



HURON SHORES GENOGRAM

Oscoda, Michigan



French Canadian Ancestors

Saturday October 13, 2018
from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Robert J. Parks Library
6010 N. Skeel Ave., Oscoda, MI

Presenter Gerald Wykes is an Exhibits Specialist for the Monroe County Museum, Curator & Supervising Interpreter of the Lake Erie Marshlands Museum & Nature Center, Interpreter for the Huron-Clinton Metroparks, and a freelance artist & illustrator.



9:00-9:30 am - Genealogy Library Opens
9:30-10:00 am - Register & Coffee/Tea
10:00 am-12:00 pm - Gerald Wykes
12:00-12:30 pm - Brown Bag Lunch
12:30-1:30 pm - Gerald Wykes
1:30-2:00 pm - Questions

Co-Sponsors: Robert J. Parks Library
Huron Shores Genealogical Society

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HSGS Genealogical Meetings and Events

September

13 MGC Delegate Meeting, Alpena
HSGS cohosting

October

18 HSGS Business meeting,
Hsing's Garden Restaurant,
East Tawas, MI 5:30 pm

November

3 MGC Fall Event, Lansing
John Philip Coletta Presenting

December

January

17 HSGS Business Meeting,
Hsing's Garden Restaurant
House, East Tawas, MI, 5:30 pm

Corrections to our June Genogram:
Our apologies to Myra Herron for
the error in her name.

In the same article, the couple in
the picture on page 6 are Mary and
Gerald Herron.

The following comments were received from Gerald Wykes re his program:

"I planned on presenting the French-Canadian story through an examination of life ways and culture as it was expressed in New France and into the 19th century - uniquely French-Canadian with roots in old France. Of course I will try to focus on the regional picture from the fur trade, Louis Chevalier, Mackinac, and the lumberjacks. As one way to get this across I can also tell a few of the traditional tales told by the habitants, boatmen and lumberjacks.

"Abitants and Loup Garous" might be a working title: Habitants is pronounced "ah-bee-tont" and Loup Garou is the were-wolf figure of French-Canadien lore."

**A request for help from member,
JOE CLOUGH <joe.clough@comcast.net>**

Several members of the Cloud family appear in the Ard Emery book of photos. On page 123, the sons of William Henry Clough (1851-1831) appear, along with a picture of his sister Minnie Clough, sitting with his wife Mary Ann (Navin).

When Ard Emery was living and working in the Tawas area, he lived in a house a very short distance from the Clough family. The Clough family members appear in many of his photos. Of all of the pictures Joe has seen of Clough family members, he has never seen a specific picture of William Henry Clough. If you know if one exists anywhere, please contact Joe directly?

Congratulations to the winners of our recent drawing

Family Tree Maker Software - James MacMurray of Ohio
and Mike Swix of Michigan
DNA test - Janis Jones of Texas

Tragic Death of Will LeRoy Christian

As many of you read this issue of the Genogram, hunting season will be opening. Whether it be for small game, birds or deer, they all have one thing in common, the use of a fire arm. The papers will be filled with the safety tips, the schools and conservation groups will provide hunting safety classes, the TV stations will warn hunters to be careful and yet there are always accidents, some fatal.

Such is the case of Will LeRoy Christian, a young man of 18, hunting in Iosco County on a Sunday, November 10, 1935, when he accidentally shot himself in the right shoulder. He was using a shotgun. He was taken to the hospital and at first everyone thought that he would be fine, but tetanus set in and other complications caused his death on November 22, 1935. He died at the Bay City Samaritan Hospital, Bay City, MI. The funeral services were held at his uncle's house, George Davidson of Wilber, and at the Wilber Methodist

Episcopal Church. He was buried in the Wilber Cemetery.

Will was the son of Grace Christian and William F. Nonenpreger, born January 10, 1917 in Bay City, Michigan. His grandparents were Andrew and Sadie (Giffen) Christian of Wilber, Iosco, MI. He and his siblings, Fredrick, Howard and Jean Claire, were living in 1930 with their grandparents. Later Will was adopted by his grandparents and took their surname Christian.

At the time of his death his mother had remarried to Lloyd Wood. His brothers and sister were living with Andrew and Sadie Christian.

So, hunters, please take care and follow all the safety tips! We want you around to read our next issue of the Genogram!

Sources: Tawas Herald, Nov 29, 1935, p1, obit; Michigan death certificate; 1920, 1930 Federal Census; 1915 marriage record; and transcribed burial transfers done by Charles Birnbaum.

