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**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.

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**Volume 10 – Number 3**

**July – September 2005**

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***From the President....***

Greetings!

This is the best news ever... We have received occupancy of our new building and have moved the ICGS collection to the new home! We thank all of you who have helped us get moved and settled in. We still have a lot of unpacking to do, but it won't be long and we will be ready for business. As a matter of fact, we plan to be open for the Lake Odessa High School Alumni on June 25<sup>th</sup>, so if you are in the area, we invite you to stop by.

We now have a new computer, a new fax/scanner/printer, a new sound system, a new overhead projector, and 5 gently used file cabinets, as well as a table and chairs. We are starting to put together a "wish list" for items we need for the library. We will be sending that out in a future mailing.

More good news... Jim Moses has been kind enough to loan us his personal original copy of the 1891 Portrait and Biographical Album published by Chapman Bros. of Chicago. We have been in contact with Thomson-Shore, Inc and have received a quote to have the book re-printed. We are very excited about this project and it will be a nice companion to the 1881 History of Ionia and Montcalm Counties that we did a couple of years ago. We will be sending out pre-publication flyers very soon, so watch your mailbox!

We were saddened with the news of the deaths of two of our members, Bob Kilpatrick and Grace Wedderburn. They will be missed by us all.

Depot Day is coming up soon – If you are available to help work at our sales table, please let me know. The date is July 30<sup>th</sup> and the time is from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. It is a great time and a nice way to meet people interested in Ionia County family history.

Don't forget to get your First Families applications turned in by September 1<sup>st</sup>. The committee is eagerly awaiting yours!

Happy Hunting!  
Pam Swiler, President  
Ionia County Genealogical Society

**WELCOME  
NEW MEMBERS**

Gregor Shellenbarger  
3315 W. Lowery Road  
Saranac, MI 48881  
(616) 374-7706

**Membership  
Changes &  
Updates**

Peter Burns has a new e-mail address  
[PEJABUR@3DNORTH.COM](mailto:PEJABUR@3DNORTH.COM)

Barbara Jones – new address  
910 S. Brackney St. Apt A  
Brookston, IN 47923

Wayne & Pam Swiler – new address  
11750 Ainsworth Road  
Lake Odessa, MI 48849-9561

**FROM OUR MAILBAG...**  
**Martin/Bennet**

My great-grandfather was Herman H. Martin, who was born in Springfield Township, Summit County, Ohio, on July 07, 1865 or 1866. He married Dora (or Eudora) Bennett (or Bennet) in approx. 1887. Dora/Eudora was born in Wadsworth Township or Montville Township, Medina County, OH, September 1866. The first three of Herman and Dora/Eudora's seven children were born in Summit County between 1888 and 1891. Then the family moved to Ionia, County, Michigan.

I am trying to find information related to the marriage of Herman H. Martin and Dora/Eudora Bennet(t) E-mail: [maday\\_family@email.msn.com](mailto:maday_family@email.msn.com)

**Hoover, Oliver Hoover, Katherine**

I am searching for information on my Great Grandfather Oliver Hoover born in 1826 in Baden Germany. He married Katherine, I don't know her maiden name, she was also born in Baden Germany in 1832. They lived in Michigan-Ionia county-Keene Township. My Grandfather was Franklin {Frank} Hoover born in Michigan in 1873. I know of two more children born to Oliver and Katherine. They were Carrie born in 1869 and John born in 1875. I am sure there were more children but I don't know who they were. My Grandfather Frank Hoover married Mary Isabelle Rose and they had 10 children. My Grandmother died before I was born in 1933. My Grandfather didn't talk about his family so I am having a hard time finding out anything. My Mother was Melba Louise [Hoover] Favier. Any help you could give me would be appreciated. Fran Cavins. E-mail [dfcavins@icn1.com](mailto:dfcavins@icn1.com)

**Crime in North Plains?!**

I'm just starting to research a murder along Nickleplate Road in North Plains township of Ionia County that took place during the 1920's or early 30's. I do not know the name of the killer or the victim...it seems it was a father-in-law shooting his son-in-law...I just know where it took place and some very sketchy details on how it occurred. My source...who was a child at the time and witnessed the death of the victim –though not the shooting itself....died recently. As such things go.....once he was gone my curiosity seemed to grow about the details. I tried running a bunch of the microfiche at the Ionia library...but without a date or a name...it is a long day spent trolling a screen.

Would you have any ideas on who I could contact who may have some record? In other words is there a sherpa out there who can help me find my way? Leo Geller Pewamo [KL2512@aol.com](mailto:KL2512@aol.com)

**OUR CONDOLENCES**

Our deepest sympathy to the families of Robert Kilpatrick and Grace Wedderburn. We will miss them both very much.



