditary organization.

Every family has ancestors or cousins who were criminals, misfits, mysteries, near-do-wells, or just plain odd. The Descendants of Wayward Ancestors was formed to help research, document, and enjoy the stories of these characters, sometimes the most tragic but often the most interesting part of a family's history.

The organization also provides research strategies and facilitates access to the unique records in which wayward ancestors are found through its publications, lectures, and ongoing research projects.

The \$35.00 annual charter membership fee includes a quarterly newsletter and the DWA Yearbook published each winter, titled Ancestors Hanging on Your Family Tree. New members receive an illustrated, personalized membership certificate suitable for framing. The first 200 Charter members will always enjoy a lower membership fee than members who follow.

Directors of the organization include Tony Burroughs, Sharon DeBartolo Carmack, Starr Hailey Campbell, Wendy Bebout Elliott, Sue Kaufman and Jim Warren.

So dust off your family bootlegger, bigamist, "bad" woman, pauper, village idiot, or neighborhood nut, and join the DWA. E-mail waywardancestors@juno.com for membership application

(Source: FGS Digest: FGS Delegate Digest - Volume 11, No. 9)

1ST GRADUATE GIVES 1,000TH DIPLOMA

The distinction of being the 1,000th student to graduate from the Portland High School fell to Miss Mary Young, daughter of Mrs. and Mrs. William H. Young, at commencement exercises Thursday evening, June 9, at the school auditorium. She received her diploma from the hands of Mrs. Mary White Buck, the only surviving member of the school's first graduating class of 1882.

Students who received special honors were Miss Betty Megarah, valedictorian; Miss Maxine Sandborn, salutatorian; Miss Mary Young and James Goff. Miss Megarah was also presented with an honor certificate by a national magazine for her scholarship record.

(Source: Portland Review, date unknown. In doing some checking, I believe that the article may have been about the class of 1939. Found in scrapbook of Harold Swiler. Pam Swiler)



Diggin' Up Roots



Speakers Notes

By Jim Meas

JULY

Lori Fox spoke at the July meeting. Her topic was 'Hooking Kids on Genealogy'. Lori explained that our children are the future of genealogy and that there are certain things we can do to get them interested. Four areas were discussed.

First, traditions we have in our families should be discussed and shared. Include special foods that are used at celebrations. Family rituals that are observed, such as inviting the tooth fairy, or more serious rituals, especially with religion. An important tradition is the passing on of information about a family artifact. Most families have things that have passed on from generation to generation. Lori stated that we should not hide them away, but share them, and talk about them. These things include old letters, stories, or artifacts, like an old coin or a war medal.

The second area of discussion was 'show and tell'. Don't just put those old photos on the wall, identify them, and talk about the people to your children. Share those heirlooms and read from those old family diaries.

The largest part of the discussion was about activities we can do with our children to help make them excited. These can be games about our ancestors (such as memory games or bingo, using names and faces) or they can be trips to visit the ancestral home or the cemetery where the great-grandparents are buried. Another activity was to help the children with internet research on topics from the past, such as old transportation methods.

The last activity Lori talked about was writing. If we can inspire (through example) our children to write diaries, keep scrap books, or write letters to relatives then they will have something of their own that will make them feel as if they are contributing, too. It will also, hopefully, provide the next generation with artifacts about this generation.

Lori gave us some very good pointers and challenged all of us to make genealogy come alive to our children and grandchildren by sharing what we know with them.

AUGUST

The August meeting of the ICGS featured Bill Davis, a lawyer from Portland, who spoke about epitaphs on tombstones. Along with three handouts, Mr. Davis told us about various death and funeral customs. He told us that in Japan, people on their deathbeds will write poems to leave behind.

Among the customs in our country, New Orleans has a band that leads the casket from the church to the cemetery, playing music slowly. At the cemetery the minister 'releases' the body and the music gets lively and joyful.