**September 13, 2018 Out-of-Lansing Michigan Genealogical Council Delegate Meeting
11:00 am Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary, 500 W. Fletcher, Alpena, Michigan 49707**

History Beneath the Waves, Shipwrecks of Thunder Bay

All HSGS Members are invited to sit in and listen at the delegate meeting and then explore the fascinating maritime heritage of Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary. The 4,300-square-mile Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary protects one of America's best-preserved and nationally-significant collections of shipwrecks. Hear the stories of these shipwrecks and their important recreational and educational role in the community.

MGC thanks the *Northeast Michigan Genealogical Society* & the *Huron Shores Genealogical Society* for co-hosting these meetings in Alpena, MI on Thursday, September 13, 2018.

New England Gleanings

Check out these positions. They are for real, especially the Fence Viewer!

Field Driver: a town officer especially in early New England authorized to round up and impound domestic farm animals roaming at large. www.merriam-wester.com

Fence Viewer: a town or city official who administers fence laws by inspecting new fences and settles disputes arising from trespass by livestock that have escaped enclosure. The office of Fence Viewer is one of the oldest appointments in New England. <https://en.wikipedia.org>

Barbour Collection

The Barbour Collection consists of abstracts of town, church and other original records in Connecticut. It was first created as a slip index of about a million entries by Lucius B. Barbour at the Connecticut State Library in Hartford, Connecticut. It is a statewide index of births, marriages, and deaths arranged alphabetically by surname. Yellow slips have entries from private sources such as diaries. The Barbour Collection is incomplete and known to contain some errors.

Internet. The Barbour Collection is at least partially available on the Internet from two major sources. First, the births are listed for free as part of the FamilySearch [International Genealogical Index](http://International.Genealogical.Index). Second, Ancestry.com (\$), a subscription site, has indexed the 252,432 births, 218,569 marriages, and 56,008 deaths. Note: The collection can be found via a search for the Barbour Collection in the the Ancestry Card Catalog for the Barbour Collection. The index at Ancestry.com is incomplete.

Films. It has been microfilmed on 98 films as the [Barbour Collection: Connecticut Vital Records Prior to 1850](http://Barbour.Collection.Connecticut.Vital.Records.Prior.to.1850) and is available at the Family History Library. The film collection is alphabetical by surname.

Books. This collection is also available as a 55 volume set of books compiled by Lorraine Cook White, [Barbour Collection of Connecticut Town Vital Records, 55 vols](http://Barbour.Collection.of.Connecticut.Town.Vital.Records.55.vols) (Baltimore: Genealogical Pub., 1994-2002)[FHL Book 974.6 V2wL]. This format is arranged by town, and then alphabetical by surname.

Hale Collection of Connecticut Cemetery Records.

Charles R. Hale Collection of Connecticut Cemetery Inscriptions contains vital information from headstone inscriptions in over 2,000 Connecticut cemeteries that were recorded in a W.P.A. project directed by Charles R. Hale ca. 1932-5. These records are bound in volumes for each town and are indexed on slips in a single alphabetical file. Many cemeteries had been abandoned and long-forgotten when Mr. Hale began his research. For example, the town clerk in North Stonington knew of only nine cemeteries in the town; Mr. Hale found 95. He made house-to-house inquiries about old vaguely remembered plots, and then crawled through the woods to find them. He even located a cemetery under Route 9 in Middletown and several that had been flooded by reservoirs. In total 2,269 cemeteries came to light. <http://www.hale-collection.com/>

Official Series of Vital Records for Massachusetts to 1850.

The Vital Records to 1850 series was compiled and published in the early 20th century for many municipalities in Massachusetts. These volumes include birth, marriage, and death information and are transcribed from town and church records, cemeteries, and private sources. The volumes are typically arranged by birth, marriage, and death, and alphabetically by family surname within each section. Many, but not all, of the volumes have been digitized. Below is a list of the volumes available either online or in print at the State Library of Massachusetts.

<http://www.mass.gov/ant/research-and-tech/research-state-and-local-history/vital-records-to-1850.html>

And another comment on this set is found at: <https://pk-pollyblog.blogspot.com/2010/06/>

"In the early twentieth century the "official" series of vital records books were published. They are sometimes called "the tan series," because most were bound in tan cloth. These included vital records from about 200 of the 351 towns and were compiled using town clerks' records, church registers, gravestones, family bibles and other private records. The individual towns compiled them and they were published individually, though most of the manuscripts were deposited at the State Archives. Towns that are missing from this series, especially in the western part of the state, may be found in the Corbin Collection, which has its own set of pitfalls."

Was the Scholtz family indentured or slaves?

Part I

Submitted by Judy Sheldon

Ernest Scholtz/Schultz and his family lived in the East Tawas, Michigan area between 1872 and 1900. He had a farm on Meadow Rd. Sounds pretty tame? But his story is anything but tame. He must have told his story to one of the local Iosco County papers and it was picked up by The New York Times and several others across the country as it is rather sensational. It also highlights how people can be duped into making decisions by fast talking individuals or because they don't understand all the terms of a contract. Could being an indentured person seem like being a slave?

Ernest was born 25 Apr 1840 in Mecklenburg, Nordwestmecklenburg, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Germany. He was a laborer in the coal mines in the area. He was married to Caroline Johanna Fredericka Dohrmann Schultz; born 6 Mar 1843 or 1840 in Canzow, Woldegk, Mecklenburg, Germany. In 1865 they had two children, a boy, Ernest August born in 1863 and a baby girl. That year, as told by his daughter years later, an agent of an American colonization company came to his village looking for 300 families to go to "America." They were promised 160 acres of the best land in "America." All he needed was a fee for passage. Ernest didn't know the difference between North and South America and probably wouldn't have cared with the promises that were made.

In 1887 newspaper accounts given by Ernest, the agent contracted with him to go to Yucatan, Mexico to receive \$3.00 a day as a laborer. 100 families signed up to go. They left Carlsbad in 1866 for the Yucatan. The voyage turned rough and the baby girl died at sea. Rations were short and many died before they reached Mexico. Upon arriving the German immigrants were sold for \$30,000.00 and marched into the interior to work the plantations as slaves. The papers spelled his name Schoeltze.

As with any story there can be a different point of view. There is a slightly different account given by a journalist from Merida de Yucatan written the same year. He had seen the articles appearing in the United States and determined to find anyone who could corroborate the story of slavery, especially since slavery had been abolished in Mexico in 1829. He found a man, Fred Vorbes, who had come over with the Scholtz family on the same ship and stayed in Mexico. He said that a German, von Hapel, induced 46 families to sign five year contracts to come to the Yucatan, where he had purchased land from the Mexican government and planned to create a colony. He promised to pay their passage, provide provisions and settle them on 200 acres to be theirs at the end of the contract. They would give him the proceeds of the farms except for what they needed to live on. They would also get a house, a cow, two hogs, one gun and ammunition. They left Hamburg in May 1866 and arrived in Sisal 24 July 1866, a chief port of the Yucatan. They then went to Ticul, some 90 miles inland, the agent von Hapel accompanying them. All went well until February 1867 when they were pressed into service by the military.

Now for a little background history. Germany in the 1860s was at war on a regular basis. 1864 was the Second Schleswig War and in 1866 the Austro-Prussian War and Prussia and 15 smaller northern states merged their armies under German Emperor, William I. The following quote held true for most of the 1860s, "And why have you left Germany?" asked Heinrich Heine in 1834, when he met some German emigrants in France on their way to North Africa. "The land is good, and we would have liked to stay", they replied, "but we just couldn't stand it any longer." Ernest was a coal miner, indicating he probably only had a cottage with no land. The promise of a large farm would

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The Scholtz Family, continued from page 4

have sounded pretty good to him as a young husband and father.

Mexico wasn't much better. There was civil war in 1857. The Liberal forces won, but faced continuing instability and a growing foreign debt. Benito Judrez, leader of Mexico at the time, suspended payments of the loans for two years. In 1861 Spain, France and England met and in December 1861 landed a force at Vera Cruz. England and Spain had limited plans for intervention, but France and Napoleon III saw this as an opportunity to revive French global expansion. They took Mexico City, while the other European leaders withdrew. In 1863 Napoleon III invited Maximillian, Archduke of Austria, to become the Emperor of Mexico. He arrived in 1864. His Conservative government controlled most of Mexico, but there were Liberals holding power in northwestern Mexico and parts of the Pacific coast. French involvement did not set well in the world or in France and by 1866-67 French troops were withdrawn and the Liberal Juarez took over. Maximillian was executed 1867.

Now back to Yucatan journalist's story. After Maximillian was executed they returned to the colony to find the area being invaded by the Mayan Indians. The families went to the city of Merida for safety. The agent, von Hapel, had disappeared, some thought he went back to Germany. The large land owners, hacendadoes, had fallen victim to thinking cotton was their way to riches, but the market had fallen out and many had returned to growing hemp. The German families now dissented by their agent had to compete with the native labor forces to survive. Von Hapel had even had them sign away their German citizenship and become Mexican citizens, so the German government couldn't help them. The hacendadoes took advantage of them and did buy them to work on their plantations. [The Fort Worth Daily Gazette, Fort Worth, Texas, 10 Oct 1887, p. 4; clipped from Newspapers.com]

This conclusion of this story, in Ernest's words, will be in the December issue of the Genogram

Michigan Genealogical Council Fall Event

November 3, 2018; Michigan Historical Center, Lansing, MI

Plan to spend a *Day with John Philip Colletta* this year!

