

# IONIA COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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## *Newsletter*

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### **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.*

### **FIRST MEETING A SUCCESS!**

The first meeting of the Ionia County Genealogical Society was a success despite the blustery weather conditions. People traveled from all over the county to attend the meeting and brought with them much enthusiasm and interest in genealogy. The group was presented with a United States flag by the VFW Post 4461 to be displayed in the Lake Odessa Historical Society Depot. Attendees were asked to contribute ten hours a year to their organization. This could be by way of researching on one of the project committees, telephone calling, host/hostess at our meetings, or any number of other ways. *"Many hands make light work!"* If we all pitch in and do our part, this organization will be successful!

**Officers elected:** Pamela K. Swiler, President (Lake Odessa)  
Marilyn Steward, Vice-President (Ionia)  
Lisa Klutman, Secretary (Saranac)  
Richard Heaven, Trustee (Clarksville)  
Lois Curtiss, Trustee (Lake Odessa)  
John R. Waite, Ex-officio member

**New Projects:** Project committees have been formed and chairpersons assigned. Please contact any of these people to help out in any area of your expertise or interest.

- Mariyn Steward - collection of Ionia County Obituaries
- Kathryn Perry - coordination of a central directory of resources for genealogists
- Marjorie Gibson - funeral home records for Belding area (We need people willing to take on other Ionia county areas, so please sign up!)
- Lois Curtiss and Leora Slosser - church records (More people needed for this project!)
- Lisa Klutman - updating of cemetery records (If you have done this for any cemetery in Ionia County, please contact her!)
- Marilyn Cahoon - indexing scrapbooks containing service records
- Pam Swiler - collecting and indexing funeral cards

**-WANTED:** People to coordinate the ***First Families of Ionia County*** project - contact Pam Swiler

## Recent Acquisitions:

- ~We now have a subscription to the "*Everton's Genealogical Helper*" magazine which will be available at the Depot Museum for your use.
- ~"*Clinton County Trails*" - Volume 11
- ~Western Michigan Genealogical Society's publication - *MICHIGANA* Volume 30, No.1 through current issue is available at the Depot Museum.
- ~"*West Sebewa Cemetery Records*" compiled by Pamela K. Swiler
- ~"*Koutz Family History*" - Donated by Alicia Walker and Cyndi Bryant
- ~"*History of Woodland, Michigan 1837-1987*" by C.A. Arnott

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**Name our publication!!!** We need a name for our newsletter/publication! Send me suggestions, ideas, etc. We will ask our board members to decide which name to use at one of our upcoming meetings.

## Calendar of Events

- February 27, 1997 - Board meeting 7:00 p.m. at the Depot
- March 8, 1997 - "*Photo Preservation*" - Guest speaker: Laura C. Randall - 1:00 p.m. at the Depot
- March 27, 1997 - Board meeting 7:00 p.m. at the Depot
- April 12, 1997 - Regular meeting 1:00 p.m. at the Depot - Topic "*Using the Computer at the Family History Center*" - Guest Speaker will be Cyndi Kuhlman
- April 19, 1997 - *BEGINNING GENEALOGY WORKSHOP* - Merrie DeVoe  
1:00 p.m. Must pre-register for this class. Fee: \$5.00
- April 24, 1997 - Board meeting 7:00 p.m. at the Depot
- May 10, 1997 - Regular meeting 1:00 p.m. at the Depot - "*Tracing Your Dutch Ancestors*" - Stephen Lambers
- May 22, 1997 - Board meeting 7:00 p.m. at the Depot
- June 14, 1997 - Regular meeting 1:00 p.m. at the Depot - "*Publishing Your Family History*" - Merrie DeVoe
- June 26, 1997 - Board meeting 7:00 p.m. at the Depot
- July 12, 1997 - Regular meeting 1:00 p.m. at the Depot - "*Researching Your German Ancestors*" - George Evans
- July 24, 1997 - Board meeting 7:00 p.m. at the Depot
- August 9, 1997 - Regular meeting 1:00 p.m. at the Depot - TBA
- August 21, 1997 - Board meeting 7:00 p.m. at the Depot
- September 13, 1997 - Regular meeting 1:00 p.m. at the Depot  
- "*Clerks and Genealogists Working Together*" Barbara Trierweiler, Ionia County Clerk
- September 25, 1997 - Board meeting 7:00 p.m. at the Depot
- October 11, 1997 - Regular meeting 1:00 p.m. at the Depot - "*Preservation of Documents*" - Dick Harms, Grand Rapids Public Library Archivist.
- October 23, 1997 - Board meeting 7:00 p.m. at the Depot
- November 8, 1997 - Regular meeting 1:00 p.m. at the Depot - "*Researching Odessa Township*" - John Waite
- November 20, 1997 - Board meeting 7:00 p.m. at the Depot
- December - NO MEETING - Merry Christmas!