Closer to home, Bill talked about the Webber family in Lyons. Charlie Webber died in the Civil War, and his wife Jennie had this put on his tombstone at Highland Park Cemetery: *"Upon the leaves now sear and red that once were flakes of fire to me, I see the blood my Charlie shed that his dear country might be free"*.

Mr. Davis gave us some advice. First, he told us that we should make our wishes known before it is too late - write them down or tell someone. One man left a series of letters with a friend, to be sent to his grieving wife each month for a year.

If you have a will or if you don't, you could execute a 'holographic will', written out by hand, to explain what you wish to have done after your death. This type of will is legal, and will take the place of any previous wills, if you sign it in front of two witnesses, and have them both sign it, too, so that all can see each person sign it.

SEPTEMBER

Ms. Mary Griffes, from the Family History Center in East Lansing, spoke before our society in September. Her talk was filled with information about the FHC and how we can use it in our research. She told us that the motivation of the Mormon Church is that they wish to tie together all individuals and families now and for eternity, and in order to do this, they must prove that each person or marriage existed. For this reason they have 175 crews filming documents all over the world, resulting in about 2,000 new reels of microfilm being added to their collection each month.

Many of the records in Salt Lake City are available to us at any FHC. Ms. Griffes gave us a long list of things available at any FHC, including those friendly librarians. Some of the things are a list of all other FHC facilities, a list of accredited genealogists who can do research for us, about 200 of the most common research titles (on microfiche), as well as many titles that have been ordered by patrons and research guides for each state, and many countries. They also have the Accelerated Indexing System (AIS) and the International Genealogical Index (IGI). Ancestral File is also available. These resources include almost 300 million names, with events, dates, places, and some pedigree charts. The Social Security Death Index (SSDI) is also available, along with a military index for Korea and Viet Nam. One thing that I really want to look at is the Scottish church records that run from the 1500s up through 1854.

In addition to all of the above, Lansing also boasts an index to Ontario land records from the 1780s, the Cook County, IL birth and death records (births from 1871 – 1916 and deaths from 1871 – 1938), over 1,000 reels of vital records from Michigan (most counties), Michigan land deed and probate record indices, Wayne County naturalization records, and many, many more.

Mary also gave us information on the Mormon (LDS) website at www.familysearch.org where you can view many records, including the IGI, all free of charge.

The address of the East Lansing Family History Center is:
431 E. Saginaw, East Lansing, MI 48823.
Their phone is (517) 332-2932.
Their hours are 10:00 am – 8:00 pm on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, with hours from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm on Saturday.

Gleanings from the local newspapers...date and source unknown...

A pretty wedding was solemnized at 350 Harter Street, yesterday afternoon, when Miss Ethel Conklin, daughter of Mrs. And Mrs. Fay Conklin, became the bride of Mr. Richard Geo. Humphrey. The ceremony was by the Rev. M.L. Fox. The young people were attended by Henry Gorham of St. Louis and Rosa Quigley of this city. A nice wedding lunch followed the ceremony. The happy couple left on the 4:45 train for a bried wedding trip. Mr. and Mrs. Humphrey will reside on Pleasant street. The groom is employed in the grocery house of H.A. Rich. The bride is a member of the young ladies' Sunday school class of the M.E. church. Both the happy young people have the best wishes of their many friends.

GENEALOGY GEMS

Don't Forget the *Microfilmed Soundex for Hard-to-Find Names* by John D. Beatty at the Fort Wayne Library.

Online censuses are the current rage in genealogical research. Between the schedules available:

Ancestry Incorporated: www.ancestry.com,
Heritage Quest: www.HeritageQuestOnline.com,
Genealogical Society of Utah:

www.FamilySearch.org (the every-name 1880 census index free) genealogists now have access to all federal schedules from 1790 to 1930, with the exception of the lost 1890 enumeration. ACPL patrons can freely access both subscription databases.

With comparative ease, one can enter a surname into a search template, and through these sites, unlock the door to millions of names.

