

IONIA COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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.

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STARTING OUR THIRD YEAR - A LOOK BACK!

- ◆ We have made many new friends and have learned a great deal about genealogy.
 - ◆ This year classes have been held showing how to file your forms for First Families of Ionia County.
 - ◆ We have had many interesting speakers on a large variety of topics ranging from finding female ancestors, formation and duties of townships, postcards, Michigan Civil War Flags, and how to best use our County Clerk's office.
- This past summer we sponsored a Civil War reenactment group which was very well received.
- ◆ Our membership has grown and we are proud of the number of names in our database and the way our library is growing.
- Help us continue to grow by being an active member in any way you can contribute!

THANK YOU!

REMINDER

It's time to renew your membership. Please send your dues of \$15.00

FIRST FAMILIES OF IONIA COUNTY WELCOME 24 NEW MEMBERS.

The Ionia County Genealogical Society held its 2nd annual awards banquet on Saturday, October 17th at the St Johns Episcopal Church Parish House in Ionia, Michigan. The church was selected as the site for this year's event because of its historic value. The parish was established on February 4, 1841 and built on land donated by Ionia's founder, Samuel Dexter. The building is thought to be the second oldest Episcopal building in Michigan and the

was moved to its present site, on the corner of Kidd and Washington Street, in 1881.

After dinner, award certificates were distributed to each of the First Families Society members who were accepted into the group this year. There are a grand total of 41 members representing 3600 names. There were 24 new members accepted this year. Their ancestors represented 16 townships in Ionia County. Donna Bergsten resides in Poplar, Wisconsin; Cindy Donnelly resides in Denver, Colorado; Patricia Currigan and Rosemary Laban reside in Holt, Michigan; Russell B. Miller, Jr. resides in Fall Church, Virginia; Richard Barnes resides in Greenville, Michigan; Connie Jo Skinner resides in Portland, Michigan; Rick Ainsworth, Eleanore Potter and Dorothea Piechocki reside in Wyoming, Michigan; Geraldine Minard of Saranac, Michigan; Doris Rowe resides in Oak Harbor, Washington;

Richard Heaven of Clarksville, Michigan; Teresa Jo Sweet of Sheridan, Michigan, and Roberta Mills of Armanda, Michigan. There were three husband and wife members accepted this year - Evonne and Jack D. Johnson of Lansing, Michigan and Dorothy and Bert Bennett of Orleans, Michigan and Marilyn and Larry Cahoon of Clarksville. William VanSlyke Colley from Ionia, Michigan and Lynda Cobb and Jacqueline Gilliland both of Lake Odessa, Michigan were accepted as new members.

• The event began earlier in the day with an open house reception that was held at the Lake Odessa Historical Society Depot Museum. Many members visited the depot and browsed through the labors of love, which make up the history of the early pioneers of this county. Guests enjoyed refreshments and conversation about their families and how they settled in this area.

• Guests then moved to the church parish house in Ionia where, after photos were taken, Creative Catering of Ionia provided a wonderful dinner.

• During dinner, guests were delightfully entertained by the Christian music of the Farman Family of Lake Odessa. The Farman's have performed

for events such as Art in the Park and Depot Day and were enjoyed by all that attended

• The day ended with guest speaker, Michael Rohrbacher of Lake Odessa, who spoke on the history of the American baby bottle. He provided interesting stories of how the baby bottle progressed from the 1800's to the bottles that are used today. Guests were allowed to glance through a wonderful display provided.

THANK YOU TO THE FIRST FAMILIES COMMITTEE FOR ALL THE HARD WORK AND ESPECIALLY TO PAM SWILER FOR HER EFFORTS AND CONTINUED LEADERSHIP.

FIRST FAMILIES LOGO WINNER

The Ionia County Genealogical Society recently presented a check for \$25 to Andrew Marlatt of Portland, Michigan for the winning entry into the First Families of Ionia County logo contest. Presenting the check was James Moses of Lyons, Michigan, who is the chairperson for the First Families of Ionia County Society.

Andrew, a 1988 graduate of Portland High School, is the son of David and Kathee Otte.

Andrew's teacher, Derek Rainey, had instructed Andrew in the graphic design curriculum and was his teacher for Independent Study for Art this past school year. When asked how he chose the design he used, he stated that he

knew the river was important in 1880, and that the homes were log homes, so he just added the trees and sunset to tie it altogether.

COMING EVENTS

• Shirley Hodges will speak on January 11, 1999 on "What's in a Name". Please join us at our regular meeting at 1 p.m. at the Depot to hear this interesting and informative speaker.

• Michael Hook will present "Abe Lincoln: The Springfield Years" on February 13, 1999 at our regular meeting at the Depot. Please join us.

FREE PUBLICATION

The National Archives publishes a free newsletter called The Record five times a year. Each issue includes a column on genealogical research focusing on the records held by the National Archives. To subscribe, write to Roger Burns, Editor, The Record, National Archives, Washington, DC 20408.

A family tree can wither if nobody tends its roots.

HELPFUL HINTS FOR GETTING ORGANIZED.

In order to be successful at anything you have to be organized. Here are some weekly steps you can take to get a good start on organizing your genealogical data. This is mainly for folks who have computers, but use the same advice for non-computer users.

1. Clear your desk and make four piles.
 - a. To be filed
 - b. Correspondence to write
 - c. Research to Do
 - d. Photos - put them all in a box and we will sort them later.
2. Check your supplies. Make sure you have all the necessary tools needed. For example: pencils, pens, formatted disks, page protectors, 3 ring binders, printer ribbons or ink cartridges, paper for printer, paper for note taking, envelopes for mailing, disk mailers, acid free boxes & paper, postage stamps.
3. Set up your computer desk so that you are comfortable. Buy the necessary equipment to accomplish that goal. Have a clipboard nearby to scribble questions on when you are having computer problems.
4. If you have not developed a filing system, you may choose one of these. Create a surname notebook for every surname you are researching. Alphabetize by first name in each surname book with a four-generation chart for each person. Make a list of direct family lines in chronological order.

The other way is to put all direct family groups sheets in chronological order, youngest to oldest, in each notebook with a label saying DIRECT LINE. Then put all the collateral lines in the same order marked COLLATERAL LINE. The rest of the miscellaneous papers to in a category marked UNKNOWN RELATIONS.