John will be giving presentations on the following:

- ***Finding the Town of Origin: U.S. Sources for Discovering an Ancestor's Native Town Overseas***
- ***Lesser Used Federal Records: Sources of Rich Detail about Ancestors' Lives***
- ***The County Courthouse: Your "Trunk in the Attic"***
- ***Breaking through Brick Walls: Use your HEAD!***

Co-sponsored by the Michigan Genealogical Council, the Archives of Michigan, and the Library of Michigan.

Watch <http://mimgc.org/> for details.

Northeast Michigan Bound MOVIN' ON UP, MEDDAUGH STYLE Submitted by Myra Herron

In 1800, my Meddaugh ancestors lived in Croswell, Carsonville, and possibly other little towns in Sanilac County. But something happened and some of them decided to move north. They must have heard the call of logging, or something! But most of the family packed up and moved up to the Au Sable and Oscoda area.



Mary Thibaudeau & John Washington Meddaugh

There were actually 2 families that merged after they moved here - the family of **John Washington Meddaugh**, who had been a pioneer in Sanilac, and the family of **John Parker**, a small family that had also lived in Sanilac. John Washington Meddaugh

was married to **Mary Thibaudeau**, both from Canada.

Mary Eleanor Parker, the daughter of **Susanna Mary Thornton** and **John Parker** moved about the same time as the Meddaughs. She was the future wife of one of John Washington's sons, **Louis Elmer Meddaugh**. Susanna's husband died in Au Sable while they were here, and she remarried. Her daughter Mary and Louis married while they lived here.

The oldest son, **Martin Van Buren Meddaugh**, had married and left Sanilac for Indiana in 1880. He trained to become a doctor and then moved back to Michigan, not opting to join the rest of the family. He stayed around the Detroit area, where there was guaranteed work.

It wasn't going to be as easy as the rest of the Meddaughs had hoped, however. It's estimated that the family moved to the Iosco area about 1890 or earlier. By the time of the 1894 Michigan census, **John and Mary**

Meddaugh were aged 59 and 56, and living in Oscoda township in Iosco county. John was working as a farmer. Daughter **Nancy Meddaugh Rich**, already a widow by that time, was there with her parents.

Nancy Margaret Meddaugh, the 2nd child of John W and Mary Meddaugh, first married a farmer named Henry Rich in Sanilac county. It seems that he must have died before 1890, after which she moved north with her family. After her sister Rosa's death, she married her brother-in-law John Sly. They moved back to the thumb area after their marriage.

The 5th child/3rd daughter, **Rosa (Rosilla Ann) Meddaugh** and her husband, **John Sly**, were also with the family. John Sly was working at a saw mill. (By 1899, Rosa had died from 'tabes mesenterica', or tuberculosis of the mesenteric and retroperitoneal lymph nodes.)

Lucinda Meddaugh, John's 3rd child, had married Elmer Huckins and they moved to Iosco with the family. However, they had 5 children between 1890 and 1900, all in Oscoda, and only one of them survived, perhaps only because they moved back to Worth, in Sanilac, by 1910. They did not fare well in the north at all. Only one cause of death was recorded, cholera infantum. No other causes were noted, or death certificates filed, evidently. Their ages were from 1 day to 6 months. So sad, but a good reason to leave.



(Left to right) Dr. Martin Meddaugh & Alice Meddaugh, Will Meddaugh & Betty Meddaugh, Louis Meddaugh & Mary Meddaugh - 1913

William Z Meddaugh, the middle child, was the secretive one in the group. I do have a photo of him, but he led a very quiet life. He was living in Alpena about 1900, but was not caught by the census. After he married in 1904 in Atlanta, he farmed in the area between Hillman and Atlanta with his wife, Betty Teets, until his death. It's assumed that he moved north from Sanilac county to Iosco and lived here until his brother, Louis, moved to the Alpena area. In Alpena, Louis farmed and

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MOVIN' ON UP, MEDDAUGH STYLE, continued from page 6

worked as a laborer, and most likely, so did William.

Louis Elmer Meddaugh lived in Croswell, Sanilac, and may not have known then that Mary Eleanor Parker, living in nearby Carsonville, would be his wife some day. They both moved to Iosco county at about the same time.



