



HURON SHORES GENOGRAM

Oscoda, Michigan

Immortalized in DEATH!

Yes, that is one of the topics for the HSGS May 2011 program, which is scheduled for Saturday May 14 at the Parks Library in Oscoda. The program, which includes lunch, will begin at 10:00 am and conclude about 3:00 pm.

The morning session will include a five-person-panel. Each will give a short presentation and will be followed by a question and answer period. Panelists included will discuss death records at the county clerk's office, probate and wills, funeral records, coroner reports, and church records.

After lunch, our HSGS member, Lauri Finerty, better known as "The Cemetery Lady", will present a program entitled "Dead--But Not Forgotten." Lauri will share cemetery stories, cemetery folklore, tombstone symbols, tombstone cleaning, and the importance of preserving and restoring cemeteries. Her program promises to be entertaining and enlightening for any genealogist.

Mark your calendar and plan to attend this HSGS event!

A little history to introduce you to our society By Judy Sheldon

In November 1982, 12 family historians met and established the Huron Shores genealogical Society. Meetings were held monthly in the Oscoda Township Hall and other places until 2004. They also had a small collection of books in the Oscoda Township Library. In that year, it was decided meet quarterly at A Different Blend Coffee Shop. The Society routinely added regularly to their book collection and added microfilm. The library moved to the present location at the Robert Parks Library, Oscoda in 1993. The additional space has allowed our resources to grow and now includes microfilm reader/printers, computers, books, microfilm and videos. We have over 75 published genealogies on the shelves at this time. We also have an archives facility on the Air Base to store items we don't have room for in the library.

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HSGS Genealogical Meetings and Events

- April 21st Quarterly meeting in East Tawas, 5:30pm
- 30th AuSable Oscoda Business Expo
- May 12th MGC meeting in Lansing
- 14th Spring Workshop: Immortalized in Death 10:00am – 3:00pm, Oscoda, MI
- July 8th-9th Mikado Days, Mikado, MI
- 14th MGC meeting in Lansing
- 21st Quarterly meeting in East Tawas, 5:30pm
- September 8th MGC meeting in Lansing
- October 1st Fall Workshop: Military Records with an emphasis on Michigan, featuring Sam Pardee and Cindy Grostick, 10:00am – 3:00pm, Oscoda, MI
- TBA: Reno Cemetery Walk, Lugene Daniels and Lauri Finerty
- 20th Quarterly meeting in East Tawas, 5:30pm



Huron Shores Genealogical Society
6010 Skeel Ave
Oscoda, MI 48750

As a society we have set as goals:

- To preserve and perpetuate the records of our ancestors.
- To encourage the study of family histories and genealogies.
- To aid individuals in the compilation of their genealogies.
- To cooperate with other societies and share information.

President - Judy Sheldon
 Vice President - Pam Carroll
 Secretary - Lugene Daniels
 Treasurer - Daniel Stock
 Database Manager - Alonzo Sherman



Who We Are
“Our President” - Judy Sheldon

Judy Sheldon, our president, has been following her family tree since she was very young when her Grandmother Thompson gave her a Thompson family tree on shelf paper. This part of the family was well researched because there had been an ongoing law suit against England since Revolutionary times for property owned by a Jennings who died without heirs. The Jennings family was married into the Thompson family in the 1700's. The suit was settled in the 20th century in favor of the US claimants, if they went to England to live. To her knowledge no one did. A high point in her research was finding her Great Grandfather Hasseler on the ship list they sailed on to the USA. (Everyone in the Parks Library knew she had found them!) Later this year she will attend the dedication of her Great Great Grandfather Rhaesa's grave marker, a Civil War veteran. Judy is a retired Media Specialist, 30+ years in school libraries. After retiring in 2007 from Hale Schools, Hale, MI she started answering the requests sent to our society. She has been treasurer, helps to plan society events and attends the Michigan Genealogical Council meetings in Lansing.

Common Genealogy Myths

Myth - My relative changed his name when he came through Ellis Island.