**Highlight On First Families  
Member No. 23**



**Richard Franklin Barnes**

Richard became a member of the First Families of Ionia County Society in 1998. Richard currently resides in Greenville with his wife, Kay. Richard comes from a long line of folks who are early settlers of Portland Township, Ionia County, Michigan.

**Richard Franklin Barnes** was born the son of **Richard J. Barnes** and **Lucille Fern Gilbert**. He was born, raised, and went to school in Portland, later attended Aquinas College in Grand Rapids, Kent County, Michigan and Michigan State University in East Lansing, Ingham County, Michigan. Richard moved to the Greenville area in 1968. Richard retired in 1993 after a 30 year career as a representative for Prudential Financial Services.

**Richard J. Barnes** was born June 25, 1898 in Portland, Ionia County, Michigan and died on May 25, 1976 in the same location. Cause of death was listed as "probable aortic aneurysm." He is buried at Portland Cemetery. He and his wife, Lucille were married sometime in 1936, location unknown. Lucille died in Lansing, Ingham County, Michigan on April 26, 1978. Richard was employed by Fisher Body Co. They resided at 522 Grant St., Portland at the time of Richard's death. Lucille is the

daughter of Frank Gilbert and Effie Maude Reynolds.

**Richard J. Barnes** is the son of **John Frank Barnes** (a.k.a. **Frank J. Barnes**) who was born November 13, 1857 in Portland, Ionia County, Michigan. He married **Mary L. Balderson**, born March 2, 1870, Portland, Michigan, on February 16, 1890 also in Portland. "Frank" is listed as a farmer on the marriage certificate No. 708.

**Mary L. Balderson** was born the daughter of **Benjamin B. Balderson** and **Mary A. Chrisp**. Both Benjamin and Mary were born in England, and Benjamin died in Portland, Michigan on September 16, 1903. It is not known what year they came to the United States.

**John Frank Barnes** was the son of **Napolean Bonapart Barnes** who was born in New York on June 3, 1825. He married **Letitia Rice** on October 10, 1852 in Portland, Ionia County, Michigan. He died on January 22, 1901 in Portland. You can read more about **Napolean Bonapart Barnes** in the History of Ionia and Montcalm Counties, page 332.

**Richard Franklin Barnes** also submitted his daughter and granddaughter's First Families applications - they will be highlighted at a future date. Thank you Richard for your efforts and contributions. We appreciate you sharing your history with us!

It is not too late to get your application in - Need help? Let us know! Contact Jim Moses or go on line to get an application! Visit our website at:

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~miionia/>

**Mark Your Calendars - First Families Banquet is going to be Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>**

This photo is believed to be the ladies of the Danby Literary Society. The little girl in front is Marilyn Joyce Swiler and her grandmother, Verne (Saxton) Swiler is standing directly behind her. Can you tell me who the other ladies are? Can anyone tell us if the Danby Literary Society is still in effect? If not, when did it fold? Send replies to the editor at the society address to be published in future newsletter.

-Submitted by Pam Swiler



## **Michigan Genealogical Council Is Seeking Our Help**

The Special Projects Committee of the Michigan Genealogical Council is undertaking a project and they are asking for our assistance. The purpose is to have a definitive guide for all State of Michigan Census Records which was taken between the years of the U.S. Federal Census. The Michigan Genealogical Council plans to publish this guide and make it available to the public.

They are asking us to perform research on these census years to find out:

- Which counties have state census records?
- Which townships are included?
- Where are they located?
- What form are they in? (microfilm, publications, ledger, internet, etc.)
- Have they been transcribed?
- Have they been indexed?
- Have they been published?

This would be an excellent project for our Society to research and report. If you have this information please forward it as soon as possible. They are asking all Societies to provide this information no later than September 15, 2005. They will then complete the finding aid on a statewide basis. Send the information to one of the following committee members:

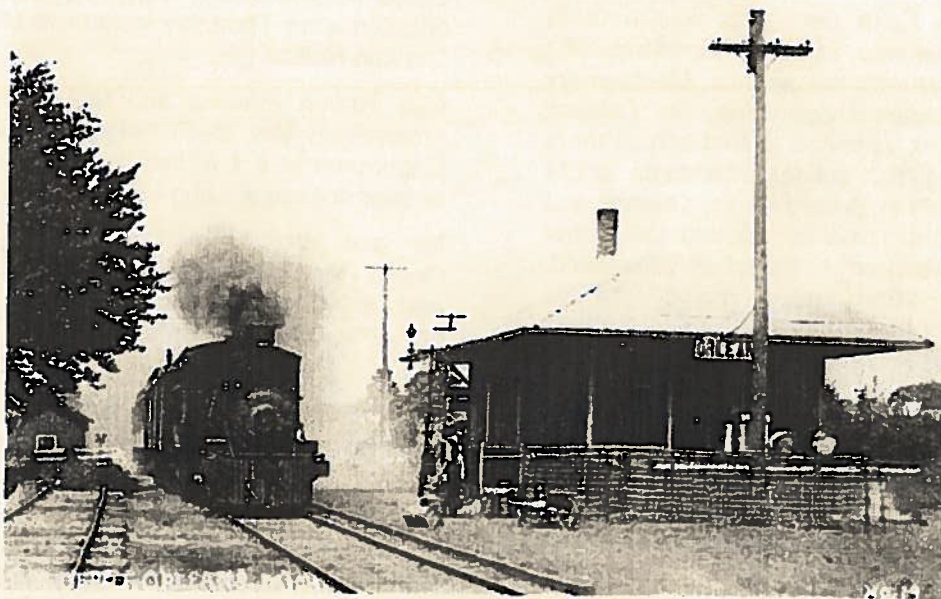
Committee members are:

Ardis J. Pierce  
Diana Hebner  
Tillie Van Sickle  
Donna Busch  
Delphine Goodwin

ardis@mei.net  
dmhebner@aol.com  
TVan@woway.com  
dybusch@comcast.net  
delpearl@aol.com



**Orleans Depot**  
On the Pere Marquette Line  
Unfortunately this depot is long gone.



**Lake Odessa Depot**  
On the Per Marquette  
Rail line

This depot was built in 1884

Today the depot is owned by the Lake Odessa Area Historical Society and is used for a museum. It is open the last Saturday of each month from 10-2 p.m.



## Belding Banner News

October 19, 1939

Obituary: Alice Edith Spaulding was born in North Plains township, Ionia county, March 29<sup>th</sup>, 1869. She came with her parents, Montgomery and Adelia Crippen Spaulding, to Orleans township in 1874, attended district school there and the Belding high school, afterwards taught in district schools in Ronald, Ionia, Orleans and Otisco townships. She as married December 24<sup>th</sup>, 1890, to Richard A. Mares of Wheatland, North Dakota. She was a member of the Presbyterian church in Wheatland and organist for many years. Was a member of Rebekah lodge and prominent worker in it, holding the various offices in the home lodge and was past president of the state assembly and in 1930 was elected state secretary, which office she held at the time of her death. Her husband died in 1935 and she went to live with her daughter in Grand Forks, where she died October 8<sup>th</sup>, 1939. She leaves a son, R. M. Mares of Los Angeles, CA, and a daughter Mrs. F. C. Smith of Grand Forks, ND; a sister, Mrs. Charles Lambertson; a brother, Jerry Spaulding, both of Belding, and four grandchildren, all who were with her at the time of her death.

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### Additional Locals

Robert Howe was a Sunday dinner guest at the home of Alden Sparks near Saranac.

Mr. and Mrs. John Bird of Battle Creek were dinner guests Monday of Mr. and Mrs. Herman Salzman.

Mrs. Violet McGregor has returned to Belding after spending the summer with friends in Cadillac.

Mrs. Cecil Bradford and son, David, have gone to Bay City to join Mr. Bradford, who is employed there.

Mr. and Mrs. Hiram Hopwood spend Sunday in Grand Rapids with her son, Leonard F. Howe and family.

Mr. and Mrs. A. Schram and children of Muskegon spend the weekend with Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Parks and children.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Knight are attending the Baptist convention in Lansing and visiting their

son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Elvon Lloyd, Jr.

Delos A. Towle and daughter, Dorothy Lu, of Stanton were Thursday visitors of Mr. and Mrs. Clayton Hulliberger.

Mrs. Robert Peebles and Mrs. Dennis Hogan entertained Mrs. Cecil Haight and Mrs. Ed. D. Engemann at a 1 o'clock luncheon Wednesday at their cottage at Long Lake.

Mr. and Mrs. Adrian DeLaat and children of Grand Rapids were the week-end guests of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Anderson. They ate dinner at Mr. and Mrs. Frank Mosher's Sunday.

Mrs. L. M. Berry left Tuesday morning for Lansing where she will attend the Baptist state convention. During her stay in the capital city she will be the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Fred L. Warner.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Lundburg and daughters, Dorothy and Jane, from Oakland, California, are the house guests of Mrs. Nellie B. Sheldon. Tuesday all were callers of former acquaintances in Eaton Rapids.

Mrs. Jesse Hodges returned home Sunday from a visit with relatives in Williamston, Ovid and Fowler.

Mrs. Nettie Dimmick is ill at her home on W. Washington street. Mrs. Katherine Lissiter is caring for her.

A group of young people was pleasantly entertained at the home of Mrs. Joseph P. Jaboby Thursday evening October 12<sup>th</sup>, in honor of Vern Schaton of Detroit, whose birthday anniversary occurred that day.