**From our mailbag:** (Items received from people may be edited for space)

**-From Eric Lund:** ..."I am researching several families who lived in Ionia County and would enjoy opportunity to share, learn, and add to my research." Family names include: **Bailey** (Portland and area) and related branches: **Webster, Storms, Jones, Frost, Smith; Gott** (Portland); **Haysmer** (Ionia); **Moe** (Belding, Smyrna); **Murray**. Anyone having information that may help contact Mr. Lund at 12899 McKinley Road, Chelsea, MI 48118.

**-From Cindy Bryant:** Needed, marriage record for **Harriet Mabie (Maybee)** and **William Flanagan**, somewhere around 1869, in Ionia Co., or neighboring counties. She is dau. of **Jeremiah Mabie**, and shortly after marriage moved to Newmarket, Ontario, Canada. Cindy may be reached by e-mail at: **cbryant@qtm.net** or by mail at 2696 Red Arrow Hwy., Benton Harbor, MI 49022. See the **KOUTZ, CHRISTLIEB, MABIE, STUMP** homepages at **<http://www.qtm.net/~cbryant/>**

**-From Alyce Jane Morrow:** Searching surname **TOLLES**. Information may be sent to her at 3106 Duluth Street, Highland, IN 46322.

**-From Ellen Willemin:** Surnames researching at this time are: **Hunt/Hundt; Willemin; Gardner; French; Thomas; Petsch; Pecorella** Contact Ellen at 1038 Maynard Road, Portland, MI 48875.

**-From Beth Wills:** Searching: **Erskine, Kent, McPhee, Lange, Wills and DeWitt**  
E-mail address: **bwills@ionia-mi.net** or mail to: 1133 Yeomand Road, Lot 85, Ionia, MI 48846

**-From Sandy Heintzelman:** Searching Ionia County families- **Oliver; King; Drew; Round(s)**  
Contact via e-mail at: **sheintz@iserv.net** or by mail at: 10605 Button Road, Belding, MI 48809.

**-From Cheryl VanWormer:** Searching for **Van Wormer; Scheurer; Adgate; Beeler; Feldpausch; Fink; Geer/Geers; Gensterblum; Lounsbury; Newton; Nurenborg; Schafer; Schmitt/Smith; Stahl; Stratton; Tuttle; Walters; Wilson; Wood; York**. Visit our home page at: **<http://www.iserv.net/~wormer/>** E-mail Cheryl at: **wormer@iserv.net** or write to her at 922 James Street, Belding, MI 48809.

**-From Lois Henry:** Researching surnames **Moons, Simmons**, and Otisco Township Cemeteries. Contact Lois at 4721 Bartonville Road, Belding, MI 48809

**-From Bob Johnson:** Researching **Fancett, Klinessmith, Johnson, and Hopkins**. Contact Bob at 3510 Bricker Road, Fenwick, MI 48834

## **Did you know....???**

The Alvah N. Belding Library, located at 302 East Mains Street, Belding Michigan has a very nice collection of genealogical materials available for researchers? Their collection includes:

- All Belding newspapers on microfilm back to 1879. Indexed.
- All Ionia County cemetery records to 1976 with alphabetical name index.
- Obituary records from local newspapers back to 1879.
- Federal census records for Ionia, Montcalm, Kent and assorted other counties on microfilm
- Old city directories and phone books
- plat maps of Ionia and Kent Counties
- Index of death and marriage records on microfilm for Ionia County
- Histories of Ionia County with index (Branch, Schenk, Chapman Brothers)
- 46 volume set of "Michigan Soldiers and Sailors Who served in the Civil War." Indexed
- Filby's "Passenger and immigration lists index" (18 volumes)
- Family History respository