5. Put all important documents from your TO BE FILED PILE in page protectors and file in the notebooks, making copies if they are needed in more than one file.
6. Write the letters that you have been putting off.
7. Put all the information that is in the notebooks into your computer. Be sure to document sources! We cannot stress how important systematic and thorough documentation is. It separates facts from old family stories.
8. Sort your photos into generations and put them into manila envelopes and mark them.
9. Get involved in your local genealogical society. Learn from each other.
10. Write an article for your genealogical society about your family history or another point of interest. The editor welcomes all entries.
11. When traveling on vacations, check out the towns where your ancestors have been. Learn about the history of those towns. You may find they are very similar to the countries where they came from. Take lots of photos and document what the photo is on a

notebook as you take it so when you develop the film you will remember what is what.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Benita Bowman
752 E. US Hwy 50
Brownstown, IN 47220-9515
(812)358-4696

Peter J. Burns
1321 N. Willow Hwy.
Lansing, MI 48917
(517) 232-4911

Clark A. Tinney
4155 E. Megan Dr.
Tucson, AZ 45712-1427
(520) 325-0499
e-mail: kitcat@azstarnet.com

LIBRARY NEWS

- The Alvah N. Belding Library in Belding, Michigan has extended its hours during the winter months. The library located at 302 E. Main Street is open from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday. On Tuesday and Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Questions?? Call 794-1450
- The Flat River Historical Library in Greenville, Michigan has moved to a new building located at 200 W. Judd Street. they hope to have the Family History room open late December 1998 or early January 1999. Hours are Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday 9:30-8:00, Thursday, Friday & Saturday 9:30-5:00. Phone: 754-6349

QUERIES

Ann **BESSETTE** is searching John W. **KLOTZ** and Sophia Ella (**BROMBERG**) **KLOTZ**. John is mentioned on FTM Veterans' Schedule CD for Selected States as living in Orange Twp, ED 146. Can anyone advise me how to get further information for this Veterans Schedule? Contact Ann at <grl1aeb@grl10.med.navy.mil>

Ted V **HALL**, SR is seeking Charles C. **PAYNE** abt. 1820 Hubbelston, Ionia, married to Matilda **RAWDON** abt 1825 who had Victor **PAYNE** brn 1848 Hubbelston, Ionia Co., died abt 1898 at Windsor, OH married Florence Elnora **DAY** in Mesopotamia, OH.
<mortuary@frugal.com>

Carole **WILCOX** is researching Asa **SUMNER**, b. 1826, VT. Settled in Ionia Co. between 1855 and 1860. His Civil War pension file says he was a teacher in Ionia Co. He resided in Boston Twp. On another affidavit, he told someone he was a minister in the 7th Day Adventist Church. Would anyone know where to find sources to prove these statements?
<cwilcox@tdn.com>

Sondra L. **HIGBEE** seeking information on Myron S. **BAILEY** and wife, Mary. They are listed on 1870 census with Myron's father, Ephram living with them. Also listed are daughter, Nettie; son, Henry and daughter-in-law, Mary. Daughter and granddaughter, Nelly and Ada **MCBRIDE**.
<higbees@pilot.msu.edu>

also Clark A. **TINNEY** researching the following surnames: **TINNEY**, **FRAZEE**, **WHEELER**, **HUNTLEY**, and **VAUGHN**.
<kitcat@azstarnet.com>

Betty **BRASSINGTON** would like to share information on the **EVANS**, **SHACKLETON**, **SANDBORN**, **WASHBURN**, **WALLER**, **KRUM**, and **GOTT** families.

Sally at <apple12@wmis.net> would love information on Joseph **ROWE**. On 1870 census in Danby Twp. with son, George and daughters, Frances and Ada. A Charles **ROWE**, born 1865, died 1870. Father is listed as Joseph **ROWE** and mother, Gertrude **ROWE**, residence unknown. Trying to determine if Joseph is the father of Charles and who Charles' mother was.

Benita **BOWMAN** is seeking information on marriage/death of Cora Phelena **HICKS** and John F. **SMITH** ca. 1885. Also seeking info on Jay Lewey **SMITH** b. 7 Dec 1885 in Michigan. Send to Benita at 752 E. US Hwy 50, Brownstown, IN 47220-9515.

Nathan **CARPENTER** is looking for an obituary for Maxfield **LUDLOW** who died 10 Jul 1887 and is buried in Barry County. He was living in Campbell Twp. in the 1880's. Maxfield's daughter married Daniel F. **FISH** and son, Horace lived in the area. Reply to
<ncarpenter1@juno.com>

Al **DAWSON** is interested in communicating with other descendants of Herbert Heman **DAWSON** (1866-1958) and Tilitha Cumi **EASTERDAY** (1869-1937), married in Lowell, MI 3 Oct 1889. Have limited information on **DAWSON** line and fairly extensive information on **EASTERDAY** origins. Contact
<at788@detroit.freenet.org>

Norma **TANNER** is looking for information on Charles **KUNZI** and Samantha **KING**. Lived in Hubbardston, MI in late 1800's. They had 12 children; John, Myrtle, Florence, Frank (Nina), Edith, Alta,

and Charles. Some of the family lived in the Grand Rapids area in the mid-1900's. Family migrated from Montpelier, OH in late 1800's.
<s9d3763@mail.drms.dla.mil>

Sharon **HOFER** is searching for Nancy C. **TAYLOR** who married George W. **DITMARS**, grandson of George **DITMARS** and Charity **VOORHEES DITMARS**. Census record states she was born in Michigan on 19 Mar 1840. Does anyone know which **TAYLOR** family she may be from?
<SLH1753@aol.com>

Cindy **BRYANT** would like any information about Harriet **PIEFER**, died 29 July 1913, 70 yrs. 63 da., buried in Otisco cemetery. Is she the widow of Charles **PIEFER** who died 18 Sep 1882 at Otisco, age almost 40? He was born PA to John **PIEFER** of Lauville, PA (could be Lavelle). Mother's name unknown. Reply to Cindy at 2696 Red Arrow Hwy., Benton Harbor, MI 49022.

