



# HURON SHORES GENOGRAM

## Oscoda, Michigan

Huron Shores Genealogical Society  
presents  
**Military Records with a  
Michigan Emphasis**

Featuring:

**Sam Pardee**, pre Civil War records and  
**Cynthia Grostick**, 20<sup>th</sup> Century records

Cynthia is the President of the Michigan Genealogical Society  
and Sam is Secretary of the Michigan Genealogical Society

**Saturday, October 1, 2011**  
**10 am to 3:00 pm**

**Robert Parks Public Library**  
**6010 Skeel Ave, Oscoda, MI**

Lunch provided  
Registration call 989-739-9581

For more information contact Judy Sheldon,  
989-984-9305 or [huronshoresgs@yahoo.com](mailto:huronshoresgs@yahoo.com)



Photo identified as "McDonald in military clothes" Can anyone help us identify him and/or the uniform he is wearing?

GN#2-0469

### HSGS Genealogical Meetings and Events

September

18 Reno Cemetery Walk  
3:00 pm

October

1 Fall Workshop: Military Records with an emphasis on Michigan, featuring Sam Pardee and Cindy Grostick, 10:00am – 3:00pm, Oscoda, MI

20 Quarterly meeting in East Tawas, 5:30pm

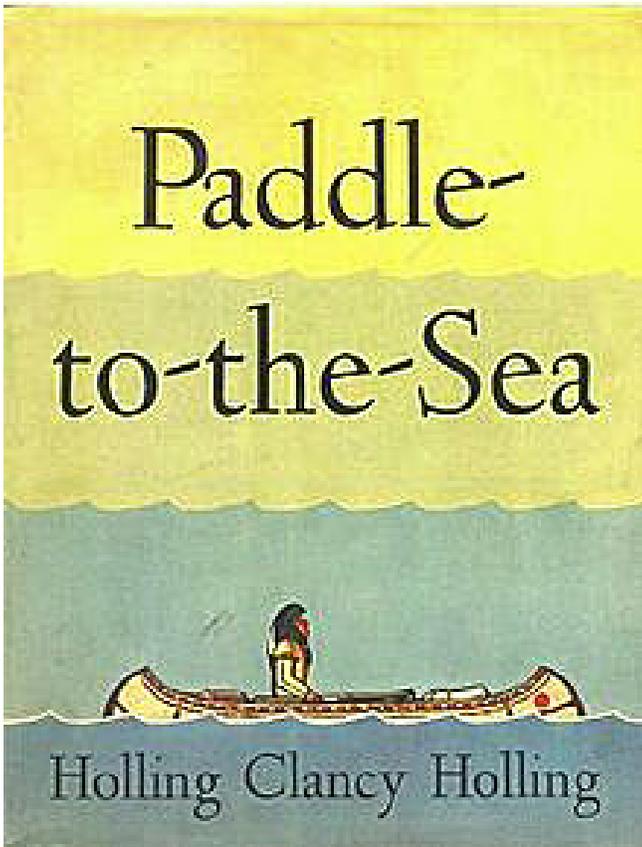
29 Family History Month Workshop, MI Genealogical Council and MI State Archives Lansing