The Rythmites Bridge Club met at the home of Miss Dorothy Clemons Wednesday afternoon for a dessert bridge. The head score was made by Mrs. Russell Kroeze and low by Mrs. Harold Coon. Mrs. H. S. Ellis was a guest of the club.

Martin J. Engemann was a Sunday overnight and Monday guest of his brother and sister-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. George H. Engemann in Kalamazoo. His mother, Mrs. Lena Engemann, who has visited in Kalamazoo for the past three weeks, returned to this city with him.



## Ionia Sentinel-Standard

Monday, December 30, 1963  
50 Years Ago in Ionia

St. John's Episcopal church was reopened Sunday after having been closed for nearly two years. It was the first appearance of the new rector, Rev. A. R. Mitchell, who came to Ionia from Algonac and who preached two interesting sermons during the day, receiving much favorable comment.

The name of Harvey E. Kidder was Monday sent to the senate by President Wilson as his recommendation for the post-mastership at Ionia. The postmaster fight here has been a warm one and has been eagerly watched all over the state.

There was a large crowd Monday present at the public installation of the newly elected officers of the Blue lodge of the Masonic fraternity. Formally installed were Dr. L. W. Yates, worshipful master; Fred V. Alexander, senior warden; E. E. Branch, junior warden; Chas. A. Ireland, treasurer; George Brown, secretary; Jay VanSicke, senior deacon; Fred Loree, junior deacon; George D. Rauch, chaplain; James D. Storey, Tyler; Emory More, Marshal; Herb Cooper and George Curtis, stewards.

The strict manner in which county officers are enforcing the law regarding games of chance played havoc with several events last week. The Eagles had planned and advertised a feather party. Another event interfered with was the carnival at the armory, running all the week for the benefit of the militia.

The Michigan Land Company is the name given a new Ionia business co-partnership announced today. The parties forming the co-partnership are Amos. M. Welch and E. E. Slye, who will engage in the general real estate business, and open offices over the State Savings Branch bank, corner of Main and Second streets. The new firm will be ready for business, January 1, 1914. A. M. Welch is president and E. E. Slye secretary and general manager.

The house on the farm of John Martin in Ronald township was burned to the ground Sunday night, almost the entire contents being lost, including 500 bushels of potatoes. The house was insured for about \$1000 in the Farmers Mutual Company, but the personal loss was unprotected.

Deputies Hoppough, Lowrey, Bull, and Aldrich searched soft drink places in Portland Saturday evening for evidences of violation of the local option law but found nothing, and they are satisfied the information which prompted the search was without foundation in fact.

The Snyder & Francis poolroom was burglarized last week and the money drawer rifled of about \$10 and a quantity of cigars was also taken, no clue.

Ionians are being troubled to some extent by milk thieves who believe in the old saying "The Lord helps those who help themselves." They have been taking bottles of milk and cream which the thoughtful housewife has left out on the window sill over night. Especially along the railroad track, the "tramp boulevard," have housekeepers suffered.

Lester Wolverton came home from Ferris institute Friday evening to spend Christmas with his parents in Orange.

Roberta Hemingway, who teaches in Portland schools, is home for Christmas.

## Editor's Note

Due to health issues in her family, Kim Pennock is unable to maintain her duties as editor at this time. We thank her very much for all she has done and look forward to the time when she will be able to return as our editor. Until that time, or such a time that another person is willing to help out, I will be assuming her duties as editor for our newsletter. Please send all information to me until further notice. Thank you, Kim, and thank you members for your contributions to a great newsletter.

-Pam Swiler, President



## John Terry



Born December 14, 1830, Birmingham, England. He came to the United States with his parents in 1841. He served in the Civil War: New Jersey Co. K, 27<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Military Infantry. He joined September 19, 1862, at Newark, N. J. He was discharged July 2, 1863. He served again in the Civil War in New Jersey Co. M. 1<sup>st</sup> Regiment, Cavalry. He joined December 29, 1863, at Morristown, N. J. He was discharged July 21, 1865, Trenton, N.J.

He came to Michigan at the close of the war and settled in Prairie Creek of Ionia township in Ionia County. He died February 8, 1916, and is buried in Highland Park Cemetery, Ionia, MI. He was married to Hannah Alice Hayward and was my paternal great-grandfather.