Wolfgang **LUSCHNER** in Germany looking for information on Alma **LUSCHNER**. He found his name on the Ionia webpage and is looking for someone to help him.
<WolLuAm@t-online.de>

Patricia Lee **BILLINGS** looking for Roy (Leroy) **TERRY** b. 1891, died 1984 in Ionia, MI. Would like to know where Roy is born, buried, and before 1928 anything concerning him.
<espl@voicenet.com>

Gerri is seeking information on Robert and Cynthia **REYNOLDS HOGLE**. Robert b. 1800 NY, d. 12 Nov 1872, Ionia Co., married Cynthia **REYNOLDS**, b. 1810 NY, d. 15 Apr 1854 in MI. Seven children: Margaret Elizabeth b. abt. Jan 1838 NY; Robert b. abt. 1938 - no further information; Stephen b. abt 1840 NY, no further information; Melissa b. abt. 1841 NY married Alfred Jones abt.

1852 Kalamazoo Co., MI; Franklin b. abt. 1841 NY, died Civil War; Jenett (e) b. abt 1845, NY, no further information; Nancy b. abt. 1850 NY or MI, died 1868 Kalamazoo Co., MI. Contact: bish 57@worldnet.att.net

Timothy WEST researching WEBBERS from Ionia, Lyons, and Portland. Would like to know more about WEBBER-HUDSON connection. Contact <twest@lakeland.lib.mi.us>

If you have information that may help someone, but you are not on the internet, please send the information to Pamela K. Swiler, President, ICGS, 13051 Ainsworth Rd., Route 3, Lake Odessa, MI 48849

THE GENEALOGICAL DEATH INDEXING SYSTEM UPDATE

Michigan Department of Community Health Director James K. Haveman, Jr. announced that additional years of information have been added to the Genealogical Death Indexing System (GENDIS), an internet system of Michigan Death records from before the turn of the century.

GENDIS, which first appeared on the internet in April 1998, is a rich resource for historical death record information. This information includes the name of the decedent; the date, place, and cause of death; the decedent's occupation; parents' names and residence, and the decedents's place of birth. This indexing system, which is being maintained by the Division of Vital Records and Health Statistics, allows genealogists and others to use key facts, such as the decedents name of year of death, to locate and view records of interest.

"I'm so pleased that this automated indexing system on the internet is receiving such positive response from our customers," said

Haveman. "This is a fine demonstration of how the state can use modern technology to improve service."

This service is possible thanks to the efforts of volunteer genealogists from all across the state and with the support of the Michigan Genealogical Council and the Abrams Foundation. This project, which began in 1987, has been conducted under the careful coordination of Margaret Tager Walker, a genealogist and coordinator of the project for the Michigan Genealogical Council. Copies of these early death records are prepared and distributed to volunteer genealogists across the state to be carefully deciphered and transcribed. These transcriptions are then captured electronically and inserted into the data file used by GENDIS.

The latest update provides information on an additional 63,500 death records to GENDIS data file, which now spans 1867-1882 for a total of 148,000 records. When completed, the database will contain approximately 481,000 death records for the years 1867 through 1897.

Since April 1998, over 40,000 genealogists and others interested in locating death information have visited the GENDIS Web site. The web site for GENDIS is located at: <http://www.mdch.state.mi.us/gendis/index.htm>

DAVE JOHNSON OF STATE ARCHIVES OF MICHIGAN SPEAKS TO ICGS

Dave Johnson, from the State Archives of Michigan was the guest speaker at a recent meeting of the Ionia County Genealogical Society. Dave is an archivist for the historical center and shared his expertise with a group of about 20 members.

The program began with a slide presentation displaying the history of the State Archives and what types of items are stored there. Established in

1913, the State of Michigan Archives is the official depository of the state's records. Unique materials dating from the pre-statehood territorial era to the present-day are maintained and preserved in the archives. There are over 80 million items housed at the Archives and they fall into 5 basic categories: state government records, local government records, maps, photographs and private manuscripts. Items of particular interest to genealogists include maps, immigration and naturalization records, Civil War records, state census records, land records, military records and vital records.

In 1952 the Michigan Department of State supporters of the Archives really became active, but it was in 1957 that marked a turning point in the State Archives of Michigan. A fire broke out and hundreds of valuable documents were destroyed. The result of this event was the development of the records management program they have today whereby all the records are stored in archival safe and fire safe areas. Hence came the Michigan Historical Center as we know it today.

Unlike libraries, items in the Archives are one of a kind items that cannot be replaced and therefore security measures taken are necessary to ensure their safekeeping. The staff in the Archives assist each person with what they need and one may be asked to sit at a specific table, put on a pair of white linen gloves, or just look, not touch a particular item, depending on how fragile it is. Failure to follow procedure will result in being asked to leave the premises.

According to Johnson, only 5% of what is owned by businesses or personal homes are considered to have permanent archival value. Johnson explained the differences between museums, libraries and archives. Museums collect objects of historical value, while the Archives is a collection of one of a kind items which are evidentially significant (i.e. legal documents) or informational

(person, places, events). Library items are purchased and can be replaced and are governed by the interest of the people. Archival items are donated by businesses, government agencies and private citizens. "Archives are records, but not all records are archives," explains Johnson. Strict guidelines are established and adhered to by the Archives.

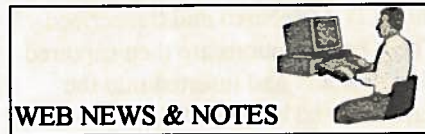
The hours of the State of Michigan Archives are Monday through Friday 10:00 to 4:00 p.m. except state holidays. The address is 717 West Allegan, Lansing, MI 48918-1837 Advance appointments are not necessary, but they may make the visit more worthwhile. Visit the web site at <http://www.sos.state.mi.us/history/archive/archive.html> or send brief inquiries via e-mail at archives@sos.state.mi.us

DID YOUR ANCESTOR HELP SAVE THE FLAG?
In the Civil War of 1861-1865

- Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, 1861-1865 encourage you to join in the effort to save our proud heritage.
- **ELIGIBILITY** is open to all daughters (grand-daughters, etc., direct descendants) of honorably discharged soldiers, sailors, and marines who served in the Union Army or Navy during the Rebellion of 1861-1865, including those who died or were killed during their term of service, whether members of the Grand Army of the Republic or not, who have attained the age of eight years, are eligible for membership.
- Eligibility is through lineal descent only and not through adoption. The eligibility can never be changed. You must furnish a complete war record of your ancestor.
- The organization pursues genealogical projects which include recording Civil War discharge papers, recording ancestors' war and personal

records, recording history of members known descendants, locating Civil War burial records of various counties and towns. Patriotic projects include flag presentations. Educationally maintain scholarship programs, and historically maintaining and collecting Civil War artifacts and mementos; putting monuments and markers at appropriate universities, public buildings, parks and battlefields; recording and preserving Union Civil War monuments throughout the country.