Hours: Mon. & Thurs. 9:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.;

Tues., Wed., & Fri., 9:00a.m.-5:00p.m.; Sat. 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Phone: (616) 794-1450

**Did you know....???** In our neighboring county, Barry County, the Woodland Township has a library? The Spindler Memorial Library has its own "History Room" according to librarian, Catherine Lucas. In it one will find the history of the pioneers of the Woodland area indexed and referenced. Catherine Arnott-Smith wrote "1837-1987 History of Woodland" and donated her information to the library. The hours of the library are Tues. and Thurs. 3:00-6:00 p.m., Saturday 1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. Research hours by appointment.

Library telephone: (616) 367-4649. Address: 170 N. Main Street, Woodland, MI 48897

**Did you know...???** You can access genealogical information world wide through the internet? Contact Beth Wills at the GenWeb Project at [bwills@ionia-mi.net](mailto:bwills@ionia-mi.net) or visit the web sites: For Ionia County: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~miionia>

For Montcalm County: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~mimontca>

Visit Beth's Genealogy Home Page at: <http://www.ionia-mi.net/~bwills/genealogy.htm>

**WANTED:** Someone who can read and translate German documents. Contact Pam Swiler at (616) 374-3141.

**The Lake Odessa Historical Society** is making plans for this year's *DEPOT DAY* event. The theme for this year's event will be honoring The History of Scouting in Lake Odessa(Boy and Girl Scouts). If you have information or memoribillia that is pertinent to the Lake Odessa area, please contact John Waite at the Lake Odessa Historical Society, 839 Fourth Avenue, Lake Odessa, MI 48849. More information forthcoming about this event.

**Book Reviews:** "*A Grand Rapids Sampler*." by Gordon L. Olson is now on the shelf of the library for the ICGS. Written by the Grand Rapids city historian in 1978, it is a wonderful collection of documents, photos and various items that depict the city's history. Many Ionia county natives were employed in businesses in the Grand Rapids area. Donated by Pam Swiler.

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**A TRUE CHRISTIAN PASSES TO ETERNAL HOME (Lake Odessa, Michigan)**

Mrs. Nancy Koutz, a pioneer of this section and for many years a resident died Saturday. Ms. Koutz, when she grew feeble, went to live with her son, Mr. & Mrs. Lincoln Culp, just north of town, and for several years through her extreme feebleness, has not been able to leave her home. In her former years she was found at the post of every duty and led an active life.

**Obituary**

Mrs. Nancy Koutz was born in Ohio, May 10, 1832. She was married in 1850 to Henry Culp, who died in 1891. To this union were born ten children, four of whom survive: Lincoln Culp, at whose home she died, Mrs. Emma Cross of Battle Creek, Mich., Mrs. Ida Lapham, Lake Odessa, and Mr. David Culp, Ingleside, Nebraska.

In 1900 she married to George Koutz, who died in 1911. Mrs. Koutz was a charter member of the M.E. church at which place the funeral was held Monday. The sermon was preached by Rev. A.H. Lash of the congregational church. The pastor, Rev. Nagier, being out of town at the time of the arrangements, but being present at the funeral, he read the scripture and obituary and offered prayer. Music was by members of the church choir. Interment was at Lakeside in the family plot.

-Submitted by Cindy Bryant

Additional note: Submitted by Debbie Mikula: Her maiden name was Boyles. She married Henry Culp, November 14, 1850, Hancock Co., OH. She married George Koutz 24 Oct 1901 at Lake Odessa. She died September 3, 1921, Odessa Twp. Her parents were John Boyles (b. abt 1790 in PA) and Christina Murr (b. abt. 1796 in PA). She was born in PA, not OH as stated in her obit. (Allegheny Co or Harrison) according to census records in 1850 and thereafter. More information on this family is available by contacting Debbie Mikula or Cindy Bryant. Thank you Cindy!