## Peter Blough

Born February 14, 1838, in Somerset County, Pennsylvania. Moved to Indiana as an adult, and served in the Civil War as a private with Co. G, 88<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Indiana Infantry. Joined August 29, 1862, at LaGrange, Indiana. He was severely wounded in his left arm in February 1864 at Tunnel Hill in Georgia, discharged March 21, 1865, at Indianapolis, Indiana. He was married to Sarah Taylor. He came to Ionia county in 1874 and lived first in Easton township and then in Keene township. He died there January 17, 1886. He is buried in Easton Cemetery of Ionia County, MI. He was my maternal great-grandfather

Articles submitted by: Ella M. Arntz Vogt of Royal Oak, MI





### **MORE MAILBAG NEWS...**

I am trying to locate any/all descendants of Benjamin Medes/Mead/Meads/Meade and his wife Phoebe Ann Ayres/Ayers. They had at least nine children as discovered in the 1860 Federal Census (spelled as Mead) in Ionia, Ionia Co. and at least one more, Ida (Fahling) born in 1861. Children listed, Mary J. b. 1841; Marinus 1842; William b. 1844; Ann Eliza b. 1846; Alice (Whipple) b. 1848; Nancy b. 1850; all born in NY, the rest born in MI. Sophie Harriet (Fralick, then Pickard my great grandmother, b. 1854; Rosa b. 1857 and Jenny b. 1858. I have located the family in the 1870 Census in Greenville Village, Ionia Co. spelled Medes, and in the 1880. I know they also lived in Coral, Michigan at the time of Sophia Harriet's birth.

Please contact me with any information available including Benjamin and Phoebe/Ann's final resting place. [PKgaulke@aol.com](mailto:PKgaulke@aol.com)

### **Rescued Photo**

I've "rescued" an old photograph of Frank CRESSER & Frank SMITH which was taken at the Merell Studio in Ionia, Michigan. The photograph was probably taken in the 1890's with both Frank's likely in their 30's at the time. It is also noted on the back of the photograph that Frank SMITH is the husband of Sarah (Sate) HEINEY. I'm hoping to locate someone from one of their families in hopes that this wonderful old photograph can be returned to the care of family. If you are a member of this family or know someone who might be, please contact me.

[familia@sprintmail.com](mailto:familia@sprintmail.com)

### **A Note to Out of State Members...**

If you are ever in our area, please feel free to contact us. We would be happy to open up our collection for your perusal and if the schedule allows, meet us for lunch! We love to get a chance to meet the folks who are unable to attend our local meetings and be able to put a face with a name!

This month we had an opportunity to meet past member (now current again) Sally Holcombe and her sister Gail, as well as two distant cousins. Sally was here from California, and her sister came up from Arkansas. We met at the local C&R Homestyle Café for lunch before going to our new facility to do some research. The power happened to be out, but there was enough light through the windows that they could still read the vital records and histories. We had a lovely time and we hope that they will visit us again in the future.

By the way – if you are connected to the BOLSTER families, please contact Sally – she is dieing to hear from you! Welcome back, Sally! – Pam Swiler

Sally Jean (Bolster) Holcombe – Researching: Bolster, Housler  
1036 Scots Lane  
Walnut Creek, CA 94596-5431  
(925) 938-9137 E-mail: [sallyholcombe@mac.com](mailto:sallyholcombe@mac.com)



# Speaker Notes



## APRIL

Mr. Norman Caldwell from Owosso talked with the society in April about his occupation, surveying. He started by telling us of the curse in the Old Testament against moving a landmark and said that the ancient Egyptians used surveying to help farmers relocate their land after the annual flooding of the Nile. In our country, the original colonies used a system that measured from natural markers (trees, rocks, a stream, etc.). This is a hard system to use because the markers may disappear. Later, Thomas Jefferson developed a plan for the "Great Northwest" (Ohio, Michigan, etc.) that is now called the rectangular survey system. It has the townships and ranges that we are familiar with here in Michigan.

From that point on, Mr. Caldwell, the author of books on surveying, gave a history of surveying here in our state and told us about the remonumentation project, which is attempting, with the latest technology, to reestablish section corners based on the original markers. This is a huge project that will improve our surveys. He said that the object of this project is not to remove land from one person and give it to another, but to say where the original lines were. One thing that surprised me is that, with all the technology (GPS and others) surveyors do not use compasses any more.

## MAY

Our topic for the May ICGS meeting was newspapers and what we can learn from them. Our own Lori Fox presented a lot of information that comes from newspapers and she told us how this information has changed throughout history. One of the things we genealogists always look for is obituaries. Lori told us that the quality of the obituary has changed over time. Sometimes there is very little information, and other times the details make us excited. A lot of the time details were left out in local papers because everyone knew the person and probably already knew those details.

However, local papers tended to have more notices of births, marriages and deaths than larger papers. Often these announcements were buried in between world news, advertising and other items, such as poetry or short stories. They are sometimes difficult to find, but usually worth the effort. Here is a partial list of the types of news that we can find in newspapers that will help us with our genealogy: war news, including Gold Star Mothers, reunions, barn raisings, '50 years ago' history, sensational articles, and legal notices.