For more information contact DUV National Headquarters, 503 South Walnut, Springfield, Illinois 62704.



1850 census online: Mr. Ealy has contributed actual copies of the 1850 Ionia County census. You can view these at: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/mi/ionia/census/1850/>

Township Index of Ionia County, MI	
Pages/Files	Twp.
123A-126A	Sebewa
126B-129B	Danby
130A-134B	Orange
135A-136B	Campbell
137A-146B	Portland
147A-157B	Lyons
158A-161B	North Plains
162A-167B	Benton
168A-176A	Ionia
176B-181B	Easton
182A-187A	Orleans
188A-193A	Ronald
193B-198B	Boston
208A-end	Otisco

♦ **NEED FORMS??** Check out this website <http://www.genrecords.com/>

forms.htm> From Shirley Hodges

♦ Would you like to join the Rootsweb List or Missing Links? To subscribe, put **ONLY** the word "subscribe" (omit quotation marks) in subject and body of message and e-mail to addresses below:
MISSING-LINKS-L-request@rootsweb.com
ROOTSWEB-REVIEW-L-request@rootsweb.com

♦ From Teresa Leak Sweet "I have a picture of Dee **PENFIELD**(Penn) and Matie Meyers **PATRICK**. I know Mattie **MEYERS** was the daughter of Aaron J. and Effie Henry **PATRICK**, son of Rev. Daniel and Amy Foy Miller **MEYERS**. I am willing to scan for anyone interested. Penn and Matie had one son, Merrill Meyers **PATRICK** as of the Family Book of 1920's. Contact Teresa at <sweets@pathwaynet.com>

♦ **NEW E-MAIL ADDRESS:** Theron & Roberta King have a new address: [<bt.king@worldnet.att.net>](mailto:bt.king@worldnet.att.net)
ADD: Marilyn Steward at >msteward@ionia-mi.net

♦ In case any of your Sussex County kin wandered west, here's an Indiana State Library site which may help:
<<http://www.statelib.lib.in.us/www/indiana/genealogy/mirr.html>> You can put in the surname of bride or groom and it returns the marriage information. From Shirley Hodges

♦ If your relative enlisted in Michigan in the Civil War, he is probably on this page. It is very extensive and has the listings of nearly every enlistee in the different branches of Calvary to Infantry. Lists age at date of sign up, their company, etc. Very long! The URL is: <http://users.aol.com/dlharvey/cwmir eg.htm>> Regimental Rosters use: <http://users.aol.com/dharvey125/roster s.htm>

**OLD HISTORY OF
TOWNSHIPS IS
INTERESTING**

Taken from an old history of Ionia county, Michigan, published by J. D. Dillenbeck, of Grand Rapids, and printed at Lansing in 1872.

KEENE TOWNSHIP

Is one of the western tier of townships in the county; is bounded on the north by Otisco, on the east of Easton, on the south by Boston, and on the west by Vergennes, in Kent County.

The soil and timber of the township are somewhat diversified. The eastern part is timbered with beech, maple, etc., and a soil, generally of clay or loam, somewhat rolling in the southern portion, but generally _mite level, and in the northeastern part of the town somewhat marshy. The soil in the western part of the township is lighter, especially in the vicinity of Flat river, is timbered largely with oak; and in great part consisted of what is known as oak-openings. Flat river, the only important stream in the township, enters Keene from Otisco, at the western part of section five, leaves it again at the north of section seven, after a short curve in the

adjoining township of Vergennes, re-enters Keene, and making short circuit, finally leaves it at the southern part of section eighteen. Near the line between sections six and seven it is spanned by a fine covered bridge built in 1869 at a cost of \$2000. There are two small lakes in the township, each of a few acres in extent, which are situated, respectively on sections ten and twenty-two.

This township was an unbroken wilderness until late in the fall of 1837, when two young men, names Orran Owen and Charles Hickox came from Monroe county, New York, built a shanty on section 25, and commenced chopping. Edward Butterfield from Oakland county and Cyrus Rose from Easton, commenced work about the same time, and on February 2nd, 1838, Mr. Butterfield brought his family into the township and settled on section 25, and was therefore the first settler. Mr. Rose settled on section 36 in December following.

Among the settlers of 1838 are James Monk, who came from Canada and settled on section 26, in March of that year; Morton Reynolds, also from Canada, who settled on section 27 in April; John Follett also from Canada,

who settled on section 35; John Connor , from Oakland county, who also settled on section 35; James Chrysler, from Canada, who settled on section 26; Samuel Wells from St. Lawrence county, New York, who settled on section 23 in May, and Dexter Cutler, who in June settled near the bank of Flat River.

Of this number Messrs. Owen, Rose, Follett and Cutler now reside in the township. Messrs. Monk, Chrysler and Wells, in adjoining township of Boston. Mr. Butterfield died March 29th, 1846; Mr. Hickox in 1870 and Mr. Connor was killed by a falling tree in September 1851. William Lott, now of Bowne, Kent county, settled in Keene in 1838 or 1839, and for some time kept a public house.

The first birth in the township was that of Berilla, daughter of Morton and Alvira Reynolds, on May 17th, 1838. The settlers of 1839 were Philip Monk, James Baird and Elisha Sprague, all from Canada, and who came previous to August 5th, the time of what is known as the "land sale." Prior to this time the settlers had squatted on the lands which they wished to purchase but could not, for the reason that they had some time before been withdrawn from market. The settlers of

Keene organized themselves into a club to prevent their lands being taken by speculators, and chose Asa L. Spencer, of Otisco, as their agent. The remaining settlers of the year 1839 were David and Stephen Shaul, from Herkimer county, and John L. Covert, Jenison Henry and Simon Heath from Orleans county, New York. Mr. Covert now resides in Vergennes, Kent county. The Messrs. Shaul soon removed to Canada. Mr. Monk died in 1863, Mr. Baird in 1864, Mr. Sprague in 1869. Mr. Henry was killed by the fall of a tree, March 18th, 1851. The first death in the township was that of Mary, wife of Robert Rose. A daughter died soon after and Mr. Rose returned to Canada without locating in the township.

