



# HURON SHORES GENOGRAM

## Oscoda, Michigan

### FGS Conference 2013 By Lugene Daniels

When Judy Sheldon and Lugene Daniels learned that the Federation of Genealogical Studies was holding its 2013 conference in Ft Wayne, Indiana, that was reason enough for the pair to commit and register early for the event.

The 2013 FGS conference, held from August 21 to August 25, was a complete success for the 1,500 or more registrants. The Grand Wayne Conference Center was the site of the assembly of novice, amateur, professional, and any-type genealogist. Conference attendees were from almost every state in the union and some even came from foreign lands. We had the chance to meet nationally known genealogists.

Each day sessions were available from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm and conference attendees chose programs suited to their interests. Lugene chose a few sessions on creating, writing, and publishing family history documents. She also enjoyed the sessions about the "Homestead Act" and "Finding Your Immigrant German Ancestors", but probably her favorite was a presentation by legal genealogist Judy Russell on copyright law. In fact, both Judy and Lugene attended this session and decided to purchase the recording of this session for the HSGS library. Another of Judy Russell's presentations was on American divorce. Amazing that anyone got a divorce back in the old days!! Key note speaker, Cyndi Ingle Howells, "Cyndis List", gave all of us a look at the best and pretty bad web sites.

Many vendors promoted and sold their products in the Exhibit Hall. Anything related to genealogy was available. Both Judy and Lugene were able to find a few books to satisfy their genealogical habit and watched some interesting presentations while learning about new products. Many societies had booths to share their local resources. Michigan Genealogical Council and Seeking Michigan proclaimed the wonders of Michigan with the rest of the country.

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### HSGS Genealogical Meetings and Events

#### October

- 12 Tracing Your German Ancestors  
Parks Library, Oscoda, MI
- 17 HSGS Business meeting, 5:30  
A Different Blend Coffee  
House, East Tawas, MI
- 26 MGC Fall Family History  
Event, Lansing

#### January

- 16 HSGS Business meeting, 5:30  
A Different Blend Coffee  
House, East Tawas, MI

**Join Us at our  
Workshop  
on "Tracing Your  
German Ancestors"  
Featuring  
Frieda Hirschenberger  
At the Parks Library  
in Oscoda, MI  
on October 12  
9:30 am to 3:00 pm**

**WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE - IOSCO COUNTY**

By Judy Sheldon

Who Do You Think You Are (WDYTYA)– Iosco County, featuring Kevin Allen of Oscoda, the program director and DJ on the Morning Show on WJKC radio.

Kevin and his family met with HSGS members on September 20, 2013 at the LDS Church in Oscoda for the presentation of our research into his family. Kevin’s dad and sister drove in from Chicago for the program. Dan Stock and Judy Sheldon had worked on two of Kevin’s paternal lines since January. The family, especially his sister and his dad, was elated that we were able to take one of their lines back two more generations into Pomerania, once part of Prussia and which is now is in Poland. After the presentation, the family shared lots of stories about their lives in Chicago, IL. An absolutely great evening!!!

Huron Shores Genealogical Society has discussed for several years the idea to create our own WDYTYA program for Iosco County. Lugene Daniels



had attended a session at the Ohio State Genealogical Society where one of their chapters has done this in their community. It became a popular program for the group. We decided to try our own program and chose two people from Iosco County to spotlight. Dorothy Lehman from Whittemore will be our second celebrity this fall.

**Genealogical DNA Testing**

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

A genealogical DNA test looks at a person's genetic code at specific locations. Results give information about genealogy or personal ancestry. Generally, these tests compare the results of an individual to others from the same lineage or to current and historic ethnic groups. The test results are not meant for medical use. They do not determine specific genetic diseases or disorders. They are intended only to give genealogical information.

Taking a genealogical DNA test requires the submission of a DNA sample. This is usually a painless process. The most common way to collect a DNA sample is by a cheek-scraping (also known as a buccal swab). Other methods include spit-cups, mouthwash, and chewing gum. After collection, the sample is mailed to a testing lab.

Some laboratories, such as the Human Origins Genotyping Laboratory (HOGL) at the University of Arizona, offer to store DNA samples for ease of future testing. All United States laboratories will destroy the DNA sample upon request by the customer guaranteeing that a sample is not available for further analysis.

There are three types of genealogical DNA tests, autosomal (atDNA), mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA), and Y-Chromosome (Y-DNA). Autosomal tests for all ancestry. Y-DNA tests a male along his direct paternal line. mtDNA tests a man or woman along their direct maternal line. Any of these tests can be used to some degree for recent genealogy or for ethnic ancestry.

The interest in genealogical DNA tests has been linked to both an increase in

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DNA Testing Continued from page 2

curiosity about traditional genealogy and to more general personal origins. Those who test for traditional genealogy often utilize a combination of autosomal, mitochondrial, and Y-Chromosome tests. Those with an interest in personal ethnic origins are more likely to use an autosomal test. However, answering specific questions about the ethnic origins of a particular lineage may be best suited to an mtDNA test or a Y-DNA test.

Genealogical DNA tests have become popular due to the ease of testing at home and their supplementing genealogical research. Genealogical DNA tests allow for an individual to determine with high accuracy whether he or she is related to another person within a certain time frame, or with certainty that he or she is not related. DNA tests are perceived as more scientific, conclusive and expeditious than searching the civil records. But, they are limited by restrictions on lines which may be studied. The civil records are always only as accurate as the individuals who provided or wrote the information.

The aforementioned Y-DNA testing results are normally stated as probabilities: For example, with the same surname a perfect 37/37 marker test match gives a 95% likelihood of the most recent common ancestor (MRCA) being within 8 generations, while a 111 of 111 marker match gives the same 95% likelihood of the MRCA being within only 5 generations back.

As presented above in mtDNA testing, if a perfect match is found, the mtDNA test results can be helpful. In some cases, research according to traditional genealogy methods encounters difficulties due to the lack of regularly recorded matrilineal surname information in many cultures.

Common concerns about genealogical DNA testing are cost and privacy issues (some testing companies retain samples and results for their own use without a privacy agreement with subjects). The most common complaint from DNA test customers is the failure of the company to make results understandable to them.

DNA tests can do some things well, but there are constraints. Testing of the Y-DNA lineage from father to son may reveal complications, due to unusual mutations, secret adoptions, and false paternity (i.e., the father in one generation is not the father in birth records). According to some genomics experts, autosomal tests may have a margin of error up to 15% and blind spots. Some users have recommended that there be government or other regulation of ancestry testing to ensure more standardization.

*A more detailed discussion of DNA testing is presented on the Wikipedia Internet site*

**Alcona County Resources**

Alcona County Library – Harrisville Branch  
 M-72, Harrisville, MI 487  
 989-724-6796

Alcona County Review (microfilm and digital and searchable), 1877 to present  
 Cemetery books  
 Biographies  
 Much more!

Alcona County Herald (microfilm), 1908 to 1933  
 County and Township histories  
 School Yearbooks

**The Sunrise Side is Known for its Vacation Resorts**

By Judy Sheldon

The Sunrise Side is known for its vacation resorts, as vacationers from far and wide come to spend their summers on Lake Huron or one of the many inland lakes, swimming, fishing or just lying in the sun or in the winter, hunting, snowmobiling, enjoying all the seasons of the North country. We take for granted the many cottages that dot US 23, but do we realize this has been a vacation destination since before the automobile! I decided to look just at Alcona County around the turn of the twentieth century and excluded regular hotels. The following are just a few of the resorts out-of-towners had to choose from. You will notice a common sad ending to some of them.

The Hotel Retreat (Old Huron House), Harrisville, MI. The Huron House burned March 3, 1883. It was located on Lake St near Main St. It burned again in December 1906. It was owned by Charles MacDonald.

Uncle Tom's Cabin and Backus Hotel and Resort, Hubbard Lake, MI. Austin Backus was one of the first pioneers to live in the Hubbard Lake area. He moved there on the advice of his doctor for health reasons. It didn't take him long to decide that this was a perfect place to build a cabin for summer people. In 1906 he opened Uncle Tom's Cabin on the south end of the lake. He later expanded it and renamed it the Backus Beach Hotel and Resort. It had electric lights, furnished cottages and boat rentals.

The MacDonald House, Harrisville, MI. Charles MacDonald built this time on the north side of Main St, between 1<sup>st</sup> and Lake and opened in April 1907. This was a three story hotel with a dining room. It was destroyed by fire May 5, 1922.

1<sup>st</sup> Resort, Harrisville, MI. In 1914 Mrs. William Stocking of Detroit visited Harrisville. She was impressed

with the area and bought the home of H C McCalpin on N. State St. It was remodeled for a summer home. She then purchased the Colwell Mill property in 1915 on both sides of Mill Creek from Mill Pond to the lake shore. Seven cottages were built on the shore bluff and rented mostly to Detroiters for the summer.