November

10 MGC Meeting in Lansing

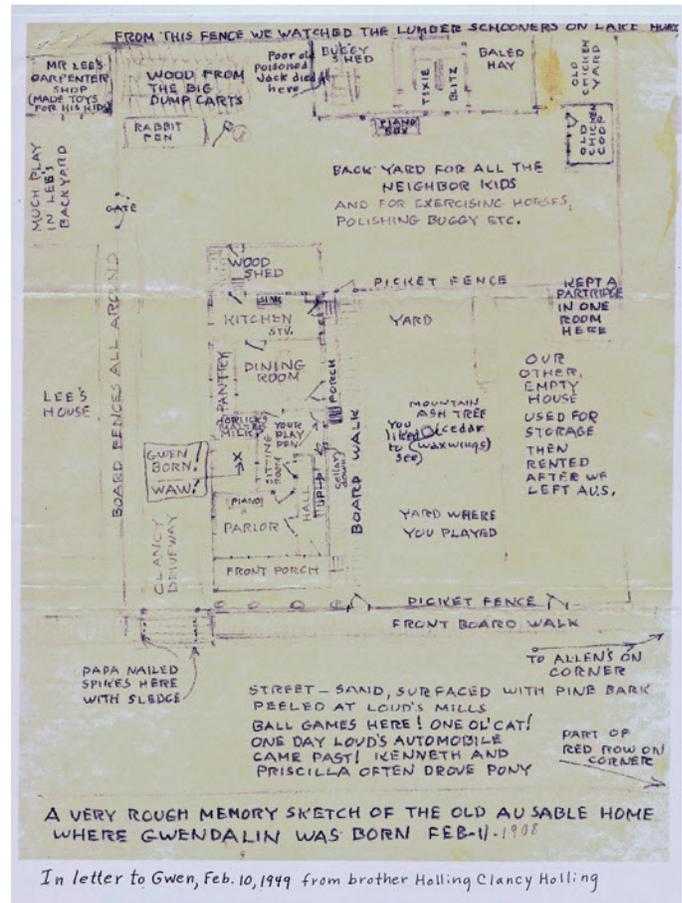
## Holling Clancy Holling, 1900-1973

By Judy Sheldon



AuSable, MI is known for many things, canoe races, fires, but probably not for having been the home of an award winning author-illustrator. The book most children will be familiar with is *Paddle-to-the-Sea* (1941), a Caldecott Honor book. He had two others winning Newbery Honors: *Seabird* (1948) and *Minn of the Mississippi* (1951).

Holling was born Holling Allison Clancy, Aug. 2, 1900 in Jackson, MI (Holling Corners). Generations of Hollings lived in this area of Jackson County, MI. His parents were Bennett and Lula Clancy and brother, Allen and sister, Gwendaline. He grew up wandering the woods around his home and reading books about nature, Native Americans and camping. He started drawing when he was three. He was surrounded with books as his father was in education and his mother visited the library in what ever town they lived.



Bennett Clancy was the superintendent of the AuSable Schools from 1902 to 1910 (two of those years were at West Branch). Gwendaline was born in Tawas in 1908. The Clancy's lived in the area of Second St between Church and Chevallier. Their neighbors were Harry and Clifford Lee and Rocky Allen.

As an adult he lived in California and his sister remained in Michigan. He wrote regularly (1940's-1965) to her, telling her stories of their time in AuSable, including a drawing of their house and yard (above).

Following is one of the many letters we have copies of. His letters stopped in 1965 as he suffered from Parkinson's with dementia.

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**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



Lugene with daughter Mary and husband Lynn

**Who We Are**  
**“Our Secretary” - Lugene Daniels**

Born in 1954, the childhood of HSGS Secretary, Lugene Daniels was spent on a dairy farm in rural Gibson Township of Bay County. Her passion for agriculture and farming developed at an early age as she worked beside her parents and paternal grandparents on the family farm.

After graduating from Standish-Sterling Central High School in 1972, Lugene entered the Dairy Science program at Michigan State University. After completing her B S degree in 1976, she went onto earn an M S degree in Dairy Husbandry from the University of Missouri-Columbia.

Her interest in family history was inspired by spending much time with her Ukrainian-immigrant grandparents. Since her high school days, she has collected family information, stories, and documents. She maintains a stout family history library at her home.

In recent years, she has enriched the Burleigh Township and Whittemore communities by researching and writing about the area. In 2007 Lugene self-published two books: “Whittemore--- One Century Gone By” and “The Golden Anniver-

Continued on page 7

**Born in Virginia? Are you sure?**

When reference is made to a person's having been born in Virginia as early as 1728 or as late as 1850, that person could have been born in any of the following:

|    |           |
|----|-----------|
| IL | 1781-1818 |
| IN | 1787-1775 |
| KY | 1775-1792 |
| MD | 1775-1792 |
| NC | 1728-1779 |
| OH | 1778-1803 |
| TN | 176?-1803 |
| WV | 1769-1853 |

From News ‘n’ Notes February 1996,  
 St. Louis Genealogical Society, St. Louis, MO

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.

**Early AuSable Schools**

Children living in AuSable had no school to attend until 1864. Mrs. Hor decided that there were enough children in the village to warrant a school and started teaching them in her house. By the next year the first school building was built on State Rd, near the then Episcopal Church. It was a very primitive building with a low roof. The first teacher in this new school was Jennie Doyle (born about 1844 in Canada).

Student population continued to increase and by 1868 a second teacher was hired, Mr. F. D. Sturdevant taught in the second story of the O'Toole building. In 1869 a new school was built and Mr. Sturdevant was followed by Mr. Porter. An addition was added in 1874 and this school was used until 1926. They called the school on O'Toole Ave, two blocks south of Smith St., the Lower or Commons School. The High School was on Church St on the corner of Third and Church.

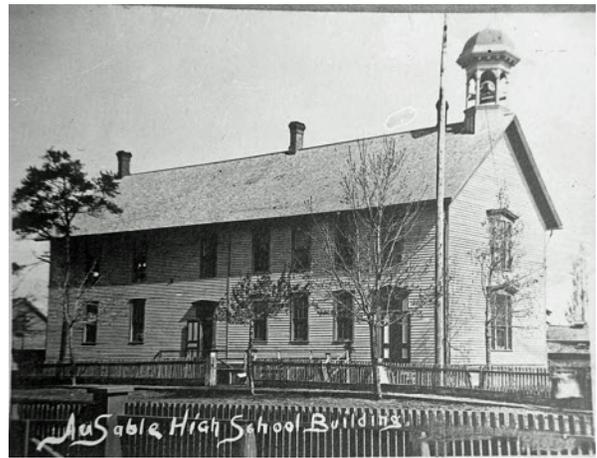
The schools were graded in 1877, K-11<sup>th</sup> grade in the High School and 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade in the Lower School.

The following men were principals of AuSable Schools:

- 1872-73, John M. Came
- 1874-77, Charles P. Colvin
- 1877-78, John M. Came
- 1879, William O. Butler (b. 1831 MA,  
teacher from 1860 to at least 1900)
- 1880-81, R. J. Barr
- 1882-83, Charles S. Pierce
- 1902-1910, Bennett Clancy

The Catholic School was established in 1876 and administered by the Sisters of Charity from Cincinnati, OH. It was located along with the church, convent and rectory in the block bounded by Pierce, Chevalier, Fourth and Third Streets.

AuSable continued to have its own school district, even as Oscoda grew along side it until the Great Fire of 1911. After the fire AuSable only had one school left, the fire taking the high school. The Lower or Commons School escaped because of its location in the middle of the Sand Dune or Common Area. Students went to the Commons School up to the 5<sup>th</sup> grade and if they chose to continue their education they could go to the Oscoda School across the river. This arrangement continued



until 1926, when a lack of students closed the school. The building was sold in 1928 to Ray Colbath who tore it down for materials to build a fish market.

Sources:

- The History of Iosco County, Michigan, c. 1981
- History of Lake Huron Shore, c. 1883
- Historical Pamphlets: Michigan, 1837-1987
- Holling letters
- Ancestry.com

**JOIN US ON A TOUR OF THE  
RENO TOWNSHIP CEMETERY**

**Sunday September 18, 2011 3:00 pm**

*Public invited; light refreshments  
will be served.*

*This program is free*

**Sponsored by the  
Huron Shores Genealogical Society**

An Excerpt from the Paper “Sawdust”  
with permission from the author Kathryn Untener

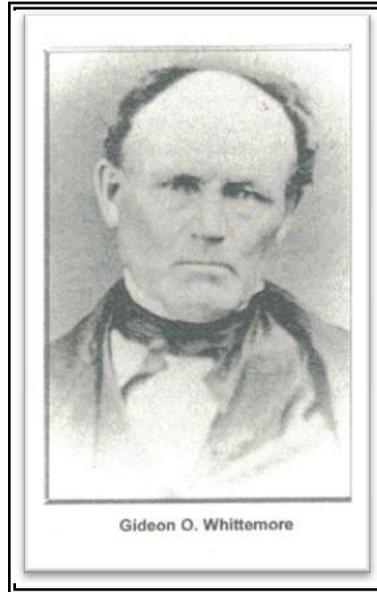
The Men

Gideon O. Whittemore was a man with gump-tion. The lumbering business was highly speculative, and many a business man lured into the lumbering industry by the idea of the fortunes possible in northern Michigan forests lost his fortune. Whittemore, himself, was a man with many titles; he was an Oakland County judge and lawyer, a prominent farmer, a member of the board of regents of the University of Michigan, the state board of education and secretary of state. However his most important title may have been father-in-law when examined in the context of historical posterity of Iosco County.