The settlers of 1840 were Thomas Beattie, his son Nathaniel, Joseph Brown, Zelotero B. Frost, Ephriam Abbott, Stephen Sparks, Henry V. N. Covert, Nathaniel Davenport, Prindle Hubbell and Delos Gibson. Of this number, Messrs. Frost, Covert, Gibson and Davenport now reside in the township, and Nathaniel Beattie is a resident of Ionia. Prindle Hubbell died in 1855, Thomas Beattie in 1856, Joseph Brown in 1857, and Ephriam Abbott a few years since. In January of 1840

occurred the first wedding in Keene. Alvin Butterfield was married to Miss Ilena Phipps, by George Dexter, Esq., of Easton.

The territory embraced within the present township of Keene formed a part of Otisco, for political purposes until the spring of 1842. The first measures to secure an independent organization were taken at the general election in 1841, when a petition was circulated, praying the Legislature to organize the township of Keene, which was done at the following session of the Legislature. The name of the new township was proposed by E. Butterfield, Esq., Keene being the name of his native township in New Hampshire. After the organization of the township was effected, that portion of its territory lying northwest of Flat river remained attached to Otisco until the year 1869, when it was united to the remainder of the township of Keene. That part of Boston which lies north of Grand river, was for several years attached to Keene.

The first annual meeting in the township was held at the house of Nathaniel Beattie, on Monday, April 4th, 1842. John L. Covert acted as moderator; Edward Butterfield, Aaron Hardenbough, Nathaniel Beattie and Ephriam Abbott

as inspectors, and Simon Heath as clerk. There were 39 votes cast at the election, and the following board of officers elected: Supervisor, Asaph C. Smith; township clerk, Cyrenus Day; township treasurer, Samuel Wells; justices of the peace, John L. Covert, Joseph W. Sprague, Aaron Hardenbough, Zaccheus H. Brower; commissioners of highway, Henry V.N. Covert, Asa R. Phipps, George W. White; associate assessors, John C. Court, Elisha Sprague; school inspectors, Simon Heath, James Chrysler, Asaph C. Smith; overseers of the poor, James Baird, Granson L. Hall; constables, John N. Butterfield, Prindle Hubbell, George W. White, _____ Sprague. Among the others not yet mentioned, who have acted an important part in transforming this part of the great wilderness into one of the finest agricultural townships of Grand River valley, may be named Ida Pinkney, Philip D. Marble, Francis Potter and many others who were pioneers in various parts of the township, and many of whom still remain to enjoy the fruits of their former energy and perseverance in midst of privation.

Keene is peculiarly an agricultural township, having no railroad, mill, hotel or church within its

limits. Ephriam Abbott & Co., have a fine establishment for the manufacture of chairs, rakes, etc., built in 1869 and situated in the western part of section 22. This, and the blacksmith shop of George H. Hart, on the south line of section 9, are the only manufactories in the township.

The first post office was established about 1845; it was named Avon, and the postmaster was Asaph C. Smith. This office was afterward removed to Easton. Another post office called Rix, was maintained for several years near the center of the town, but was finally discontinued and the present post office of Keene established, on the eastern part of section 21.

Keene has two cemeteries, one on second 17 and the other on section 28.

The first school-house was built in 1842, where the Potter schoolhouse now stands, in district No. 1. Miss Ruth Hunt of Lyons, was the first teacher. The present house was built some years later.

The Sayles schoolhouse in district No. 2 is a fine brick building, erected in 1870 on the western part of section 30.

The Day schoolhouse, in district No. 3, is a brick building of fair size situated

on the west line of section 27 and was built in 1869.

The White schoolhouse, in district No. 4, is a medium-sized frame building, built some 14 years since, and situated on the south line of section 34.

The Marble schoolhouse in district No. 5 is a small frame building, standing on the northeast corner of section 17, and was erected in 1848.

The Tasker schoolhouse in district No. 6, is a small frame building, located near the center of section 11.

The Stevens schoolhouse, in district No. 7, is a small frame building, situated on the southeast corner of section 26 and was built in 1870.

The Bowen schoolhouse, in district No. 8, stands on the west line of section 21. It is a small frame building, erected in 1855.

The Striped schoolhouse, in district No. 9, is a fair sized frame building, on the northern part of section 15, and was built in 1864.

The present township officers are: Supervisor, Amasa F. Lee; township clerk, Thomas Daniels; township treasurer, Ephriam Abbott; drain commissioner, Geo. R. Sayles; justices of the peace, Ensign Rexford, William Clark and Eddy Morrison; school inspectors, Wilbur H. Moon,

and Robert Thompson; commissioners of highways, Geo. W. Lee, John Reid and William R. Parker; constable, Benjamin Rexford.

The text above is a faithful copy from an article in The Belding Banner-News, Belding, Michigan dated Thursday, April 29, 1937

RESEARCH TIPS

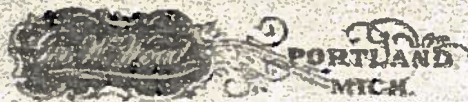
Men were **USUALLY** in an area at least eight years before buying land or receiving land thru Warrant Deeds.

When the English first came to America, they never settled over 50 miles from the sea. It was many years later, at least a generation or two that they settled in the central sections of the State.

When you find a ancestor has migrated to another state...for example...living in NC or VA, but born in Maryland, check those wills and deeds in the state that he formerly lived. His father may have recently died, the reason for migration.

...From Shirley Hodges

Who Am I?



- ◆ We have received a rather large collection of unidentified photos from various people over the past year. This is just one sample of many on file in our library. This particular photo came from Mrs. Myrna VanEpps of Grand Ledge, Michigan. She does not know who this person is, but has donated the photo to ICGS. The photo was taken by George W. Wood of Portland, Michigan.
- ◆ Do YOU know who this person is? We would love to connect the photos with the families if at all possible. Let us know if you can identify this person and we will be glad to forward the original photo to you! Thank you, Mrs. Van Epps!

IONIA GENEALOGIST ELECTED TO A NATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD

BETH WILLS, the Coordinator for the Ionia GenWeb site, has been elected to a one year term as a Local Coordinator on the advisory board of the USGenWeb Project from the Northeast/North Central Region, which covers the states of Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Hampshire, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Wisconsin.