Alcona Beach Cabins, Harrisville, MI. Louella Pearson purchased the Edgar farm and planned 10 cottages in 1923. In 1938 overnight cabins were completed on US 23 and she began a restaurant. This is the present site of the Muehlbeck's German Restaurant (now closed).

The Greenbush Inn, Greenbush, MI, on Cedar Lake Rd between Campbell and Main St. This was a true resort in every sense of the word. Built by Carl Schmidt in 1925, it offered guests beautiful rooms, fine dining, picnic perfect



The Greenbush Inn.

lawns, horseback riding (the stable was where the post office is now), golfing (the Greenbush Golf Course), a tunnel under US 23 to beaches on Lake Huron, dancing to name bands and a winter list of activities not offered anywhere else in the area (Carlsberg Ski Slide). The slide was north of Greenbush and started on the west side of the road, ran across the road and down the hill towards the lake. Mr. Schmidt was also the owner of the Serradella Farms on Cedar Lake Rd., whose herd of Holsteins were famous all over the US. Then on May 19, 1968 the famous resort burned to the ground. Nothing remains of this fine inn but the memories!

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## Genealogy Sites Just Because.....

By Judy Sheldon

These sites and in one case compilers/editors are made available to all of us for FREE. Their creators expect nothing from us but our appreciation. Donations in monetary or resource forms are accepted by some.

### **CyndisList.com**

Cyndi Howells is the owner and creator of this site, started in 1996. Cyndi is an author of several books and a speaker at various conferences and seminars around the country.

The site is a "Card Catalog" to genealogy on the Internet – the go to site for links to sites useful to genealogists – she searches daily for new sites. It is categorized and cross-referenced.

### **Old Fulton NY Postcards**

<http://Fultonhistory.com>

Tom Tryniski – a former IT executive -- created the site as a labor of love in 2003. He started with postcards, then it grew to include other documents and then to digitizing NY newspapers from microfilm. It now has nearly 22 million newspaper pages. Mostly NY newspapers, but he is adding some other states. Also, there are files about Fulton, NY

More on Tom:

[http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans\\_online\\_genealogy/2013/03/tom-tryniski-digitizes-more-newspapers-than-the-better-known-web-sites.html](http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/2013/03/tom-tryniski-digitizes-more-newspapers-than-the-better-known-web-sites.html)

<http://reason.com/reasontv/2013/03/05/amateur-beats-gov-at-digitizing-newspape>

### **One Step Webpages by Stephen P. Morse**

<http://stevemorse.org/>

This free site is a one-step portal to Ellis Island, Castle Garden, passenger ship lists in other ports, US census information, enumeration district conversions for various censuses, and more and more and more. The site continues to grow with often one of a kind searching capabilities.

More on Steve: <http://www.familytreemagazine.com/article/Retireless-1>

<https://familysearch.org/techtips/2012/01/rootstech-2012-featured-presenter-steve-morse>

### **Robert L. and Donald A. Ferrett**

Lovingly referred to by us as "The Ferrett Brothers"! They are the compilers and editors of the series: Birth, Marriage, Divorce, Bigamy, & Death Notices from the Alcona County Review. This is another labor of love as these books have been created, printed and made available to our library and the Alcona County Library free of charge. The books, fully indexed, are exact copies of the articles from the paper. At this writing they have done 1877 through 1944. Several of the volumes are in draft form. This is the only printed index to the paper at this time, although the papers have recently been digitized and will soon be available to the public to search on the library computers through the Alcona County Library system. These books are one of a kind resource for anyone with Alcona County, MI roots!

*Editors note: While I have not been successful in creating hyperlinks using the newsletter software, you should be able to use copy and then paste into your browser to reach to above web pages.*

FGS Conference page 1

Even as bright skies and comfortable temperatures prevailed outside, both ladies found ample time to research at the Allen County Public Library, located right across the street from the conference facility. Lugene figured that she spent about 5-7 hours at the library every day. Judy spent a little less time, but took in a few more sessions and manned the MGC table on Thursday.

The Genealogical Center in the library was open until midnight for a couple nights during the conference. As one might guess, the library staff was extremely helpful and assisted with one's research efforts.

The collection of genealogical materials held in the Allen County Public Library is staggering. Countless accounts of family histories, historical documents from almost everywhere in the world, and city directories that could fill a huge barn, plus free access to one of many, many computers with numerous subscription-based genealogical websites made research more than fun! With all of these resources, and many more, research was also rewarding.

If you have the opportunity to attend a large conference, it is worth it! Next year San Antonio, Texas!

Sunrise Side Resorts continued from page 4

Churchill Point, Hubbard Lake, MI. Originally known as the Bennett Tavern and opened in 1927 by Edwin and Margaret Bennett. It was famous for its "Special Sunday Chicken Dinners" prepared by Margaret. The resort is still in operation on the shore of Hubbard Lake with rooms and fine dining.



Churchill Point Resort

THE HSGS CATALOGING PROJECT

Alonzo Sherman has been very busy working on the completion of an inventory of our holdings. To date, he has completed the catalogs listed in the table at right which can be viewed on our web page.

However, there is a lot of work yet to be completed.

Al estimates that we have over 10,000 hard copies of Iosco County newspapers and 13,500 issues of Arenac and Iosco newspapers on microfilm rolls that we need to sort through and organize into year and month sets even before the completion of a catalog can be undertaken. Thankfully, Al is not working alone in working on this project. Billie Wright, the former Iosco County Clerk and Mary Smith have volunteered to work on this project.

CATALOGS COMPLETED

Type of Resource	Number
Iosco Co, Michigan	322
Michigan	357
Published Family Histories	172
Scanned Photos & Images	479
How to Guides	132
Canadian	321
USA Biographies	51
Items for sale	77

Did You Know?

In 1862 aliens who had received an honorable discharge from the US Army were allowed to skip the filing of the Declaration of Intention. This explains why many Civil War vets who were aliens received citizenship without all the paperwork.

Oscoda Ship Building



Historical Collection  
Great Lakes University

The schooner-barge Agnes shown here in the Saginaw River at Bay City, MI was built in 1880 in Oscoda, MI by G. Loud. Capt. Benjamin Boutell's firm owned the barge for around a decade. Schooner-barges were used extensively in the lumber-hauling business to increase the volume of lumber that could be handled in one trip.

Length - 149.75    Width - 30.75    Depth - 10.66  
Masts - 3    Gross Tonnage - 384  
Hull material - Wood  
Builder - Loud and Gay    Year built - 1880

Converted to fuel scow with hoppers on main deck, rig changed to barge, June 11, 1900, at Cleveland, Ohio. Surrendered at Cleveland, Ohio on September 25, 1908 and abandoned.

A High Percentage of German Swiss Immigrants died en Route To America

“From the records we have shown of the several ships names whose catastrophes we were able to describe, because, of the meager accounts of ancient newspapers, still on file, we are able to calculate how many thousands of those who started for America from Amsterdam and Rotterdam between the years 1700 and 1750 never reached America; but died at sea and were buried in its waters”.

“We cited the case of the ship that had 150 on board and arrived here with only 50 persons; and another case where one-half of the crew were lost and one-half of the passengers died; and of the ship Davy, just mentioned in which out of 254, fully 160 were lost and only 94 reached shore”.

“There were many others, no doubt, in which 50 to 100 died on the voyage and no note was ever made of them. It is therefore safe to say, that the 30,000 German Swiss immigrants who arrived here from the year 1700 until the times reaching up to the Revolutionary War may not have been more than two-thirds or three fourths of those who started to reach America. That is to say, it is wholly likely out of nearly 45,000 or 50,000 immigrants who set sail for America in that time, 15,000 to 20,000 of them died on the voyage by disease, hardships and exposure. And perhaps, many entire ship loads of them went down, of which we have no records in America at all. Those 30,000 who arrived here during that time may simply be survivors of a list of nearly 50,000 who started”.

From pages 266-267 of “HISTORIC BACKGROUND AND ANNALS OF THE SWISS AND GERMAN PIONEER SETTLERS OF SOUTH EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA, AND OF THEIR REMOTE ANCESTORS, FROM THE MIDDLE OF THE DARK AGES, DOWN TO THE TIME OF THE REVOLUNTIONAR WAR” by H. FRANK ESHLEMAN.

*Editor’s Note: Obviously other groups experienced hardship conditions most notably the African slave trade and the Irish Famine ships. For an interesting read on Irish emigration and the story of one ship that proved to be the exception to the rule, please see “All Standing” by Kathryn Miles. The ship Jeanie Johnston never lost a passanger over the course of eleven voyages to North America.*