“My father's energy & ability to labor was wonderful. He undertook the Herculean task of getting logs down the upper Tawas River. Built a scow with a house on it & went up the narrow stream cutting out the fallen cedars where they had been buried for centuries & had become covered with sod & became islands. Hardly a yard of progress was made without the most laborious toil in water & ice. 4 or 5 miles were hewed out this way & when the logs came down there was so little water that it took all summer to run them down. They had to be lifted & pried & shoved along. Vast beds of sand would accumulate in front of them & make bars over which each log had to be worked with infinite toil. I would give anything if I could have him back with us as he was before that dreadful labor. He certainly should never be allowed to go to those dreadful woods.”

Entry from the “Diary of James Olin Whittemore”, son of Gideon Whittemore, for January 9, 1866  
Gideon passed away in 1863

As much gump-tion as Whittemore had, the mill would have failed very soon after its establishment had it not been for the determination of A. B. Mathews, his business partner and son-in-law husband of Harriet F. (Whittemore) Mathews. He was already an established and respected miller and produce broker in Pontiac when he was approached by Whittemore about a lumbering endeavor in the northern wilds of Michigan. (There is some discrepancy about when this actually occurred; all records seem to



Gideon O. Whittemore

indicate that the land was not purchased until 1856.) Though his original intent was to be a monetary contributor only, he quickly became a driving force behind the daily operations of the mill at the expense of his business endeavors in Pontiac. Despite the financial consequences, Mathews single-handedly kept the Whittemore mill in Tawas City operating

until 1878 when the family was forced to sell to settle debts.

A Tawas City street is named for Mathews, but it is ironic that his name is misspelled on several street signs. He spelled his name with one “t.”

*Now Your Loggin’* by Neil Thornton

The Lumberjacks

In the winter of 1866, the Whittemore mill employed approximately 200 workmen, many of whom worked as far as fifty miles back in the woods. The lumberman life was an arduous one: rising before the sun, toiling away all day in dangerous jobs, and finally coming in eight to ten hours later to eat dinner, write a letter home, and fall asleep in a bunk house with upwards of twenty other men. Lights out in the camp was at 9 p.m. During the little off-time the lumber workers had, many would cut shingles, which, in most general stores in the rural areas near lumber mills, could be used as a monetary payment. Twenty thousand shingles could buy a barrel of salted pork.

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“Sawdust” Continued from page 5

Lumbering was a notoriously dangerous job. Broken bones, loss of fingers and arms, and deaths were common in the woods, in sawmills, and on the rivers. According to the Iosco County Gazette in January of 1881, “The number of accidents occurring in the lumber woods this winter, up to present time, exceeds that of any previous winter on record. Scarcely a day passes but one or more is carried out of the woods, either killed outright or injured.” In fact, the November 18, 1880 issue of the Gazette reported two deaths and two injuries from the previous day.

Some of the many jobs in a lumber camp were far more dangerous than others. The area where the trees were being cut (also called the pinery), was extremely hazardous. For example, while scalers simply estimated the number of board feet in a given area, the choppers, whose job was to actually fell the trees, would often come back to the camp injured or dead, due to falling limbs. The falling branches were frequently referred to as widow makers since hard hats were not yet devised.

Inside the woods surrounding the Whittemore sawmill, new inventions were making logging both faster and easier. The big wheel was a cart pulled by two horses and had two enormous wheels. Under the axle connecting the two wheels was a chain which would be hooked under several large logs, making the skidder’s job far easier. The skidders (also called the swampers) were responsible for making sure that the logs were moved from the woods to the main trails where they would be transported to the river banks to await the spring thaw, at which point, the logs would all be released into the rivers.