The convenience of these new tools does not render microfilm search obsolete. Indeed, researchers may still want to examine microfilm to get a clearer view of some images that did not scan or print well from the digital image. The Soundex indexes for 1900 and 1910 can also help reveal misspelled surnames. (Ancestry offers a Soundex search feature for 1920 and 1930; Heritage Quest does not for 1900 or 1910.)

Both companies created their digitized censuses using National Archives microfilm. Users may not know, however, that in rare instances through camera operator error, some pages were never filmed, and these omissions have been perpetuated in the digitized versions. A local researcher in Fort Wayne recently discovered a missing page in the 1850 schedule for Allen County, Indiana. Believing the omission to be a filming error, he examined the original in Washington D.C. and found the missing page.

The names recorded there have been "lost" to genealogists using the microfilm. The destruction of the original schedules from 1900 to 1930 renders it impossible to use them when filming errors are discovered. Researchers should turn instead to the microfilmed Soundex indexes, which were

created from the original schedules, not the microfilm. A lost name may well be lurking there.

Source: *Genealogy Gems: News from the Fort Wayne Library* No. 5, July 31, 2004

Probably the least used resource of all is the Orphan's Courts found in many states. These courts do not deal only with small children without parents, but also handle a variety of records, which can be most profitable. First we must understand that the legal definition of an orphan is one who lost his natural father. It is not tied to the mother or to any specific age. Orphan court records, called "dockets," are used to appoint or change appointments of guardians for orphans, incompetents, and sometimes indigents. They also record administrators for estates and frequently trustees. Many property transfers, inventories of estates, marriages, births, and deaths are to be found in these "Orphan Court Dockets." You might even uncover an elusive maiden name for when a widow asks that an individual be appointed guardian for her son; it's possible that they are related.

Gleaned from a local newspaper article—exact source unknown.

Death of Harmon Smith

After an illness of about four weeks, at his home in Orleans, Ionia county, Harmon Smith departed this life, aged 75 years. The funeral was held Thursday and the remains taken to Ionia for Burial.

Mr. Smith was one of the early settlers in Stanton, where he engaged in the practice of law for many years, and was at one time prosecuting attorney of the county. His office building was burned in the Main street fire of 1880, and the following year he erected a building being now occupied by the post office. He moved from Stanton to Ionia some twenty years ago. Later he purchased a small farm in Orleans township and engaged extensively in bee culture. He was an uncle of Mrs. Lena Rowley of this city, and W.T. Smith of Ionia.

Gleanings from scrapbook belonging to Harold Kassner Swiler
Newspaper clipping with note written "1935"
Transcribed from the original by Pam Swiler
CCC Camp Draws 30 Ionia Youths

**Group Entrains Preparatory
To Being Assigned In
Sault Ste. Marie**

Special to the State Journal:

IONIA, April 28 – Thirty Ionia county youths entrained here Monday for Grand Rapids preparatory to be assigned to the civilian conservation camp at Sault Ste. Marie. It was announced by **Armand O. Reynaud**, county emergency welfare director.

Two of the group, **Raymond W. Eddy** and **Clare B. Wright**, both of Portland, went as alternates when **Kenneth Beach** of Belding and **Robert White** of Ionia township failed to report for the trip north.

In the contingent were **Kenneth O. Beach**, Belding; **Willard Bennett**, Lake Odessa; **Woodrow E. Benjamin**, Orleans; **Lawrence Goodsell**, Boston township; **Russell Haverstick**, Orleans; **James Hilton**, Belding; **Glenn Hock**, Belding; **James Hyland**, Portland; **Edwin Keim**, Campbell; **Lorraine Ladue**, Ionia; **William Lalone**, Portland; **Earl Marquette**, Ionia township; **Dale Marshall**, Orleans; **Robert Mestemaker**, Lyons; **Ernest Miller**, Lake Odessa; **George Morrison**, Boston; **Orvin Nash**, Clarksville; **James Raymond**, Orleans; **Paul Ritter**, Odessa; **Ralph Robinson**, Ionia; **Frank Ronk**, Belding; **Thomas Sinas**, Danby; **Harold Swiler**, Portland; **Robert Ward**, Belding; **Frank L. White**, Lyons; **Harry Wells**, Belding; **Robert White**, Ionia township."-end of article.

DID YOU KNOW... that the word inmate in old papers may refer to a person living in the home of another person, not necessarily an institution?

Freeman is a designation once used to mean an unmarried man.

Domestic once meant a housewife, not necessarily a servant.

Housekeeper would mean a property owner, male or female.

Mrs. or Mistress with a woman's name usually meant she was a wealthy woman, and that was the proper way to address her.

Mr. or Mister was used only for a man of wealth, or one who was educated.

A retired man might have been referred to as a gentleman.

Lake Odessa Wave-Times
January 19, 1912

Aged Geo. Fox Follows Course
Taken by Chas. McNeil

Hangs Himself Friday Afternoon
Was Found by Daughter-In-Law
Had Been in Poor Health Many Years

As the funeral procession of Chas. McNeil was winding its way toward the cemetery, last Friday, aged George Fox, living 3 1-2 miles west, jumped from the second floor of his barn, with a noose around his neck and died instantly. He had been in poor health and badly crippled up several years and the McNeil suicide had been foremost in his mind. He talked about it constantly, but his son Clyde with whom he lived did not suspect he intended doing likewise.

Mr. Fox, who was about 70 years of age and lived close to the Carr school house about five miles north west of here, told his son Clyde to go on about his work, while he, the father, would look after the chores. At noon he went to the barn to feed the horses. About 2:00 in the afternoon his son's wife noting his continued absence, went to the barn and to her surprise found him hanging. He had climbed to a landing from which he could reach a rafter and to this he made fast the end of the rope taken from the hay fork. He then put the noose around his neck and jumped falling six feet. A brother committed suicide by taking poison, at Mt. Pleasant a few years ago.

There is no doubt that the suicide of Mr. McNeil influenced Mr. Fox to follow the same course. He had been despondent over his health for several years and had suffered greatly.

Mr. Fox's funeral was held at the Wesleyan Methodist church near his home and was in charge of the pastor Rev. Philo. Internment was made in Lakeside Cemetery.

Lake Odessa Wave-Times
December 29, 1912

Yager's Corners

Mr. and Mrs. David Figg returned Friday from Mt. Pleasant where they had been spending the week with Mr. Figg's brother.

Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Ingall and children spend a few days at Lansing, visiting Mr. Ingall's sister, Mrs. Van Vyse.

Steve Hunt went to Delta Saturday to visit his son, Irving, who is at the hospital there. He found him getting along nicely.

Mr. and Mrs. Irving Nelson of Grand Rapids came Saturday to Chris Hough's. Mr. Nelson returned home Tuesday, Mrs. Nelson remaining for the week.

Mr. and Mrs. Vern Bliss and son spent Christmas with Mrs. B's mother, Mrs. Wm. Custer.

Mr. and Mrs. Noble Davis and children spent Christmas with his parents at Mulliken and returned home Tuesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Ed. Yager and children spent Christmas at Eli Deatsman.

David Figg and family ate Christmas turkey with Fred Reahm and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Steve Hunt spent Sunday at Homer VanBuren's.

Mr. and Mrs. T. O. Daniels and children spent Christmas at Leon Williams.

Charlie Dawson of Ohio spent last week with his cousin Burt Meyers and family.

Lusea Rolls of Grand Rapids is spending his holiday vacation with his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Martin Bever.

Mr. and Mrs. Burt Meyers and children and Mr. and Mrs. Ford Meyers and children spent Christmas with Warren Meyers and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Glenn VanHouten of Greenville and Chas. Dawson spent Tuesday at Chas. Houghs.

The following treasure was supplied by our President Pam Swiler, who inherited the information in the form of a personal telephone-address-birthday book from her husband's family. Thank you Pam!

<u>LAST NAME</u>	<u>FIRST NAME</u>	<u>MIDDLE NAME</u>	<u>MAIDEN NAME</u>	<u>BIRTHDATE</u>	<u>OTHER NOTES</u>
ALLEN	KATHERINE		BENNEDICT	24-Feb-1926	
BEZNER	FERN			22-MAR-1889	
BEZNER	WILFRED	HENRY		8 APRIL 1882	ANNIVERSARY JULY 7
BEZNER	WAVE			4-Jul-1915	
BOUGHNER	MARIAN			8-13-1898	
BRANDT	JAMES	CHESTER		7-Jun-1932	
BRANDT	MARY	LYNN		16-Sep-1946	
BRANDT	CAROL	ANN		20-Sep-1937	
BRANDT	EDITH		MERCER	2-Nov-9999	YEAR UNKNOWN
BROOKS	ZOE	G.		30-Oct-1885	There was a question marl
BROWN	ERMA		SWILER	10-FEB-1895	
BROWN	MARILYN			31-Oct-9999	YEAR UNKNOWN
BURHANS	BETSY		MUNROE	17-Dec-1939	
BUTLER	EMMA			15 APRIL 1869	
BUTLER	GEORGE	H.		16-Nov-1867	Gladstone
CHITTENDEN	WILLIAM			22-Feb-1952	(John's)
CHITTENDEN	JOHN	RUFUS		13-Aug-1924	
COMPTON	MARILYN	JOYCE	SWILER	27-Jan-1929	
COMPTON	KATHRYN	MARIE		9-Mar-1952	
COMPTON	DENISE			25-Jun-1956	
COMPTON	HAROLD	EDWIN		20-Sep-1926	
COMPTON	CHARLES			14-Nov-1953	
DAKE	EUNICE		HILLIS	18-Jan-1917	
DAKE	JERRY			25-Dec-1936	
DOLES	ALTA		SWILER	13 JULY 1890	
FRENCH	MAHLON			5-JAN-1892	
FRENCH	HAZEL		HUTSON	8-FEB-1896	
FRENCH	CLARA	L.		17-FEB-1890	
FRENCH	MARY	E.	JOHNSON	24-Sep-1890	
FRENCH	EDITH		WILLETT	3-Oct-1892	
GALBRAITH	JAMES	MCALPINE		10-Apr-1936	
GREGORY	NORMA	GALE		21-Mar-1947	
GRIFFIN	ADELBERT	J.		18 MAY 1891	
HANSEN	CHRYSTA		KASSNER	9-Dec-9999	YEAR UNKNOWN
HANSON	CARL		N/A	1-JAN-1891	
HEWLETT	ELLEN		ELDRED	5-Jan-1914	
HILLIS	MABLE			2-Aug-9999	YEAR UNKNOWN
HILLIS, SR.	EDWARD			4-Aug-9999	YEAR UNKNOWN
HORNER	FRANK			11 APRIL 1890	
HORTON	MAGGIE			17-Dec-1871	
KASSNER	ALLEN	W		2-Jan-1940	

<u>LAST NAME</u>	<u>FIRST NAME</u>	<u>MIDDLE NAME</u>	<u>MAIDEN NAME</u>	<u>BIRTHDATE</u>	<u>OTHER NOTES</u>
KASSNER	FREDERICK	MARTIN		7-FEB-1890	WENT BY MARTIN
KASSNER	CHESTER	CLIFFORD		19-MAR-1888	
KASSNER	ROSE	M		15 MAY 1882	
KASSNER	ALICE	LUCILLE		8-Jul-1937	
KASSNER	ADA			8-9-1891	
KASSNER	LOSSIE	PAUL		9-20-1895	
KASSNER	LIZETTA			8-Oct-1858	Died June 26, 1946
KIRKHAM	JEAN			13-Sep-1912	
KOOP	VIVA	MAE	ELDRED	21-Aug-1920	
LINDBERG	EDITH		BENEDICT	FEB	YEAR UNKNOWN
LOSHBOUGH	MYRTA		SAXTON	29-JAN-1865	
LYON	CARRIE			MAR 27 9999	YEAR UNKNOWN
MADISON	MINNIE		SAXTON	13-JAN-1867	DIED 17-JUNE-1947
MC KEOWN	BESSIE		SNYDER	8-Oct-1886	
MC LEAN	FERN		RICE	24-Apr-1915	
MEAD	DONNA		MCKEOWN	25-Dec-1911	
			HORNBY		
MEADE	EVA		LYON	1 JULY 1887	
MERCER	IDA	MIDGLEY		5 JUNE 1871	
MORGRIDGE	MABLE		VAN BUREN	23-Mar-9999	YEAR UNKNOWN
MURPHY	ALLISON			21-Aug-9999	YEAR UNKNOWN
PEAKE	MAUDE		BRADFIELD	5-Aug-9999	YEAR UNKNOWN
REED	FLORENCE	ELAINE		14-Aug-1916	
REED	PEARL		LYON	14-Oct-1887	
REED	FRED	S.		19-Nov-1890	
SAXTON	WELLINGTON			2-FEB-1860	DIED 7 MAR 1946
SAXTON	ANNA		PELTON	18 JULY 1838	
SAXTON	DANIEL	F.		23 JULY 1835	
SAXTON	GEORGE			13 JUNE 1876	
SAXTON	D. FERRIS			1-Oct-1892	
SCADDIN	JAMES			15-JUNE-1870	DIED JUNE 30, 1946
SCADDIN	OLIVE		BROWN	11-Aug-1876	
			VAN		
SELDON	ESTELLA		AMBERG	31-Dec-1917	
SHIRKEY	LEROY			6-Dec-1862	
STAFFEN	ARNOLD			14-Feb-1921	
STAFFEN	LYNDA		KASSNER	21 APRIL 1897	
STAFFEN	ELMER	LEWIS		24-Jul-1934	
STAFFEN	MARCIA	EVELYN		28-Jul-1933	
STAFFEN	LOSSIE	WAYNE		25-Sep-1923	
STAFFEN	ALLEN			8-Nov-9999	YEAR UNKNOWN
STAFFEN	BURTON	EUGENE		11-Nov-1929	
STAFFEN	ROBERT	DEAN		10-Dec-1927	
STINE	TERRY	LEE		4-Jul-1948	
STINE	ONA			25-Dec-1892	

<u>LAST NAME</u>	<u>FIRST NAME</u>	<u>MIDDLE NAME</u>	<u>MAIDEN NAME</u>	<u>BIRTHDATE</u>	<u>OTHER NOTES</u>
STRONG	LENA	EDWINA		26-Dec-1893	
SWARTHOUT	HAROLD			18-May-9999	YEAR UNKNOWN
SWILER	WAYNE	ARLOW	N/A	1-Jan-1945	
SWILER	LORAIN	LOIS		10-Feb-1946	DIED AT BIRTH
SWILER	DALE	GEORGE		6-Mar-1936	
SWILER	GEORGE	FRANKLIN		4 MAR 1862	BROKE HIP JAN 12, 1
SWILER	VERNE		SAXTON	14-APR-1867	
SWILER	LINDA	LOUISE		19-Apr-1947	
SWILER	VERNA		SAXTON	14 APRIL 1867	HER NAME WAS OF1
SWILER	HAROLD	KASSNER		18-May-1916	
SWILER	SCOTT			4-May-1962	
SWILER	BRYAN			5 JUNE 1897	
SWILER	BRYCE			28-Jun-1936	
SWILER	MARJORIE	MARIE	AVES	9-Jul-1923	
SWILER	EARL	D.		16 JULY 1888	
SWILER	DORIS	JEAN		15-Jul-1950	
SWILER	LILLIAN			4-Sep-1904	
SWILER	CAROL	J.		9-Oct-1934	
SWILER	RUTH		KASSNER	24-Nov-1891	Died September 1956
SWILER	CAROL	LYNN		6-Nov-1948	
SWILER	DICK			28-Nov-1928	
SWILER	THELMA			24-Dec-1902	
SWILER	LUCILLE	RUTH		30-Dec-1917	DIED 30-APRIL-1932
THRASHER	MARY	LOUISE	HATHAWAY	9-Jun-1924	
TOMPKINS	MILDRED			10-May-9999	YEAR UNKNOWN
TURNER	DELORES	JEAN	STAFFEN	26-Jul-1931	
VAN				10-Dec-1860	
HOUTEN	CORA			7-JAN-1890	
WELFARE	CARRIE	A		22-Feb-1926	
WHEELER	BETTY	LOU			
WHEELER	BERTHA	LOU		FEB	YEAR UNKNOWN
WHITMAN	GLORIA	HOPE		14-Apr-1939	
WHITMAN	LAVINA		TRAIL	12-Sep-9999	YEAR UNKNOWN
WILLEMS	KATHARINE			13-SEPT-1892	
YORK	TINNIE			9 APRIL 1866	

It is well to be alert for occupations being capitalized identification following a name without a comma. Very few people in the colonial period had three names.

John William Carpenter in 1785 was probably John Williams, Carpenter John Henry Taylor may well have been John Henry, Tailor. Some wills and deeds have been found to have been indexed by occupation, not the name.

Railroaders got into a rate war in the 1880's and the price of a ticket from Kansas City to Los Angeles dropped to \$1.00. It's an historical fact that a lot of people wound up in Los Angeles merely because it was a cheap ride.

Marion Bidwell A Photograph's story.

By Pamela K. Swiler



I recently received an envelope of old photographs that needed to be identified and then sent on to anyone who may want them. Some actually had names on the back of them so this was exciting news. All I had to do is find a home for them. Such was the photo of Marion Bidwell. This is what I have learned from this photo:

First of all, Marion is a white male, with thick curly dark hair and what appears to be rosy cheeks, kind of Irish looking, who most likely lived in or near Portland, Ionia County, Michigan. That was evident because of the name of the photographer on the back of the photo. It said "Showman & Read, Photographers, Portland, Mich. Opposite Welch's Hotel, Negatives Preserved." In blue ink, the name Marion Bidwell is written.

I set out to find out just who Marion Bidwell was. My first search was the census records. I found him in Sunfield, Eaton County, 1880, right there on line one of the page. He is listed as age 26, born in Indiana. His parents were both born in Ohio. He is a farmer, and brother-in-law to the head of household, who was on the previous page, Edward Hubbs.

Edward's wife is Hannah and they have a son, Charles W. who is four years old. There is also listed a stepson, Grin Ruder, indicating that Hannah was likely married before. There is a note that Edward's left leg is partially handicapped. Hannah is also born in Indiana with both parents being born in Ohio, therefore, another clue that Hannah may be the sister of Marion.

Going back ten years in the census to 1870, I find a 16-year-old Marion Bidwell living in Danby Twp., Ionia County, Michigan. He is living with Carlton, age 27, possibly a brother or uncle to Marion. Hannah is not with them. Carlton is a farmer and was also born in Indiana. There is another 20 year old listed, Alpheus Bidwell, who is a farm laborer. It was interesting to me that he was listed after Marion – normally the census is done in order of age of the family members. Is it possible that this Bidwell man is not an immediate family member? He too is born in Indiana.

Now, let's jump ahead to 1910...Here we find a 57 year old Marion S. Bidwell, residing in Otisco, Ionia County, Michigan. He is married and living with his wife, Mattie W, age 43, born in Michigan. He is working as a farmer on a general farm.

The Dibeau marriage records show a Miron L. Bidwell marrying a Mattie W Richardson on December 21, 1886 in Ionia County, Michigan. There are seven children listed in the birth records with the last name of Bidwell in the next few years following this marriage – it is possible that they may be the children of Marion and Mattie...further research would answer that question, but since this is not my family, I will leave that for someone who IS related.