The Advisory Board members consists of: the National Coordinator, four (4) State Coordinator Regional Representatives, eight (8) Local Coordinator Regional Representatives, one (1) representative each from The US GenWeb Archives Project, The USGenWeb Census Project, and The USGenWeb Tombstone Project.

The election results can be viewed at: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~usgwcens/election/results.htm>

CONGRATULATIONS BETH! ALL YOUR HARD WORK IS BEING RECOGNIZED!

THANK YOU TO OUR MEMBERS FOR SIGNING UP FOR THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES:

Refreshments:

January - Lois Curtiss, Bonnie Jackson
February - Elaine Garlock
March - Jim Moses

Welcome Committee:

January - Elaine Garlock
February - Open
March - Lori Fox

Mortality Index Ionia County 1850

Copying of the files within by non-commercial individuals and libraries is encouraged. This message must appear on all copied files. From the Ionia GenWeb site submitted by Beth Wills.

This month will feature the end of the series alphabet O-Z

Name	Sex	Age at Death	State Born	Month died	Cause of death	Occupation
Peck, Cleantha R.	F	74	MI	Nov	Scrofula	
Phillips, Huldah	F	1 M	MI	Apr	Spinal Affect	
Plece, Adelaide	F	1 M	MI	Mar	Unknown	
Post, Henrietta	F	1 M	MI	Jan	Fever	
Pratt, Jacob	M	62	MA	Aug	Fever	Farmer
Reed, Sarah A.	F	37	NY	Jul	Dropsy	
Richardson, Joseph	M	4	MI	Feb	Brain Fever	
Rose, Eliza	F	17	NY	Mar	Consumption	
Sayles, Emily	F	11 M	MI	Jan	Erysipelas	
Seeworell, George	M	1	MI	Apr	Consumption	
Sellden, Chancey	M	36	NY	May	Consumption	Shoemaker, Cordwainer
Sergeant, Harriet	F	8 M	MI	Jul	Inflammation	
Sitts, James H.	M	5	NY	Jan	Brain Inflammation	
Stephens, Josephine	F	2 M	MI	May	Unknown	
Story, Hellen	F	1	MI	Jan	Lung Inflammation	
Strong, Cordelia	F	3	MI	Apr	Fits	
Strong, Minerva	F	1 M	MI	Dec	Croup	
Sutherland, James H.	M	1	MI	Mar	Fits	
Tompson, Joel	M	5	MI	Feb	Jaundice	
Tompson, Zackery	M	1 M	MI	Jul	Brain Inflammation	
Tripp, Louisa	F	1	NY	Aug	Unknown	
Tuttle, Lewis	M	24	Not given	May	Dropsy	Farmer
VanWoort, James	M	1	MI	Sep	Canker	
Vandeusen, Rhoda	F	4	NC	Jul	Not given	
Way, Harriert	F	1	MI	Jul	Inflammation	
Whetherbee, Caroline	F	41	NY	May	Consumption	
White, John L.	M	10 M	MI	Jun	Brain Fever	
Whitfield, James	M	1 M	MI	Jun	Unknown	

BETH WILLS HONORED BY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Beth Wills, of Ionia, recently received the Federation of Genealogical Societies Certificate of Appreciation for her hard work with the Ionia County GenWeb page on the Internet. The FGS is a non-profit organization comprised of more than 500 genealogical and historical societies, family associations, and libraries. The FGS is the collective voice of these societies at the national level and it is actively involved in efforts to represent societies and protect the future of genealogy.

Beth, a full-time registered nurse, created and maintains the site for the Ionia County Genealogical Society and the Ionia County GenWeb page. Beth has entered all the data on the site and has operated the site at her own expense since ICGS began in January of 1997. The site contains cemetery records, marriage records, birth records and many family histories and the site is updated on a regular basis. Beth's work and dedication have made this a valuable contribution to anyone doing genealogical research in Ionia County. THANK YOU BETH!

Calendar of the Circuit Court

For the County of Ionia

November Term, 1898

Commencing Monday, Nov. 14 at 9:00 a.m.

Circuit Judge, Frank D.M. Davis

Clerk, John J. Green

Deputy Clerk, Genevra Gree

Prosecuting Attorney, John B. Chaddock

Stenographer, William C. Steere

Circuit Court Com'rs, Charles P. Locke and Edward C. Spalding

Officers in Attendance

Sheriff, Henry H. Jordan

Deputy Sheriffs, George L. Kelner and John Pierce

Jurors

Balderson, Fred.....Portland
Benedict, Milton.....Orleans
Bowerman, Almon.....Ionia
Buttolph, Henry.....Otisco
Cameron, Daniel.....Belding
Carpenter, Luther.....Ionia City
Custer, S.W.....Campbell
Dunham, Salem.....Ionia City
Doolittle, George.....Danby
Grant, Lester.....Belding
Griffin, John.....Sebewa
Hardy, George.....Keene
Hearld, James.....North Plains
Jenks, A.D.....Belding
King, Theodore.....Lyons
Kutz, Will.....Orange
Kyser, Myron.....Boston
Lord, Will N.....Easton
Peake, Nathan.....Danby
Palmer, John.....Berlin
Pickering, William.....Belding
Robertson, William.....Ronald
Snyder, William E.....Ionia City
Soules, O.L.....Sebewa
Tasker, John Jr.....Odessa
Weatherwax, Charles.....Ionia City

Criminal Cases

- No. 1-1065 The People vs. Richard Sherman**
- No. 2-1073 The People vs. John Welton**
- No. 3-1078 The People vs. Herbert A. Chapman**
- No. 4-1098 The People vs. Lizzie Keating**
- No. 5-1099 The People vs. John Hancock**
- No. 6-1100 The People vs. Arthur Town**
- No. 7-1105 The People vs. Lucius H. Wilcox**
- No. 8-1105 The People vs. Andrew Canavan**
- No. 9-1106 The People vs. Frank A. Sessions**
- No. 10-1108 The People vs. Leroy Smith and Albert Smith**
- No. 11-1107 The People vs. Ira Sharer**
- No. 12-1109 The People vs. Joseph Young**
- No. 13-1112 The People vs. George Kilts**

Issues of Fact

- No. 21 Moses L. Scholl vs. Emmet T. White**
- No. 22-4621 George E. Smith vs. Frank W. and Ann Clark**
- No. 23-5546 Francis K. Simonds vs. Vincent P. Cash**
- No. 24-5661 Geo. W. Webber, et. Al. vs. N.B. Hayes, et al.**
- No. 25-5661 Geo. W. Webber, et. Al. vs. N.B. Hayes, et al.**
- No. 26-5670 C.J. Rumsey vs. Nathan B. Hayes, et al.**
- No. 27-5751 George E. Jewel vs. Patrick Welch**
- No. 28-5778 Lester Joslin vs. Emma Barber**
- No. 33-5954 A. Magnus Sons vs. Andrew Haberstumpf**
- No. 34-5955 A. Magnus Sons vs. Andrew Haberstumpf, et al.**
- No. 36-5974 Charles L. Kienert vs. Andrew Haberstumpf, et al.**
- No. 37-5977 State Savings Bank vs. Andrew Haberstumpf, et al.**
- No. 38-6044 Richard L. Hale vs. Edwin R. Spencer**
- No. 39-6065 Joseph L. Husdon vs. Catharine D. Worsley**
- No. 40-6097 Milliman Clifford vs. Sarah Jane Rice**
- No. 41-6099 Merritt McCord vs. John Moses**
- No. 42-6101 The Champion Iron Co. vs. Ory Waterbury, et al.**
- No. 43-6102 Melissa Retan vs. Anna E. Sherwood, et al.**
- No. 44-6133 Letta Brown vs. Frank W. Stevenson**
- No. 45-6166 William N. Lord vs. Reinhold L. Redemsky, et al.**
- No. 46-6169 James O'Conner vs. Patrick Hogan**
- No. 47-6200 Thomas Gilmore vs. Thomas Tew**
- No. 48-6201 Rivington S. Chase vs. Mich. Tele. Co.**
- No. 49-6205 In the matter of the estate of Elizabeth Haines (deceased) vs. Frank Haines.**
- No. 50-6206 In the matter of the estate of Elizabeth Haines (deceased) vs. Sherman Haynes**
- No. 51-6218 State Savings Bank vs Alexander T. Montgomery**
- No. 52-6238 Charles L. Wilson vs William Hixon, et al.**
- No. 53-6247 John S. Weidman vs Belding-Hall Mfg. Co.**
- No. 54-6268 Ionia Co. Savings Bank vs. Wm. J. Just**
- No. 55-6269 William Mead vs. James Fanning**
- No. 56-6287 In the matter of the Estate of Chas. B. Foreman, for the appointment of guardian.**

- No. 57-6288 Harvey H. Lamkin vs. John Stone
No. 58-6289 Mary J. Smith vs. Michael Koepf
No. 59-6300 Vern Rowley vs. John Moses
No. 60-6310 State Savings Bank vs. Edward M. Shelton
No. 61-6311 Peninsular Savings Bank vs. Ella V. Just, et al.
No. 62-6312 W. J. Just vs. David Wilson, et al.
No. 63-6313 Streator Bottle & Glass Co. vs. Andrew Haberstumpft
No. 64-6315 Charles Leach vs. John Reid
No. 65-6320 Allyn W. Kimball vs. Jane S. Elver
No. 66 Michael Koepf vs. Sidney Waters
No. 67-6271 In the matter of the Estate of Benjamin Woodman (Deceased)

Issues of Fact (Non-Jury)

- No. 69-5855 The City of Ionia vs. James E. Alspaugh
No. 70-5907 J. Warren Peake vs. John M. Reiser
No. 71-6085 J. Warren Peake vs. Orin & Elizabeth Bugbee
No. 72-6131 The Peninsular Savings Bank vs John & Frank A. Sessions
No. 73-6178 J. Warren Peake vs. Elder Foreman
No. 74-6237 J. Warren Peake vs. Charles Somers
No. 75-6251 J. Warren Peake vs. Geo. Fuller, Jr. et al.
No. 76-6252 J. Warren Peake vs. Daniel Coobbaugh, et al.
No. 77-6268 Ionia Co. Savings Bank vs. Wm. J. Just
No. 78-6270 J. Warren Peake vs. John Fish
No. 79-6303 Mary Brown vs. Amasa F. Lee, et al.
No. 80-6304 Richard J. Stahlen vs. F. B. Huxley, et al.

Chancery Causes (includes cases such as divorces, petition for execution, bill to determine title, injunction, bill to discharge mortgages, etc)

- No. 85-3140 Emma Stowe vs. Fred H. Stowe
No. 86-3330 George J. J. Richardson vs. Wm. E. Shippard, et al.
No. 87-3331 Mary L. Goodman vs. Wm. E. Shippard, et al.
No. 88-3490 Oliver Doxey vs Hattie Doxey
No. 89-3506 Huldah Cox vs. James D. Cox
No. 90-3509 Mary Bennett, et al vs. Laura Jane Patrick
No. 91-3545 John McQuillan vs. Michael Fitch et al.
No. 92-3553 State Savings Bank vs Nathan B. Hayes et al.
No. 93-3583 Frank E. Schmoltz vs. Jennie B. Schmoltz
No. 94-3796 Maynard T. Summers vs. Hattie E. Summers
No. 95-3598 Estella L. Maynard vs. Elmer A. Maynard
No. 96-3344 David D. Ranlett, et al. vs. Alcinous Y. Sessions et al.
No. 97-3649 Emma H. Holbrook vs. Charles H. Holbrook
No. 98-3658 J. Milton Earle vs. Henry Humphrey, et al.
No. 99-3659 Lyman Bennett vs. Gertrude Bennett
No. 100-3660 Ionia Sandstone Co vs. Chas. S. Marsh, et al.
No. 101-3661 Otis Churchill vs. Geo. L. Taft
No. 102-3368 Zada Wilson vs. Andrew J. Dickens, et al.
No. 103-3673 L.B. Townsend vs. Ionia Furniture Co.
No. 104-3685 Milo J. Tanner vs. Nellie J. Tanner
No. 105-3686 The Commerical nat'l Bank vs. Frank B. Warren, et al.
No. 106-3691 Farlin B. Warren, et al. vs. Willis F. Bricker, et al.
No. 107-3692 Clarence B. Wardle vs. John S. Weidman
No. 108-3698 Otis Zwietusch vs. Andrew Haberstumpf, et al.

No. 109-3704 William C. Thornton vs. Mary J. Thornton
No. 110-3718 John Waidelich vs. Andres Haberstumpf, et al.
No. 111-3719 Clayton Kimberly vs. H.L. VanBenschoten, et al.
No. 112-3722 C.B. Wardle vs. Ionia Furniture Co.
No. 113-3728 Frank Torpy vs. Lenora Betts, et al.
No. 114-3732 Lewis D. Wheeler vs. Edgar R. Buck, et al.
No. 115-3734 John Milne vs. Floyd B. Chadwick
No. 116-3745 Julia Lee vs. O'Brien Harris, et al.
No. 117-3747 Charles Glasgow vs. Joseph Louchheim, et al.
No. 118-3758 Walter Bahl, et al. vs. Clayton M. Colwell, et al.
No. 119-3759 Emanuel Schloss et al. vs. Clayton M. Colwell, et al.
No. 120-3760 Albert Schloss, et al. vs. Clayton M. Colwell, et al.
No. 121-3761 People's Savings Bank vs. G.V> Snyder, et al.
No. 122-3762 State Savings Bank of Ionia vs. John A. Sessions et al.
No. 123-3763 Lida E. More vs. George W. Hauck et al.
No. 124-3764 Robert A. Thomas vs. Robert J. Breckon et al.
No. 125-3766 Revilia I. VanNortwick vs. Etta M. VanNortwick
No. 126-3771 Dora Moore vs. Milton H. Moore
No. 127-3776 Geo. D. Hulbert vs Ionia County Savings Bank
No. 128-3784 James Fanning et al. vs. Ionia County Savings Bank
No. 129-3785 Robert D. Cain et al. vs. John Young et al.
No. 130-3787 State Savings Bank vs. Geo. F. Lauster et al.
No. 131-3796 Ezra Prouty vs. Walter D. VanAntwerp et al.
No. 132-3798 J. Warren Peake vs. Elijah Leak, et al.
No. 133-3799 Will Havens vs. Nellie Havens
No. 134-3806 Gertrude Hicks vs. Oliver Hicks
No. 135-3810 Wm. Luscher vs. Mary W. Luscher
No. 136-3690 Edith Mickle vs. Wm. J. Mickle
No. 137-4778 Maud Pixley vs. Earl Pixley
No. 138-3714 Hattie M. Conklin vs. Frederick C. Conklin
No. 139-3751 Hiram Bishop vs. Armetta Bishop
No. 140-3665 James A. Ervay vs. Eliza M. Ervay
No. 141-3803 Orvilla Parmeter vs. Alonzo Parmeter
No. 142-3770 Adelbert W. Mason vs. Eva Mason

Ionia County Infirmary Burials Riverside Drive Site

This information was read from the memorial plaque on a large stone at the burial site. There are no headstones or markers on the graves.

Charles Anible

Died April 15, 1908, Age 76

Pheobe Hanks

Died May 24, 1909, Age 60

Jacob Johnson

Died August 4, 1909

Age 66

William Burley

Died August 4, 1909

Age 37

Frank Holderider

Died June 11, 1913, Age 89

John Witzel

Died December 8, 1913

Age 83

Mary Clark

Died February 16, 1914

Age 70

Lizzie Zuke

Died April 26, 1915, Age 73

J. Austin

Died May 13, 1915, Age 65

W.H. Tupper

Died November 28, 1915

Age 85

Frank Talbot

Died April 24, 1916, Age 76

Fred Keistner

February 19, 1917, Age 84

Nelson Custon

Died December 26, 1917

Age 75

William Godley

Died June 2?, 1918, Age 91

Thad Simmons

Died July 6, 1918, Age 44

James Matthews

Died September 6, 1918

Age 58

Maude Youngs

Died January 10, 1919,

Age 52

Cynthia Burke

Died February 20, 1919

Age 47

George Wood

Died August 11, 1919

Age 55

Ora Mills

Died February 6, 1920

Age 39

Clara Spencer

Died March 26, 1921

Age 37

Oscar Chase

Died March 29, 1921,

Age 70

Elizabeth Allen

Died April 15, 1921, Age 73

William Monroe

Died January 21, 1922

Age 92

Emery Allen Davis

Died May 12, 1922, Age 86

Milton Clark

Died June 15, 1922, Age 88

Caroline Pepper

Died October 14, 1922

Thomas Brooks

Died November 26, 1923

Age 68

Reuben Vermelia

Died January 9, 1924

Age 64

Danford Hutchinson

Died May 1, 1924, Age 66

John Lumbert

Died November 17, 1925

Age 64

Frank Burgdoff

Died August 19, 1927

Age 84

William Saviries

Died October 6, 1927

Age 69

Jesse Tinney

Died January 9, 1928

Age 55

Asa Sutherland

Died February 8, 1928

Age 72

Albert Smith

Died March 24, 1928

Age 55

Luther Holcomb

Died April 10, 1928

Age 62

Morris Miller

Died October 19, 1928

Age 80

Myron Welch

Died April 17, 1929

Age 63

Michael Comer

Died June 11, 1929

Age 76

John High

Died August 8, 1929

Age 74

Manley Aldrich

Died October 10, 1930

Age 68

Stillborn Baby

Died February 7, 1931

Frank Miller

Died February 28, 1931

Age 75

George Wilson

Died April 17, 1931

Age 80

Byron Showers

Died June 6, 1931 Age 75

George Henderson

Died August 1, 1931 Age 82

Clarence Hicks

Died August 20, 1931

Age 69

Meeder Strong

Died November 29, 1931

Age 84

James Marshall

Died October 31, 1932

Age 60

Mattie McNeal

Died November 9, 1932

Age 55

William Overlay

Died November 2, 1932

Age 67

George Fisher

Died September 14, 1933

Age 95

William Peplar

Died February 15, 1934

Age 63

Bruce Evans

Died September 9, 1934

Age 76

Wish List for ICGS

I would like to see more information on:

I could really use (materials, i.e. copy machine, computer, etc.):

Items I would like to see in our newsletters include:

Topics I would like to learn about include:

I think we can improve our organization if we:

Things I would like to see you change:

I would like to become more involved with our group. Here are ways I can help.

Optional Information

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

E-mail address: _____