The whitewater men (also referred to as river-hogs or riverjacks) lead a precarious life, balancing on floating logs as they drifted down the river. Slipping off and being hit or crushed by the floating logs, which weighed several tons, could prove to be fatal. In one firsthand account, a pair of brothers regale a time when a load of logs hooked together, forming a raft, suddenly came apart, knocking the younger brother, Elmer, into the freezing rapids, with gigantic

logs floating right above his head. Had it not been for the courage of his brother, Herbert, Elmer would certainly have drowned, or been killed by bobbing logs.

In camp, the teamsters handled the horses used to drag logs out of the forests and usually only worked for the camp in the wintertime. During the warmer months, they were farmers and these same horses were used to plow their fields. Unfortunately, this business was dangerous for the animals, as well as the humans. Frequently, horses were killed by runaway loads of logs.

There were cooks that followed the rivermen, also they worked on the wanagan, which was, essentially, a floating kitchen. The cooks had no easy task, either, though certainly not as dangerous as the other jobs. They were up at 3:30 in the mornings cooking breakfasts for the hungry lumbermen and toiling away most of the day to ensure a dinner promptly at 6 p.m. each night.

Understandably, doctors also played an important role in the lumber camps. Residing in the surrounding town or village, the doctor was frequently summoned to the camps due to one injury or another.



**Whittemore Sawmill constructed in 1854-55 and located West of Mathews Street. It was in use until shortly before 1900.**

Holling continued from page 4

Sept. 22, 1952

“Dearest Gwen:

How is my sister these trying days of school starting? I remember that Papa was always just a bit nervous before school started. In AuSable he reacted as an actor might – a little more “on the ball”, speech a little more precise and clipped and carrying himself a little more as a boxer who is about to step into the ring. And it was a ring, in those days, in that lumber town of 30,000. Some of the boys were tough from the “Red Row”. (There were several sections of Red Row – a triple streeter down by the bayou where the logs were penned after the drives; one near our home of about 6 or 10 houses; all alike as peas, all one-storey with gable-ends to the street, all the exact shade of barn-red.) the Red Row bred brawlers. (Louds owned the houses – they were workers’ homes, at a low rental, but not all inhabitants were in the mills.)

Papa seemed to flex his muscles in the morning as he jauntily walked the two-blocks –and-a-jog left to High School. In the Lower School, south in the town among sandy washes, he had come on a fraternity of “Scratch-noses.” He noticed that all boys had scabs of long standing on the bridge of the nose. He found that bullies took new boys down and scratched their noses with fingernails till blood came. After the scab came, if a boy didn’t obey the bullies, he was thrown again and again, the scab scrapped off. There must be men still living with scarred noses from that time. Papa found out about this on the first day of school in AuSable. There wasn’t a new-scratched nose after that.”

Holling went on to study in several universities and settled in California where he lived with his wife, Lucille, until his death in Pasadena in 1973. He is buried in Nims Cemetery, Henrietta Township, Jackson, MI.

**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:

October 20, 2011                      January 19, 2012

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

Who We Are continued from page 2

sary of Whittemore-Prescott Area Schools.” Research regarding the agricultural history of Burleigh Township continues to be a work in progress which she hopes to complete within the next couple years.

Since joining the HSGS, Lugene has helped scan the 5,000+ glass negatives housed at the Iosco County Historical Museum, photographed and indexed several county cemeteries, and continues to be an active member of the society.

Lugene and her husband, Lynn, co-own and co-operate W-R-L Daniels Dairy Farm, LLC in Burleigh Township of Iosco County, where the operation milks about 350 cows and farms about 1,400 acres. Their daughter, Mary, is a mixed-practice veterinarian in Canton, New York. Their son, Luke, along with his wife, Lindsey, farms with them. Luke and Lindsey have one son, Seth, who is the first grandchild.

When not working on the farm, keeping domestic duties, or enjoying the small miracles of everyday life, Lugene is probably researching and writing. She finds inspiration in the people she meets, the land she farms, the time spent with family, travels throughout the countryside, and country music.

“My life has always focused on family and farming, as will most things I leave behind for my descendants.”

Submitted by Lugene Daniels