Truth

The passenger lists were prepared at departure and the US ports employed hundreds of interpreters to be able to communicate with the new arrivals. The average number of languages these interpreters spoke was six. Each immigrant had to carry documentation in their native language with their name and their nationality and place of origin. If they didn't have these papers, they were sent back at the expense of the ship company. More than likely the change in name came when the new comers were employed. The owners of most businesses did not have interpreters, the “human resource” person wrote what he heard and even if the immigrant knew it was wrong they were not likely to correct the employer. This also applied to those who enlisted in the Armed Forces and of course the census takers. If the immigrant realized their name was difficult to say or spell or they felt it was not looked upon kindly in the community they may have anglicized it after their arrival.

Please visit our web site at:

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~miiosco/huronpage.html>

to learn more about us and to link to our many indexes and our archived newsletters.

THE EAST TAWAS IRON WORKS

John Walker established the East Tawas Iron Works in the fall of 1870. He nearly had to wait until spring as he arrived in Bay City too late to catch the last boat going north for the season. The weather turned cold freezing the Saginaw Bay and John using his knowledge of steel, fashioned a pair of ice skates, and skated to East Tawas.

The Iron Works stood on most of a block at Bay Street (US 23) and Van Valkenburgh Street. (Tawas Street.). As the years passed it grew to include a foundry, a machine shop, a blacksmith shop, a planning mill, a pattern shop and an office. The foundry's growth was related to the growth in the lumber industry accounting for its convenient location to the mills. The business continued to thrive as the lumber industry faded by switching to the railroad industry servicing the Detroit-Mackinac Railway. They sold stationary steam engines, castings and specialty repair to mill and salt machinery to name a few of the services.

In 1881 John took two of his sons, Frank James and Simeon Adam, into the business and renamed it John Walker and Sons. After John's death in 1885, Frank and Simeon continued to keep the business going. It became harder and harder for the foundry to support two families and Simeon and his family moved to Crosswell, MI before 1906 and then to

Washington state by 1910. James must have decided to close completely in this time period as by 1910 the iron works was listed as "old and vacant" on the Sanborn Maps. A blazing fire in 1914 destroyed the foundry. Today the block on which it stood is the home to numerous houses and the lumber mill (long gone) across the street from it is now the Tawas Bay Beach Resort. See related story on page 5



John Walker

Photo by Harmon & Verner

JOIN US ON A TOUR OF THE RENO TOWNSHIP CEMETERY

HSGS members Lauri Finerty and Lugene Daniels are planning a cemetery program at the Reno Township Cemetery in Iosco County for the early fall of 2011.

The Reno Township Cemetery is a picturesque and well-maintained cemetery. Many unique and interesting monuments and grave markers stand proud in the century-plus burying ground.

If any HSGS member would like to help with the program or has interesting input about the cemetery or anyone buried there, please contact Lauri at thecemeterylady@hughesnet.com or Lugene at wrl@centurytel.net

The date will be announced in the June issue of the HSGS newsletter.

Free Webinars at Ancestry.com

Ancestry.com offers free seminars that can be viewed anytime on your computer via the Internet. Go to:

<http://learn.ancestry.com/LearnMore/Webinars.aspx>

to see what is scheduled for the future and to review old webinars. You will find presentations about features on Ancestry, DNA testing, European research, Canadian Historical Censuses, Family Tree Maker 2010 and 2011 and many other topics in the archived webinars. The average webinar runs from 60 to 90 minutes.

Whittemore by Lugene Daniels

Officially, on February 21, 1907, the settlement of Whittemore, Michigan was incorporated into fourth-class cityhood when Legislative Act #352 was signed into law by Republican Governor Fred Malthy Warner.

Many motives directed Whittemore residents to seek incorporation as a city. Firsthand, as the population of the settlement increased by leaps and bounds, citizens desired for some type of formal organization to insure control over their domain. Officially, Whittemore had never been legally organized as a village, and had been operating under the auspices of Burleigh Township.

The building of roads and bridges became the second reason for incorporating. Supposedly, as sources have dictated, the city residents felt that Burleigh Township should pay for the costly construction of the several bridges that surrounded Whittemore in all directions within the township. Thus, if Whittemore was incorporated as a city, consequently the township taxpayers would provide the city residents with the means to leave town.

Thirdly, because the population was declining in the major settlements on the Lake Huron shoreline of Iosco County, the county Board of Supervisors was weakening due to lack of representation. Meanwhile, Burleigh Township was growing faster than any other area of the county, according to population surveys. The incorporation of Whittemore as a city would provide the southwest corner of the county with additional political clout at the county level.

After being properly incorporated, the citizen's caucuses and city conventions that followed to nominate aspiring city officials evidently created some stir in the community. Ward #1, constituting the southern part of the city, met at the old meat market opposite the railroad depot, and was predominantly Democratic. While Ward #2, located north of the railroad bed, met at Bullock and Horr's Hall, and was mainly Republican. Legend reports that the political party interests of a person could be determined at election time, especially if one moved into or relocated into a particular ward of the city.

In 1907, when Whittemore became a city, the white pine lumbering era had passed and the hemlock and hardwood harvest, along with the mighty railroad days, were in full swing. Agriculture became the area's predominant livelihood, as fertile, reasonably-priced farmland held promise for those desiring to own a farm. After clearing away stumps and remnants of the white pine harvest, those with the desire to farm took to the soil without hesitation. Lumbermen and land barons were now anxious to part with the property that once nourished their lumber endeavors.

In May of 1907 ground was broken for Schroyer and Wismer's new livery barn and community hall building. This 40 by 70 feet, two-story building became a famous landmark in the city, and was eventually labeled as the Roll-Inn. Over the years, until a fire claimed the building in 1963, this structure had served as a livery stable, roller skating rink, dance hall, basketball court, restaurant, tavern, gathering place, and the primary community building in the city. This famous landmark stood where the Sportsman's Bar is located today.

Whittemore, continued on page 6



This view of Whittemore was taken in the fall of 1899 from the roof of the grist mill by George L. Wakeman, son of the local doctor at that time. The Methodist church steeple is easily identified in the center of the photo. The Bullock Hall, which is now the lodge for the Masons, is at the extreme right of the photo. The famous Drummond Hotel is located to the left of the church, near the railroad.

The Walker family searches for the family Bible Can you Help?

The descendants of the John Walker family once of East Tawas are searching for the family Bible to solve the mystery of where in England the first generation Walker in America was from. The family has spread west from the east coast of Delaware to the west coast of Washington. There has been a theme running through their occupations as many members of the family have been machinists or engineers in the lumber and railroad industries.

William walker arrived in the United States in the early 1800's from England. He married Demaris Patchett in Delaware and had two children there, John in 1831 and James in 1834. The family moved west to Pennsylvania where William worked with his brother-in-laws in the steel industry. Five more children were born in Pennsylvania: William, Hettie, Mary, Jane and Ann. They moved again to Royal Oak, Michigan about 1840 and in 1841 William died of typhoid. Demaris then married William Dunham, a farmer in Royal Oak, Michigan.

John Walker, the oldest son, is the subject of the rest of this story (see related story on page 3) . He and his brother James were apprentices as blacksmiths in Detroit in 1850. John married in 1852, but his wife died soon after, leaving him with a son to care for. No name has been found for the wife and the son could have been George or James. Little is know of him except according to John Walker's obituary he was a railroad engineer in Illinois. In 1856, John married Martha Jane Adams. They had the following children: Frank James Walker (1857-?), Simeon Adams Walker (1860-1945), Alton John Walker (1861-?), Frederick Bogert Walker (1867-1933), Hattie Walker (1869-1871), March Freeman Walker (1873-?), Martha Jane "Mattie" Walker (1875-1948), infant daughter (1880-1880) and infant son (1881-1881).

John continued to work for a large iron works and machine manufacturer out of Detroit, becoming general superintendent, a position he held for several years. He and his family traveled from Detroit to Eagle Harbor, Houghton County and back to Fenton, Genesee County between 1860 and 1870. It was in 1870 that he decided to establish his own company in East Tawas and built the East Tawas Iron Works. John and Martha were committed to their community in many ways. Devoted members of the Methodist Church, both were active leaders in church activities. John was on the school board for many years and

active in township affairs. In 1881 John took Frank James and Simeon Adams in as partners and changed the name of the business to John Walker and Sons. A few years later on April 21, 1885 John passed away. Following his death, the families stayed in East Tawas through 1900, but economic times and the decision to close the foundry saw several of John's sons leave the area. The first to leave was Simeon. He was working in a sugar factory in Croswell, MI .by 1906 and was settled in Washington by 1910 working in the lumber industry. Frank and Alton relocated to Detroit by 1910 as well. There were several of their mother's brothers in Detroit. Staying in the Tawas area were Fred and his family, Martha and living with her March and Mattie. Martha Walker died of cancer in May 1912 and is buried next to John in Greenwood Cemetery. The foundry standing vacant in 1910, burnt in 1914.

John and Martha had 11 grandchildren: Glen, Floyd and Earl (Frank Walker and Charlotte Rutherford), John H. (Simeon Walker and Sarah Luella Holloway. If there are any Holloway descendents reading this, there is a Holloway Bible and the John Walker descendent has copies of the pages with the births and deaths.), Morton, John R., Joe, and Anna (Alton Walker and Anna Bell Rutherford), and Winifred, Fred W., and Lyle (Fred Walker and Emma Comer).

March F. Walker never married nor had any children that we know of. His death date and place are unknown also.

Martha Jane (Mattie) Walker left East Tawas after her mother died, went to Ann Arbor, MI for a short time, married William Giddings and lived in the Kalamazoo, MI area. She died in 1948 in Flint, MI, the last of John and Martha's children to die.

Where is the Walker family Bible? Did John have it as the oldest son or did one of his brothers or sisters have it?

If you know this family or remember any stories about them please contact the Huron Shores Genealogical Society at the Robert Parks Library in Oscoda, 989-739-9581 or email Judy Sheldon at:

judesheldon@yahoo.com for contact
information for the great great granddaughter
of John Walker.

Whittemore, continued from page 4

During July of 1907, the Michigan Cereal Company of Port Huron became the owners of property along the railroad tracks in Whittemore. Within days, ground was broken for a new building, 60 by 40 feet structure became known as the Whittemore Elevator Company. In its early days, local people sorted beans and other small grains. This business provided employment for many area residents. Part of the original elevator remains today across Bullock Street from the current post office.

In August of 1907, the Iosco County Bank erected a branch facility in Whittemore. This 20 by 40 foot brick building was handsomely finished and promised to be among the most complete and artistic banking offices in the state. The

foundation of this building still is evident in the parking lot on the south side of the Whittemore Hotel.

In the fall of 1906, local men constructed a new school which opened to students on the Tuesday after Labor Day in 1907. Professor H. S. Lisle served as principal, with Miss Florence Schroyer as assistant and Miss Maud Green in charge of the primary room.

The population in Whittemore and Burleigh Township began to feverishly boom in the mid-1900s. By 1904, Burleigh Township had 828 residents, an increase of nearly 100 people from just four years earlier. Whittemore boasted 500 residents, not much different from the population of 2007, when the city celebrated its centennial year.

HSGS History Continued from page 1

1992 saw the publication of our first index. This was the beginning of a project that has added over 1000 indexes and over 1 million names to many local resources and has become the main focus of our society. These were first printed, bound and sold to various libraries and individuals. In 2000 we began posting them on the internet through the Rootsweb, US Gen-Web project. In 2004 we ceased printing the indexes and replaced them with a CD. If we were still printing our indexes they would fill a 9 foot shelf. The CD is available at the library and also for sale. We have indexers in numerous states working on newspapers, census records, gazetteers, and local histories. We have been told over the years that these indexes are a blessing to anyone researching this area and they wished other places had such a wonderful resource.

Research:

The Society receives numerous requests through the mail, by e-mail and by phone, sometimes as many as 4 a day, seeking the detailed information based on the items people have found in our indexes. These are filled for a nominal fee.

Training and workshops:

The Society has always been available to do workshops and presentations to any organization or group that was interested

in family research. In 2005, we started an Open House program in October (Family History Month). This has now been expanded to two programs a year, one in the Spring and one in the Fall. We maintain a research room in the Parks library staffed by experienced researchers who can assist visitors with their research on their families and how to use the resources of our library.

There are opportunities to attend workshops and programs of other societies who meet monthly in Alpena and Saginaw.

Other recent projects:

- Cleaned the glass negative collection of the Iosco Historical Museum and stored them properly.
- 2001 we cleaned the Iosco County Poor Farm Cemetery and erected a sign honoring the pioneers buried there.
- Support the Iosco County Veterans Recognition Project
- Support and assist the local historical and genealogical societies in Northeast Michigan and the Family History Center in West Branch.

A newsletter was created early and published monthly. In 2004 it was moved to an electronic format and posted on the AuSable Oscoda Historical Society's web site. Beginning in 2011, it will be published quarterly.

Our 2010 Activities

More than 85 family researchers and historians helped
 Three formal workshops and three informal talk sessions attended by 120 people.
 Participated in project to identify Iosco county veterans from the Civil war through Vietnam for a planned memorial
 We now have over 1,285 genealogical and historical items indexed containing over 1.5 million names on our CD and our Genweb sponsored web site of archived indexes.
 We relocated our stored items to a larger refurbished area.

Our Regular Meetings

Our regular business meeting are held quarterly at 5:30 PM on the third Thursday of the month. Our next meetings are:

April 21, 2011

July 21, 2011

We meet at the "A Different Blend Coffee House" in East Tawas.

Our office is open whenever the Parks Library is open:

Monday, Friday and Saturday 9:00 - 5:00

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 9:00 - 8:00

Our Planned 2011 Activities

Spring workshop on a Death Records and Cemeteries theme.
 Fall workshop on Michigan Military Records.
 We will have an informational table at the Mikado Days in July.
 We will sponsor and guide a walk through the Reno Township Cemetery in the fall.
 We will continue to provide research assistance to an estimated 90 families and historians.



Can you help identify this little lady?

2010 FINANCIAL REPORT

IN		OUT	
Research Assistance provided	\$1,512	Research support	\$ 69
CDs and books sold	270	Workshops and talk sessions	734
Memberships	385	Honorariums	420
Donations	425	Collection management	232
Grants	1,220	Computers, hardware and software	125
Bank interest	11	supplies	117
		Travel	200
		Donations	100
		General administration and supplies	339
		Membership dues	40
		Facility improvements	501
Total	\$3,823	Total	\$2,877

Income less expenses = \$946 (to be put towards our dream)

If you, as a new or renewing member, would be willing and able to hold an office, work on a committee, or help with indexing materials, HSGS would appreciate your help very much. You may indicate your area of expertise and/or interest on this following membership form. We will be happy to contact you about your interest in helping.

Thank you!

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION NEW _____ RENEWAL _____
 \$10 per year \$12 per year with mailed newsletter

Make checks payable to: Huron Shores Genealogical Society

DATE: _____ PHONE: _____ E-MAIL: _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP+4: _____

What is your level of genealogical experience? (circle one): Beginner Intermediate Advanced

Do you use computer software to manage your genealogy? No

If yes, list the software you use: _____

Send this completed form and your check if appropriate to:

Huron Shores Genealogical Society
6010 Skeel Ave, Oscoda, MI 48750-1577

STRANGE BUT TRUE

From *Tawas Herald*, 14 March 1924:

The Whittemore Social Column

“City Attorney Hurford, while strolling along the banks of the Au Gres River on Sunday afternoon, discovered a strange object crawling on the snow. He killed it and brought it home and put it on display at the Simpson Brothers store. Drs. Lomason and Wismer pronounced it a species of the snake family, calling it a snow snake. A number of people have examined it and think it is the strangest animal they have ever seen.”

From *Tawas Herald*, 21 March 1924:

“Prof. Beddew of the New York Museum has been in town and purchased the “Snow Snake” of Attorney Hurford for the sum of \$8,000, it being the only one of its kind found in North America, but they are in abundance in the tropical regions of Africa.”