Louis Elmer, Nancy & Lizzie Irene Meddaugh

When Louis arrived, he got a job working in a saw mill here. He married his true love, Mary Eleanor Parker, in Au Sable in 1893. (I have their fancy marriage document that he saved all those years, framed and on my wall in my office.) In later years, they moved to Alpena county (maybe after 1896), and he farmed and did logging work for most of his life until he lost a finger in logging. (Grandma used to tell me that, after his season out logging, while she

waited at home, he'd come back, a little 'rank' after living in the woods for months. She did not allow him in the house until her 'routine' was done. He had to go to their barn, strip down to nothing, get inspected for ticks or anything else that she didn't allow in the house, then bathe in the barn and change clothing. His lumbering clothes

stayed in the barn until they got washed. Then, and only then, were he and his clothing allowed in her spotless house.) After he stopped being a lumberman, he got jobs in Alpena (the city) and had a farm at the same time. He lived on Adams Street for many years, and had a little truck garden in his back yard that was about a normal parcel size for a house.

Lizzie Irene Meddaugh, the youngest child of John W and Mary Meddaugh, moved to Iosco the same time as her parents, but by 1893, was married to Charles Oscar Blaine. It is believed that they immediately moved to the city of Alpena, and lived there. But the bad luck with children's births seemed to follow them there. Their first child, little Rosella Mary Blaine, was born in Alpena (we think) and survived all the following upsets. Lizzie then was pregnant again, with twins. Her luck ended there. Her first twin was born, and died immediately. Then she had the 2nd twin, who survived her mother, who died the next day. However, that surviving child also died, leaving the father with 3 people to bury and a child to raise that was only 4 years old. He had Meddaugh relatives there, but opted to move out of the town, taking his little girl with him. He moved across the state to Grayling, remarried, and they all then moved to Canada to live.

But with all the upsets, deaths, marriages, etc., the Meddaughs still survived and managed to hang on through everything. I remember the living, Louis and Mary and all their children. I never met any of the other Meddaughs, since he managed to be the only child of John Washington Meddaugh and Mary Thibaudeau alive when I was born. But thanks to his photo albums, my mother's stories and lots of records, I have all this. They struggled, failed and succeeded, and are now remembered.

Get Thee to a Nunnery..

Submitted by Deanna Vaughan

While looking for information on my great grandmother, I came across her sister as an inmate at a Convent of the Good Shepherd. "An inmate, at a convent?" I thought.

The first Convent (also called Magdalene Laundries, where women could "wash" their sins away) was started about 1843 for female sex offenders and were actually a precursor to the first women's prisons. Women only had one option if they were criminals-men's prisons. Not a good option at all for obvious reasons. There are allegations of abuse and many of the women were used like slaves. The census shows girls as young as 9 and 10 living there as inmates. The documentary "The Keepers" is about one such Convent. These convents were in operation until the 1950's and 60's. There is a Facebook group for survivors of the Laundries.

I also found an article that talked about the convent having two sides. The St. Joseph side where girls were educated and treated "decently" and the Magdalene side where women worked.

Sources: <https://www.ancestry.com/boards/topics/orphans.us.tn/22.1.1.1.2.1.1.1/mb.ashx> and <https://digitalcommons.butler.edu/jiass/vol17/iss1/12/>

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 - Lindsey Russell
 Secretary - Dale Harwood
 Treasurer - Daniel Stock
 Database Manager - Alonzo Sherman

Our Regular Meetings

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

We meet at Hsing's Garden Restaurant, 600 E. Bay St., East Tawas (just north of the State Police Post.) The dates for our next two meetings are:

Oct 18, 2018

Jan 17, 2019

Our office is open when the Library is open:

Monday & Tuesday 9:00 to 5:00

Wednesday & Thursday 9:00 to 7:00

Friday and Saturday 9:00 to 2:00

Please call ahead for an appointment (989.739.9581) if you would like to have the help of an experienced genealogical assistant.

Please visit our web site at: <http://www.huronshoresgs.org>

And our Facebook page at : <http://www.facebook.com/HuronShoresGS>

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

Editor's note - To access the Internet links in this issue, clicking on the link should work. If not copy and paste them to your browser.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NEW ____

RENEWAL ____

\$10 per year

\$15 per year with mailed newsletter

Make checks payable to: Huron Shores Genealogical Society or pay via our web page using Pay Pal

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? Yes ___ No ___

If yes, list the software you use: _____

Would you, as a new or renewing member, be willing and able to hold an office, work on a committee, or help with indexing materials? Yes ____ HSQS would appreciate your help very much. Thank you!

If yes, we will contact you about your interest in helping.

Send this completed form and your check if appropriate to:

Huron Shores Genealogical Society
 % Robert J. Parks Library
 6010 Skeel Ave, Oscoda, MI 48750-1577