**Every Path Has  
A Few  
Puddles**

## JUNE

Our President, Pam Swiler, spoke at the June meeting of the Ionia County Genealogical Society. Over the years Pam has become very familiar with the Family Tree Maker software program, and she shared some of its features with us. FTM is one of the most popular of the many programs that can be used for keeping track of our family history. Pam explained how to easily create a report with the program, and then use that report to find inconsistencies in our data. When we print reports or books for others to see we want every fact to be consistent throughout, and when we create certain types of reports we can see what is wrong. For example, we might have information that happened right here in Ionia County. We could have it in the program as Ionia, Ionia County, Michigan. We could also say Ionia (Ionia) MI or Ionia, Ionia Co., Mich., or any of a number of other ways. This won't look professional in a report, so Pam showed us how to make all entries the same. She said that it doesn't really matter which way we use, as long as we use the same way each time. Pam also told us that we can transfer the data from the program to a PDA or a laptop so we don't have to carry all our information to the library. We should all probably have some type of family history program, and Family Tree Maker is one of the best.



## Calendar of Events

We are going to try something new – we would like to invite those societies who are in Ionia county to include their upcoming events in our calendar of events. To include your items, send an e-mail to Pam Swiler at [pkswiler@voyager.net](mailto:pkswiler@voyager.net) – include the name of your society, the date of the event, a one-sentence description of that event, the time and location, and a contact name and number for more information. Items will be included as space allows and may be edited to fit. Remember, we publish our newsletter quarterly, so be sure to get your events in to us early! We are making this a part of our Ambassador program – we will share your information with our society members, and we would appreciate you sharing our information with your society members. Together we can do great things!

- **July 30, 2005** – DEPOT DAY – ALL DAY 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Lake Odessa Depot Museum, Emerson Street, Lake Odessa, MI.
- **July 31, 2005** – Deadline for 1891 Portrait & Bio book orders at reduced rate - full rate begins.
- **August 2, 2005** – First Families of Ionia County Society committee meeting at the Lake Odessa Freight Station, 7:00 p.m.
- **August 7, 14, 21, 28** - Blanchard House open to the public 1-5 p.m., 251 East Main St., Ionia.
- **August 13, 2005** – ICGS General Meeting – Guest speaker, Merrie DeVoe – *“Preparing for Your Research Trip.”* 1:00 p.m. Lake Odessa Freight Station, Emerson Street, behind the Depot Museum.
- **August 14, 2005** – Boston Saranac Depot Museum open 1-4 p.m. – contact Marilyn Cahoon for more information (616) 693-2730
- **August 15, 2005** – Boston Saranac Historical Society meeting. 7:00 at the Depot in Saranac.
- **August 18, 2005** – Clarksville Campbell Historical Society, topic is One Room School Houses, Peg Christopher 7:00 p.m.
- **August 25, 2005** - ICGS Board Meeting 7:00 p.m. at Freight Station Museum
- **August 25, 2005** – Hubbardston Historical Society Fall Society Potluck dinner at the Tuscan Masonic Lodge in Hubbardston 6:00 p.m.
- **August 27, 2005** – ICGS library and Depot Museum open to public 10:00-2:00, Lake Odessa.
- **August 27, 2005** – Bridgefest in Saranac 10:00 – 4:00
- **August 28, 2005** - Boston Saranac Depot Museum will be closed
- **September 1, 2005** – Deadline for First Families of Ionia County Society Applications for 2005
- **September 4, 11, 18 & 25** – Blanchard House open to the public 1-5 p.m., 251 East Main St., Ionia,
- **September 6, 2005** – First Families of Ionia County Society committee meeting at the Lake Odessa Freight Station, 7:00 p.m.
- **September 8, 2005** – Lake Odessa Area Historical Society general membership meeting at the Freight Station Museum 7:00 p.m.
- **September 10, 2005** – ICGS General Meeting – Guest speaker, Dale Jackson will present a program regarding his *Jackson Family* - 1:00 p.m. Lake Odessa Freight Station, Emerson Street, behind the Depot Museum.
- **September 11, 2005** - Boston Saranac Depot Museum open 1-4 p.m.
- **September 15, 2005** – Clarksville-Campbell Historical Society – Topic: Campbell Township’s Local Unit in the Civil War – meeting at the Clarksville Village Hall, 7:00 p.m.
- **September 22, 2005** - ICGS Board Meeting 7:00 p.m. at Freight Station Museum
- **September 22, 2005** – Hubbardston Historical Society general membership meeting at St. John the Baptist Catholic School in Hubbardston 7:00 pm
- **September 24, 2005** - ICGS library and Depot Museum open to public 10:00-2:00
- **September 27, 2005** - Portland Historical Society, 7:00 p.m. Senior Center, Portland.
- **October 4, 2005** – First Families of Ionia County Society committee meeting at the Lake Odessa Freight Station, 7:00 p.m.
- **October 8, 2005** – ICGS General Board Meeting - Guest speaker, Shirley DeBoer *“Citations May Be Easier Than You Think!”* 1:00 p.m. Lake Odessa Freight Station, Emerson Street, behind the Depot Museum.

- October 20, 2005 - Clarksville-Campbell Historical Society, meeting at the Clarksville Village Hall, 7:00 p.m.
- October 25, 2005 - Portland Historical Society Meeting 7:00 p.m. Senior Center in Portland.
- October 27, 2005 - ICGS Board Meeting 7:00 p.m. at Freight Station Museum
- October 27, 2005 - Hubbardston Historical Society general membership meeting at St. John the Baptist Catholic School in Hubbardston 7:00 pm
- October 22, 2005 - First Families Banquet - Contact Jim Moses for more information.
- November 12, 2005 - Carol Reiser - *Reiser Family History* - 1:00 p.m. Lake Odessa Freight Station, Emerson Street, behind the Depot Museum.
- November 17, 2005 - ICGS Board Meeting 7:00 p.m. at Freight Station Museum
- December 8, 2005 - ICGS Board of Directors BUDGET MEETING & SALAD LUNCHEON - 12:00 Noon at the Freight Station Museum.
- January 1, 2006 - ICGS membership dues are due for 2006.

## Gleanings from the Ionia Sentinel

### November 22, 1883

Christian Felt has been in America 12 weeks. When he arrived in New York he had his trunk stolen. He wondered if this was the custom of the people on this side of the Atlantic, so when he came to Michigan he played the same trick. He spends two years in the Ionia house of corrections by which time he will be more experienced and better able to steal a trunk and not get caught at it.

At midnight the other evening a man walked into the sitting room at W.W. Mitchell, who was asleep in an adjoining bedroom. Mrs. Mitchell was awake and says the fellow walked up to the bedroom door before she could arouse her husband. Mr. Mitchell sprang from his bed and chased the man from the house. The door had been left unlocked. A gang of burglars is evidently prowling around the city, and our citizens should be on their guard.

Portlandites propose to have a free public library.

Owen E. Newton, of Easton, has gone to New York on a visit.

Dogs have killed sheep owned by J.F. Cilley, D.H. English, H. Stark and other Boston farmers.

The stock of goods of A. McFarlane of Lyons has been purchased by H.P. Miller, who has removed it to Carson City.

Nathaniel Searing of Lyons has a short horn cow, from which 15 pounds of butter are made weekly. The cow weighs 1550 pounds.

The *Portland Courier* says that Eli Welch has given his old pony "Johnny," to Patrick Curry. Mr. Welch has owned Johnny long enough to make him a legal voter while other parties had him nearly as long.



The teachers of the township of Lyons will meet at the Muir school house on Saturday, Nov. 24, at 1 o'clock for the purpose of organizing a teachers' association. At the same time the following programme will be presented: Methods in Arithmetic, W.A. Bathke; Orthography, E.A. Murphy; Geography, L.L. Gibson; Drawing, R.B. Hillard. Let every teacher in the township turn out, and try and make this a profitable association.

Married – SLY-SELLECK

At the residence of L. Selleck in Orleans, by Rev. D.C. Woodard, Nov. 14. William S. Sly and Miss Hattie E. Selleck, all of Orleans.

The remains of Mrs. T.G. Amphlett were buried in Highland Park cemetery at 10 o'clock Friday.

Hon. Geo. W. Webber is about to engage extensively in lumbering in South Carolina, and will leave for the scene of his winter's operations in about two weeks.

Cale S. Hammond, who had charge of the circulation of the *Daily Sentinel* during the first year of its publication, is now connected with the Chicago house of Rand, McNally & Co.

*Pewamo Plaindealer*: Presiding Elder Hamilton, who was here attending the quarterly meeting at M.E. church, was called to Ithaca to officiate at the funeral of Miss Nelcosn, who was accidentally shot by her brother last Saturday.

November 29, 1883 - LYONS

Mr. Curtis who has been living in Mrs. Chris Smith's house has been removed to Flint.

Hutchinson & Isham are moving their drug store from Ionia to this place.

The Baptist society are about to purchase Mrs. Wm. Robert's house and lot adjoining the church for a parsonage.

The managers of the school socials, attended mostly by primary scholars, have decided to read Byron for the edification of the juveniles. We are glad that someone knows just what the little tired brain needs after a long hard day in school, and it so appropriate to call such an entertainment a social. By way of variety let them have a lecture in some, to them, unknown tongue occasionally.

The ladies met at Mrs. John McQuillan's Tuesday night for the purpose of arranging a library association. More than 40 ladies have already expressed a desire to join, and officers will be chosen and arrangements made to procure the books as soon as possible. Some years ago the town had a fine circulating library. The books are scattered, however, and those that have them would be doing a kindness and confer a great favor by donating them to the new library.

November 29, 1883 – MUIR

The first meeting of school teachers of Lyons township was held here today.

There is an unusual prevalence of sickness in the community, but few cases, however, have been considered dangerous, and these are all improving.

November 29, 1883 – KIDDVILLE

A new bridge has just been completed across Dickinson creek at this place, a decided improvement over the old one which was badly rotted.

A new house has lately gone up at Kiddville, the first in 35 years.

Vincet has sold his farm property at auction and will move to Belding and engage in general store-keeping.

John Elliott, who returned from Dakota week before last, received a telegram on Monday that some shark was trying to "jump his claim." He will start back with a shot gun next week.

School has begun with Miss Blystone as teacher, and the largest number of scholars that have attended for years.

Two of our leading citizens engaged in a little skirmish a day or two ago. None were killed but a large number of wounds on both sides.

November 29, 1883 – Ionia

A letter from John L. Mosser, dated Fond du Lac, Wis., Nov. 28, enclosing \$2.00 to renew for the Sentinel, states that he and his family are in good health. Weather is pleasant, though the week previous to date of his letter, mercury was down to 4 to 8 degrees below zero. Business except saloon business he says is dull. The following extract from his letter may be the means of keeping some discontented Ionian at home: "I think it is much colder here as a whole than it is in Ionia. In short I will say that there are many good things about this part of Wisconsin, yet I would not advise any one to leave Ionia and come here thinking by so doing to better himself. There was a time when I thought so, but I have changed my mind. It may do for the young men to go father west, but the old heads better let well enough alone."

Mrs. Curtis Merryfield has been very sick.

James K. Dye thinks of engaging in sheep raising in Colorado.

Miss Alice Luther, a favorite among Ionians, was one of the principal musicians at the opening of the Luther opera house.

Articles of association of the "Ionia Standard printing company" have been filed in the office of the secretary of state; capital \$4,000. John B. Hutchins is president and Robert Baerd secretary and treasurer.



The roller skating rink will be open this week on thanksgiving day and on Saturday, both afternoons and evenings. No skating on Friday.

H. Van Allen & Co., have placed in their store a new and unique piece of furniture which is not only ornamental but useful. It is a cigar refrigerator. Cigars can thus be kept moist, keeping the wrappers from breaking, etc.

The Y.M.C.A. prayer meeting will be held this evening at Mr. Fred Ives', 428 Washington street, James Butler leader. All will be welcome.

#### December 6, 1883 – Orange

S.J. Taylor has been quite sick for the last three or four weeks, but is getting better now. Mrs. C.L. Houseman has returned home from Canada, where she was called to see her sick father, who was not expected to live. He died before she arrived. She was then in time to attend the funeral.

The Free Will Baptist society has secured the services of the Rev. J.L. Towner for a short time. He enters upon his work Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>. There will be services at the church every Sabbath morning and evening.

Lewis Plant has sold his Orange farm.

Pat. Kilmartin has been obliged to build a large blacksmith shop to make room to do his work, which is fast increasing.

#### December 6, 1833 – EASTON

A large number of relatives and invited guests assembled at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Rathbun, of Easton, on Thursday evening, the 29<sup>th</sup> inst. to witness the marriage of their daughter, E. Alice to Mr. William G. Born, of Allegan, Michigan. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. James Hamilton present presiding elder of Lansing district. The bride and groom were the recipients of hearty congratulations and many costly presents. They left for Allegan Tuesday, where they expect to live. Mr. Born is one of the finest families of Allegan. Miss Rathbun is an accomplished lady and a lover of society. They go to their new home with best wishes of many friends.

Lemuel Clute delivered a temperance lecture at the town hall Friday evening. It was a fine effort and worthy of a larger audience.

#### Ionia Sentinel circa 1924

Fireworks, a band, cordons of white-hooded and robed sentries stretched around the field, several hundred automobiles, many of them from other cities and counties, and a throng of perhaps 3000 persons, marked the first out-of-doors assembly of large proportions of the Ku Klux Klan Saturday night near Ionia. Those who wore hoods and robes at the entrance were not masked. The meeting was held in the field south of Grand River about opposite the Pere Marquette car shops known as the old Thomas pasture and on the open prairie.

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### **Websites of Interest**

1. <http://www.rootsweb.com/~miionia/icgshome.htm>  
Ionia County Genealogical Society website
2. [http://www.airforcememorial.org/ch\\_sponsors/index.asp](http://www.airforcememorial.org/ch_sponsors/index.asp)  
Name Lists of Air Force Memorials
3. <http://www.epodunk.com>  
Locator for Ionia County Cemeteries
4. <http://www.deathindexes.com>  
Death Index & Records
5. <http://www.allvitalrecords.com>  
State Death Records
6. <http://www.genealogy-fast-track.com>  
Social Security Death Index