Ionia's Great Depot Fire of 1908

The Detroit and Milwaukee Railway was completed from St. Johns to Ionia on Sept. 2, 1857. The first depots along this line were hurriedly constructed and were small. On Jan. 21, 1868, the Ionia Sentinel reported the building of a new depot for Ionia. The paper commented that although it was not as substantial as we would have liked to have seen, it will be superior to the old one. The paper goes on to describe the new depot as "200 feet long by 25 feet wide, exclusive of the platform. The gentlemen's waiting room is to be 32 feet by 17 feet, the ladies room 14 by 10 feet, telegraph and ticket offices each 12 feet square, with a storage room 150 by 25 feet. On the east end there will be a second story, extending over 45 feet of the length of the building. This will be fitted up for the residence of the station agent. The estimated cost will be \$6,000." This new depot was built on the same site as the old one, on the north side of the main line just east of Depot Street. On February 21, 1868, the Sentinel has a nicer report on the D. & M. depot: "The new depot at this place is rapidly approaching completion. The roof is now being put on and the outside adorned with a coat of paint. It is quite a creditable structure in appearance and will be much more commodious and convenient than the old one. "This depot served Ionia for many years. In the year 1860, the Detroit & Milwaukee Railway went into bankruptcy and it remained thus until October 19, 1878 when it reorganized and became the Detroit, Grand Haven and Milwaukee Railway. This line came under control of Grand Trunk Railway of Canada on November 1, 1878. On November 20, 1900 the D., G.H.&M. with several other railroads was incorporated as Grand Trunk Western Railway Corporation. April 25, 1907, The Ionia Daily Standard says: "Bidders on the new local Grand Trunk station house are still on the anxious seat, the decision not having yet been announced."

This article will be continued.....

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Calendar of Events – Ionia County Genealogical Society

October 2004

- 2nd Got Ancestors? WMGS – Grand Rapids, MI
- 7th First Families Meeting at Jim's house
- 9th Merrie DeVoe – Beginning Genealogy
- 21ST ICGS Board Meeting – 7:00pm at Pam's house
- 23rd First Families Banquet!!
- 30th Lake Odessa Depot Museum is open!

November 2004

- 13th Suzanne Carpenter – Conducting Oral Histories
- 16th First Families Meeting 6:30pm (call for location)
- 18th ICGS Board Meeting – 7:00pm at Pam's house
- 26th & 27th Christmas 'Round the Town – Library Closed

December 2004

No General Meeting this month.

- 16th Budget Meeting & Salad Luncheon 12:00 noon
(board members only please)
- 25th Lake Odessa Depot Museum is Closed for the holiday

January 2005 – Memberships need to be renewed! Send in your membership dues. \$15 per year per household.

** All regular membership meetings are held on the second (2nd) Saturday of each month, except December, at 1:00pm, 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 5:00pm.

** First Families Committee usually meets the 1st Tuesday of every month at 7pm unless otherwise indicated. The meeting takes place at Jim Moses' home, 8482 E. Sunset Dr., north of Portland. Call (517) 647-7310 to find out how you can be involved in this group.



IONIA COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
13051 AINSWORTH ROAD
LAKE ODESSA, MI 48849-9406
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LAKE ODESSA, MI

Pam's List of Websites of Interest

1. <http://www.rootsweb.com/~miionia/icgshome.htm>
Ionia County Genealogical Society website
2. <http://www.rootsweb.com/~mivanbur/MichiganSchools.htm>
Michigan One Room Schools
3. <http://www.ourtimelines.com/>
Events of our times can be found here – great site!
4. <http://www.snapshotsofthepast.com/index.html>
Get photos and posters of our historic times and places.
5. <http://www.michigan.gov/>
Visit the Archives of Michigan and Library of Michigan sites here.