**TELL US WHAT YOU WANT TO KNOW!**

**WE WANT TO PROVIDE A VALUABLE SERVICE FOR YOU. TELL US WHAT YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT, LEARN ABOUT, HEAR ABOUT. WE WILL DO OUR BEST TO GET IT FOR YOU.**

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**In each issue of our newsletter we will highlight one pedigree chart submitted to us. If you would like to have your four generation pedigree chart included, send it to us!**



FOUR GENERATION LINEAGE CHART

Name of Compiler Colleen A. Whorley  
Address 5575 Grand River Ave  
City, State Saranac, Mich.  
Date Jan 4, 1997

Chart No. 1

b. Date of Birth  
p.b. Place of Birth  
m. Date of Marriage  
p.m. Place of Marriage  
d. Date of Death  
p.d. Place of Death

James Arthur Allen #4  
b. July 31, 1905  
p.b. Okemos, Mich.  
m.  
p.m. Bowling Green, Ohio  
d.  
p.d.

Ruben H. Allen  
b.  
p.b.  
m.  
p.m.  
d.  
p.d.

Marion Videto  
b. Nov 27, 1874  
p.b.  
d.  
p.d.

Ronald E. Allen #2  
b. Feb 15, 1931  
p.b. Lansing, Mich  
m.  
p.m.  
d.  
p.d.

Hans Chris Hansen  
b. Sept 13, 1878  
p.b. Trufant, Mich.  
m. Oct. 10, 1899  
p.m.  
d.  
p.d.

Cecelia LaVerne Hansen #5  
b. Dec. 29, 1900  
p.b. Trufant, Mich.  
d. Oct. 31, 1984  
p.d. Okemos, Mich.

Myrtle Mary Medler  
b. Jan 1, 1874  
p.b.  
d.  
p.d.

Colleen Anne Allen 1  
b. May 4, 1958  
p.b. Lansing, Mich.  
m. April 23, 1977  
p.m. Saranac, Mich.  
d.  
p.d.

George Chamberlain  
b. 1856  
p.b.  
m.  
p.m.  
d.  
p.d.

George E. Chamberlain #6  
b. Nov 23, 1901  
p.b. Venice, Ill.  
m. April 7, 1934  
p.m. Portland, Mich  
d. Sept. 11, 1979  
p.d. Portland, Mich.

Caroline Heits  
b. 1875  
p.b.  
d.  
p.d.

Patricia Esther Chamberlain #3  
b. April 7, 19  
p.b.  
d.  
p.d.

Joseph H. Huhn  
b. March 1, 1884  
p.b. Westphalia, Mich.  
m. April 19, 1909  
p.m.  
d. July 14, 1959  
p.d.

Joseph John Whorley  
b. June 16, 1956 (Spouse)  
p.b. Ionia, Mich.  
d.  
p.d.

Odelia Anna Huhn #7  
b. May 28, 1910  
p.b. Portland, Mich  
d. Feb. 14, 1974  
p.d. Lansing, Mich

Clara M. Fedewa  
b. Aug 11, 1885  
p.b. Westphalia, Mich.  
d. Jan 1, 1964  
p.d. Clinton Co.

# Beginning Genealogy Workshop

***YOU MUST PRE-REGISTER TO ATTEND!***

Deadline for registering is April 1, 1997

**Who:** Merrie DeVoe from Western Michigan Genealogical Society

**What:** A two-hour class for beginning genealogy

**When:** Saturday, April 19, 1997  
1:00 P.M.

**Where:** Lake Odessa Historical Society Depot

**Cost:** \$5.00 pre-paid

Send registrations to:  
ICGS  
c/o Pam Swiler  
13051 Ainsworth Road  
Route 3  
Lake Odessa, MI 48849

Make checks payable to: *Ionia County Genealogical Society*

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YES, SIGN ME UP FOR THE ICGS BEGINNING GENEALOGY WORKSHOP

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \_\_\_\_\_

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Those interested in becoming a member of the I.C.G.S. complete the form below and send \$15.00 annual membership fee made payable to the *Ionia County Genealogical Society* and mail to: ICGS, c/o Pam Swiler at 13051 Ainsworth Road, Route 3, Lake Odessa, MI 48849.

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**Charter Membership Information:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Home telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

List five names you are researching: \_\_\_\_\_

**IONIA COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**  
c/o Pamela K. Swiler  
13051 Ainsworth Road  
Route 3  
Lake Odessa, MI 48849  
**ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED**

TO: