

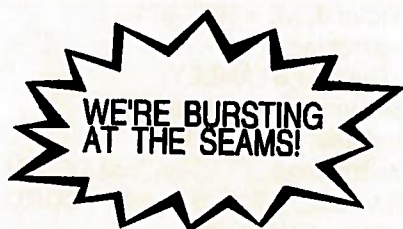
# IONIA COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

## 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.

Volume 5 - Number 4

October - December 2000



**F**irst Families Banquet October 28, 2000 at the United Methodist Church in Portland, MI beginning at 5:00 p.m. Make your reservations by October 12, 2000

Our speaker for October has changed. Randy Riley, Genealogy Special Collections Coordinator, will replace Carole Callard from the Library of Michigan. We are thrilled to have him come.

We are so proud of the way that our Society has been growing the past four years, but we are suffering growing pains. The Lake Odessa Depot Museum has become overcrowded due to the number of people attending meetings there, and has forced us to look for another place to hold our meetings.

The October meeting will be held in the Odessa Township Hall on M-50 west of Lake Odessa.

Beginning in November our meetings will be held at LAKE MANOR Community Room, located on Emerson St., just west of the Depot Museum. Parking is a little tight, so those that are able may park at the Depot and walk next door to the Manor. We want to thank our newest member Velma Mutch for making these arrangements for us.

Our library will continue to be housed at the Depot. Staff will be available after the monthly meetings to open the library up until 5:00 p.m. The Depot is also open the last Saturday of each month from 10:00 to 2:00 for researchers.

### GO DUTCH By Pamela K. Swiler

I recently became familiar with a resource that many may not know about. For those of you who are researching Dutch ancestors, The Windmill, a newspaper written mostly in Dutch, with an English supplement, is a great resource for current information.

One whole page of this newspaper contains a listing of births, deaths, anniversaries, engagement, and marriages.

We have copies of this newspaper in our library at the depot now, so if you would like to browse through it, please do so at your leisure.

If you are interested in subscribing, the e-mail address is: [windmill@godutch.com](mailto:windmill@godutch.com). Or you can call (800) 881-0705. The cost is \$24.50 per year for the bi-weekly issues.

### PERSONALITY PROFILES OF A GENEALOGIST

"Meticulous Mel" loves to research and will go anytime, anywhere to find anything. He's so meticulous that it's intimidating to correspond with him. He never lets a typo get past him, never writes in the margins. He promptly answers letters the same day he gets them and gently reminds you that you asked the same question he answered for you six months earlier. His findings are superbly filed in plastic page protectors within color coordinated notebooks, with supporting documents in numbered folders in neat file cabinets. His conclusions are yet to be published, but he has included in his will that he leaves his marvelous collection to the local historical society.

"Listen To Me Lollie" enthralls librarians and drop in patrons with genealogical wonder tales. Yet, she answers her genealogical correspondence six months later than you expected, telling you all of the family troubles on three long-hand pages, but she hasn't

gotten around to doing any genealogical research but hopes you will send her all that you have done. If you do, don't hold your breath for a reply.

"Defensive Dan" published a genealogy of the family. He assigned some ancestors a wee bit loosely with little or no verifiable proof. If you ask him what his evidence was, he can't tell you, so he just keeps repeating the unproven assertion, hoping you'll tire from asking.

"Scattershot Sal" asks so many questions that it would be a 2 day job to answer them all...and expects \$33 of information for 33 cent stamp. She reads queries from sixty people with the surname she's looking for and sends every one of them a photocopied letter asking them to fill in a family group sheet. She totally ignores the fact that she's looking for Smiths in Kentucky in 1870 and your query was for Smith in Massachusetts in 1750.

"Promising Paul" answers your every letter with a promise to photocopy those missing pages which will, you think, complete your ancestry in one line back to the 1600's. He writes each time: "I know I've got it, if I can just find time to send it to you. I'll be doing it soon for sure". But, of course, he never does.

"Gap-jumper Gert" loves to make charts climb. She has her ancestors on one line back to a man in Virginia in 1850. She can't identify his father, but she's sure he's a great-grandson of the family of the same name she's read about in a published genealogy, so she promptly claims those people as ancestors and wants to correspond about them. The gap between her generations means little to her, and the longer it exists, the more likely she is to forget about it entirely.

"Brusque Brutus", the Know It All, has all the answers and will not listen to any suggestions of items to check. Brusque Brutus has been a genealogist for 30 years and has no patience whatsoever. If he gets a letter without a self-addressed

stamped envelope (even from a beginner who obviously didn't realize he was being discourteous by failing to include one), it goes right into the wastebasket. If someone dares to question any of Brutus findings, the inquiry will be summarily dismissed, because Brutus is sure he's right and won't consider any other possibility.

"Naive Nancy" is a newcomer to genealogy. She's heard that her ancestors were kidnapped by Indians but later rescued and that she is related to a former President of the United States. She's also heard that a maiden aunt "finished all of our family's history on all lines all the way back", and she wants your help in locating the book "that tells it all." Will believe the first thing heard or seen in print and never believes anything else.

"Publication Prudence" instructs all correspondents to send her completely filled out group sheets for her upcoming publication which will be "upcoming" for 20 years. By that time, everyone, including Prudence will have long forgotten it. If only Prudence could get together with her cousin Rushing Rusty.

"Rushing Rusty" is in and out of the courthouse in 5 minutes. Rushing Rusty announces he's going to publish a family genealogy in six months and sets a specific day as a deadline. Amazingly, he does it. Laggards complain that their lines are left out, but at least Rusty has made a contribution to genealogical literature, which too few of us ever get around to doing.

The Balanced Researcher will take the time necessary to do the job right, will know the rules of the places where they are researching and will abide by them. They will seek to help a library and make their visit remembered with joy. They will record their findings and publish quality works from time to time.

Which one of these correspondents is most like you?...I'm sure, to one degree or another, most of us have some of their failings. We hope we have some of their good points too. The fact that we're all different is

part of what make corresponding about our ancestors so much fun.

Source: GenHumor-L mail list sent in by duhull@frazmtn.com February 24, 2000

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

- ♦ Gretchen SLATER  
6155 Jordan Road  
Woodland, MI 48897-9716  
Researching:  
♦ Cynthia STANLEY  
8254 Hanna Lake Avenue  
Caledonia, MI 49316  
Researching: ALDRICH,  
COLWELL, ELLIS, MC CORD,  
NORRIS, THOMAS  
♦ Joyce Ileen EDWARDS  
PARKER  
2008 - 51st Avenue E  
Bradenton, FL 34203-3725  
(941) 755-1048  
E-mail: weparkr@juno.com or  
wjparkr@aol.com  
Researching: HEAVEN  
♦ Sue THOMPSON  
424 E. Shepherd Street  
Charlotte, MI 48813  
(517) 543-7230  
Researching: ROOT, BOYER,  
CHAMPLIN  
♦ Doris LAMBERT  
533 Sixth Avenue  
Lake Odessa, MI 48849  
(616) 374-8305  
Researching: HESS  
♦ Alvin H. DAWSON  
236 Dorland Avenue  
Berea, OH 44017  
(440) 243-3197  
E-mail: microfish7@aol.com  
Researching: DAWSON,  
VANDECAR, ELSON, LOTT  
♦ Eleanor MC CULLOUGH  
613 Miller Road  
Plainwell, MI 49080  
(616) 685-8644  
Researching: HEADWORTH, MC  
CAUL, STINSON, GARDINER,  
GIFFORD, BEACON

♦ Alice **GRIESER**  
 10750 Jackson Road  
 Clarksville, MI 48815  
 (616) 693-2173  
 Researching: **COLES, FLETCHER, SCOTT, STEVENS, TOWNSEND, LEAZENBY, SHEPARD, FAHRNI, GOODENOUGH, BAXTER, MORSE**

♦ Thomas Q. **VAN DERSKE**  
 7325 Goodwin Road  
 Lyons, MI 48851  
 (517) 647-7419  
 Researching: **GOODWIN, GREEN, WENDOR, SMITH, MARTIN**

♦ Shirley Ann **WEEKS**  
 1713 Laraway Lake SE  
 Grand Rapids, MI 49546-6637  
 (616) 676-1914  
 Researching: **COWLES, RICKERT, CLEMENZ, HEINZELMANN, HAMANA, ALTHAUS, LUTHAL, MOSER, BUSHONG, STERN, BETTS, BOROUGHF, SHAW, WHITE**

♦ Constance **DOWLING**  
 4854 Sequoia SE  
 Grand Rapids, MI 49512  
 (616) 698-6442  
 Researching: **COWLES, RICKERT, CLEMENZ, HEINZELMANN, HAMANA, ALTHAUS, LUTHAL, MOSER, BUSHONG, STERN, BETTS, BOROUGHF, SHAW, WHITE**

♦ Leonard **RIZOR**  
 15788-15 Mile Road  
 Marshall, MI 49068-9633  
 (616) 781-9461  
 E-mail: [lrizor@internet1.net](mailto:lrizor@internet1.net)  
 Researching: **WEAVER, MC CORD, MUNGER, BROTHERTON, ZIMMERMAN, SIMMONS, DODD, KINGERY, SCROGUM, ONION, SHELLY, ZIRKLE, JEFFRIES**

♦ Thomas C. **GILLILAND**  
 156 Sunset Beach  
 Lake Odessa, MI 48849-9735  
 (616) 642-6860  
 Researching: **BEVER, GILLILAND, KART, MEECE, GEORGE**

More new members continued on page 4

#### QUICK TIP

From Ancestry Daily News, July 13, 2000, Doris Medlin

Recently, I visited the funeral directors in a small town in Tennessee where my grandparents are buried. They gave me copies of my grandparents' funeral records. These records included funeral arrangements, obituary data, occupation, parents' names and place of birth. I found out that the maiden name of one of my great grandmothers was **PRESLEY** (I could be related to Elvis!). These funeral records had more information than the death certificate.

#### MEMORIES

By

Joseph R. McCord

Recollections that my mother, **Carrie KINGSTON MCCORD** passed on to me from her family memories and notes:

In 1844, my great-grandfather, **Job KINGSTON**, came to Ionia with his parents when he was about three years old.

One of his most vivid memories was attending a one room school made of logs. The school was located in the vicinity of the Tuttle Cemetery, south and east of Ionia. The first teacher was a Miss **Ann BUNNELL**. He didn't comment on her teaching methods or ability, but did remember she wore bloomers and smoked a pipe.

The **KINGSTONS**, after many years of hard work and frugal living, owned over 200 acres on the hill south of the river from Ionia. The large family home is located on **Kingston Road**. The farm no longer belongs to the family but the house remains as a reminder of that fine pioneer family.

As is true with most families, there was one eccentric member of some note. For the **KINGSTON** family, his

name was **Frank KINGSTON**. About 1930, he had a housecar built on a Reo truck chassis. The drivers seat and the passenger seat were large high backed reed chairs fastened to the floor with screen door hooks. It was wired for 6 volt DC lights and had a small gasoline powered generator mounted on the running board. It also had gas lights.

We were told that he lived in the house car for a year or two in Florida, living with the Seminole Indians.

**Frank KINGSTON** died in 1955 in Florence, Oregon. While settling the estate the administrator, believing that **Mr. KINGSTON** had hidden a sum of money, made what seemed to be a futile search. Just as he was about to toss a battered old suitcase on a fire he found a false bottom...in which he found 105 \$100 bills.

In the 1940's, **Mr. KINGSTON's** house car was owned by a friend of our family. My dad, **David MC CORD**, and I had the opportunity several times to go on fishing trips in the house car.

From the Ionia Sentinel, February 2, 1899

**Muir**, Jan. 24 - A recital was given at the Opera hall Saturday evening by the pupils of **Mrs. B.E. TERRILL's** **Muir**, **Pewamo** and **North Plains** classes.

The participants were **Mrs. Mable GROVE**, **Emma SHERWOOD**, **Florence TUBBS**, **Maud FOWLER**, **Minnie MCGILLIVRAY**, **Bertha NEWHOUSE**, **Ethel WEST**, **Decolia ALDERMAN**, **Adah MC GILLIVRAY**, **Flossie SYKES**, **Bessie SMITH**, **Blanche MYERS**, **Mabel SETTLE**, **Essie NEWHOUSE**, **Alice TUBBS**, **Georgie CHASE**, **Una SETTLE**, **Bessie SETTLE**. Male Chorus - **Augustus FORTUNE**, **Victor FORTUNE**, **Bert STEVENS**, **Will CHASE**, **Bernard ELY**, **Ben FAXON**, assisted by **Carl DEWEY**, cornetist.

♦ John Ford MCDOWELL  
8512 Harwood Road  
Lake Odessa, MI 48849  
(616) 374-7705  
Researching: MC DOWELL,  
YOUNG, GOODEMOOT, ESTEP,  
FOX, CHAPMAN

♦ Mary JAMES  
11301 Jordan Lake Road  
Lake Odessa, MI 48849  
(616) 374-8558  
Researching: LIVERMORE,  
GOODEMOOT, ESTEP

♦ Donald E GOODEMOOT  
904 Fifth Avenue  
Lake Odessa, MI 48849  
(616) 374-7598  
Researching: GOODEMOOT,  
ESTEP

♦ Alan C. GOODEMOOT  
5995 N. Woodland Road  
Woodland, MI 48897  
(616) 367-4942  
Researching: GOODEMOOT,  
ESTEP, CURTIS

♦ Anne GONZALES  
8921 Rhea Ave  
Northridge, CA 91324-3824  
Phone: (818) 349-7812  
Researching: HAWLEY, MURPHY,  
MARBLE, BARNARD, RANDALL,  
DERRICK,  
LOVELESS, WORDEN, LIKENS,  
KENNEDY, BOWEN, POST

♦ Mary A. FAULKNER  
742 Washington Blvd.  
Lake Odessa, MI 48849  
(616) 374-7508  
Researching: ESTEP,  
GOODEMOOT, FOX, BUTLER,  
CHAPMAN, SHAFFNER

♦ Rex W. GOODEMOOT  
8977 Harwood Road  
Lake Odessa, MI 48849  
(616) 374-7575  
Researching: ESTEP,  
GOODEMOOT, FOX BUTLER,  
CHAPMAN, SHAFFNER

♦ Thomas L. LIVERMORE  
8620 Brown Road  
Woodland, MI 48897  
(616) 367-4536  
Researching: AALDERINK,  
LIVERMORE, GOODEMOOT

♦ Eleanor WILLIAMS  
203 Parsonage Street, Apt. 203  
Saranac, MI 48881

(616) 642-9447  
Researching: GODFREY,  
WESTBROOK, HUBBELL, ALLEN,  
ADAMS, COE

♦ Cynthia STANLEY  
8254 Hanna Lake  
Caledonia, MI 49316  
Phone: UL  
Researching: COLWELL, MC  
CORD, NORRIS

♦ Myron H. GOODEMOOT  
1237 W. Goodemote Rd.  
Lake Odessa, MI 48849  
(616) 374-7576  
Researching: ESTEP,  
GOODEMOOT, FOX, BUTLER,  
CHAPMAN, SHAFFNER

♦ Sara Jo COBB  
12676 Jordan Lake Road  
Lake Odessa, MI 48849  
(616) 374-8540  
Researching: LIVERMORE,  
AALDERINK, GOODEMOOT, FOX,  
CHAPMAN

♦ Stephanie J. HANSON  
9688 Ainsworth Road  
Lake Odessa, MI 48849  
(616) 374-1601  
Researching: COBB, LIVERMORE,  
GOODEMOOT, SIBLE, FOX

♦ Michelle COBB  
12676 Jordan Lake Rd  
Lake Odessa, MI 48849  
(616) 374-8540  
E-mail: mcobb@voyager.net  
Researching: COBB, SIBLE,  
LIVERMORE, AALDERINK,  
GOODEMOOT, FOX

♦ Frances A. MORRIS  
6817 W. Tupper Lake Rd.  
Lake Odessa, MI 48849  
(616) 374-8065  
Researching: MORRIS,  
GOODEMOOT, TURNER,  
SHEPARD, CHAPMAN, ESTEP,  
FOX

♦ John B. PECKINS  
7056 Peckins Rd.  
Lyons, MI 48851  
(517) 855-3843  
Researching: PECKINS, AYERS,  
BARRY, MYERS, DODDS

♦ Sharon CRITES  
2831 Marietta Avenue  
Waterford, MI 48329  
(248) 673-8838  
Researching: MC CRARY

**Welcome Back Members:**  
We invited past members to renew  
their membership and join us again.  
We would like to welcome back the  
following member:

♦ Donna L. BERGSTEN  
P.O. Box 315  
Poplar, WI 54864-0315  
(715) 364-2741  
E-mail: dbergst@presenter.com  
Researching: DENNY, DENNEY,  
VENET, VENNETTE, TENNALT,  
TENNANT

**NEW E-MAIL ADDRESS:**

♦ Ellen WILLEMIN  
<elliew@voyager.net>  
♦ Pamela SO  
<pam\_so@cos.wantweb.net>  
♦ Donna ROGERS  
<gordondonnar@aol.com>  
♦ LaVerne & Mary ELLEN AVES  
<lmaves@voyager.net>

Please notify us of any changes in  
mail, phone and e-mail. Also  
winter addresses for "snow  
birds".

**GRADUATION ANNOUNCEMENT**

We received a graduation  
announcement from the estate of Mr.  
and Mrs. Lee WINANS. The  
announcement was an invitation to  
Bertha M. ROBERTSON's  
graduation. The information  
included is as follows:

Class of Nineteen Hundred and  
Twenty-four  
Commencement Exercises  
Thursday evening, June fifth  
Methodist Church

Class Motto: Backbone, not  
wishbone

Class Colors: Green and Gold

Class Flower: Yellow Rose

Class Roll: Bernice M. GRILL,  
Bertha M. ROBERTSON, Eleanor I.

COOK, Dorothy A. HATFIELD

Superintendent: N. J. DROUYOR

Thanks to the Clinton Co.  
Historical Society for this  
donation.

## ?? QUERIES ??

I am looking for anything relating to the Gen Corp factory in Ionia for the entire existence of the factory. It was also known as Mitchell-Bentley, A. O. Smith, Ypsi-Reed. Anything will be appreciated whether it's an article, photo, newsletter or reminiscence.

Merrilee MORRISON-COTTER  
1080 E. North St.  
Ionia, MI 48846

Seeking information on the SMITH brothers of Ionia area. Their names were Peter, George, Lewis, Harmon and Frank. They were involved in newspaper printing and publishing of several Michigan cities in the mid 1800's. An 1881 newspaper article states they had a group photo taken at the CHAPMAN studio in Stanton. Does anyone have a copy of that photo? Or information on the brothers or their two sisters, Louisa and Melissa. Also seeking information about graves at East Montcalm cemetery in Greenville marked PLATO, Horace and Mary Elizabeth. Would like to get in touch with the person who puts flowers on them.


Cathy LARSEN  
774 Sheridan Road  
Kenosha, WI 53140

John MCCORD, the son of Gilbert and Emeline MCCORD was born in OH and moved with his family to Burr Oak, MI where he married Jemimia KLINE. They moved to Cascade Twp in Kent County, MI where John purchased a farm. Oral history says the railroad was going to come through his property and he didn't want this to happen, but could not stop it, so was made Station Master. The station was called McCords Station. There is a little village, a highway, a stream, and a road all called MC CORDS. John divorced and married Fannie DUFFY. He later sold his farm and moved to Ionia where he died 27 Jan 1929 and was buried in Easton Twp.

Cemetery on 29 Jan 1929. The church burned down that had the cemetery records, so there is little information available about this cemetery and people buried there. Can anyone help me prove or disprove the oral history. Does anyone know what plot John MC CORD is buried in in Easton Cemetery. Help me solve the mysteries.

Lyn RIZOR  
15788 15 Mile Rd.  
Marshall, MI 49068-9633  
Lrizor@internet1.net

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 Answorth Rd, Route 3, Lake Odessa, MI 48849



### LIBRARY NEWS

Remember you don't need a personal computer to access web-sites. Most public library have computers for public use.

### RECENT ACQUISITIONS FOR ICGS LIBRARY

The following items have been added to our ICGS library.

...A second copy of the Diaries of Lizzie Dravenstatt. Donated by Suzanne CARPENTER.

...The Sickles Family Genealogy donated by Robert E. JACKSON, 5760 N. Alessandro, Temple City, CA 91780

Thank you both for your donations!

The Library of Michigan has new hours. Starting September 11 the reference area is open from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Great news for those all day researchers!

A new on-line library of books of interest to history and genealogy researchers has just been opened by Heritage Books, Inc. The new site is patterned after a traditional library, and consists of a card file and a collection of books. The card file has a descriptive card for each volume in the collection and can be searched for surnames, localities, or topics of interest using a boolean search engine. Each card includes a call number which can be used to call up the titles of interest from the stacks. Anyone with a web browser can freely search the card file; viewing of the books is limited to subscribers who pay a small annual fee. Everyone is invited to try out the new facility at <<http://www.heritagebooks.com/library>>

From the Portland Observer, Vol. XVII, August 11, 1886

...Either by accident or carelessness George GOODEMONT had his wrist cut pretty bad one day last week, while feeding J. CREIGHTON'S threshing machine.

...E. J. DOWNING left for Dakota Monday. He goes mostly sight-seeing and also for rest. The latter he is much in need of. When he returns he will--Oh well, we will explain in the future. Have a good time while you can Zeke.

...Mr. THOMPSON, of Breackenridge has been visiting his sister Mrs. R. A. KNOWLES. He returned home Monday.

# ICGS SPEAKERS by Jim Moses

JULY

If you have ever thought about publishing your family history, you should have been at the July meeting of the Ionia County Genealogical Society. Dale JACKSON, one of our members, who recently moved back into the area from Ohio, gave a good talk about publishing. He speaks from experience, having published three books in the past. Dale told us some of his techniques and had an excellent hand-out to help us remember.

When Dale publishes a book he makes it camera-ready before it goes to the printer. That saves money and also it looks the way he wants it to be printed. The publisher has less work to do, and will not be changing what you want to have printed. He also told us some other money-saving techniques he uses. One of these is to get all the copies printed, but only half of them bound. In that way you can save the cost of binding until you need the second half (and have been paid for the first half). As you might expect, the number of photographs in the book will help determine the final price. Some photos might be necessary, but others will increase the costs without adding much value.

Dale gave us various pointers on preparing the text and also on marketing the final product. Some of the most important are: always collect your material in an orderly manner just in case you might want to publish later. If you are typing the text of various stories or other things that you might want to include,

always use the same font. Make the book as interesting as possible. It is much easier to sell something that is fun to read than something that is dull and boring.

He uses Family Tree Maker to get his facts organized, but then he uses Microsoft Publisher to do the final text. If you have printed a history from FTM you know that it makes its own sentences and they are not very inventive. Writing in your own words is much better.

One of the most important things Dale told us was that we should set a goal of when we want to be done, and then stick to that goal. Once you have decided what you will cover in the book, set this goal. If you do not, you will never get done because you will always find questions to answer. Dale is sensitive to 'dirty laundry'. He does not set out to put things in print that people do not want there. He always gets permission to put sensitive issues in his text. When the book is finished he sends two copies (along with a fee) to the Library of Congress, and then he has an official copyright, but also gets listed in their copyright publication.

In order to sell more books, Dale solicits pre-publication sales, once he knows how much it will cost to produce the book. He sends a letter with his photograph on it explaining the book and offering a lower, pre-publication price. In that way he can get his customers to help finance the printing. He also adds a nice touch—he sends a thank-you letter to his customers and asks for them to let him know of any corrections that need to be made. Selling your material is not easy, but Dale gave us a very good explanation of how to do it.

AUGUST

Bill ATKINSON visited us once again for the August ICGS meeting. He brought along Cynthia THEUSCH and his cheering section. He and Cynthia talked about a research trip they took to the Mecca of genealogy—Salt Lake City. Bill's main emphasis in his talk was that genealogists DO have fun. If you do the correct planning before going on a field trip like this you will find a lot of material that will add to your research, but if you do the correct planning AND go with a group of friends you can have fun at the same time.

Bill mentioned that the Mormons have the greatest collection of genealogical material in the world, and that they film material from all over the world. It is amazing what they have. The collection in Salt Lake City is the largest in the world, with the Mormon collections in Provo being second. We are fortunate in our area, though, because we have Ft. Wayne and Lansing nearby. Ft. Wayne has the third largest collection, while Lansing is also in the top ten. We also have access through Family History Centers in Grand Rapids, Hastings and Lansing to many of the Salt Lake records.

Bill and Cynthia explained the facilities in Salt Lake City. The Family History Center is located beside Temple Square, and houses a huge collection of material. They recommended that you have an introductory session before you go wandering off. The volunteers at the library will give a session that will explain the holdings, and where they are located. Many of us do not know that the nearby Joseph Smith Building also has a huge collection of material. For instance, on the third floor of the Joseph Smith Building you will find the family

records. One area of these records is the 'accepted' records (those that have been scrutinized by the church and have sufficient proofs) and another area has those that have not been accepted (they have been submitted but the church has not verified the information). There is also a large area that houses the family histories. Bill said he checked a surname and found over 100 volumes of family history books on that name.

One of the main points of his talk, however, was something that can happen with any research trip. Going with a group to do research can be so much more rewarding than just going by yourself. His group was able to do a lot of research, but they also met at a certain place in the hotel each evening to discuss what they had found and get ideas from each other. There was much friendly talk during these sessions, and some problems were solved, too. From listening to his description of their trip, it is obvious that they were able to have a great time while getting a lot of information. They were also able to do other things (like attend a practice session of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir and visit famous places in the area). Next time you are planning a research trip, consider going as a group. If your experience is anything like Bill and Cynthia's you will remember the trip for a long time.

## SEPTEMBER

The September 9 meeting of the Ionia County Genealogical Society featured a presentation by Jan **STODDARD**, from the Family History Center in Grand Rapids, MI. Jan gave us an update on what is happening with the Family History Centers and some of the on-going projects of the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. This was a nice follow-up to last month's talk by **Bill ATKINSON** and **Cynthia**

**THEUSCH**. Jan told us that each Family History Center has a basic collection of material that can be used at that center, but each also has special collections.

We have centers in Lansing and Hastings, as well as Jan's center in Grand Rapids, so we have easy access to the records housed in Salt Lake City. Grand Rapids, for example, has well over 100 films on Poland and over 100 on the Netherlands, thanks to patrons who are researching these areas. These patrons have ordered the films from Salt Lake City, and they are currently at the center in Grand Rapids. Each center has similar specific collections. Call to find out what they might have.

The Library has filmed records from over 100 countries all over the world, as well as from all the states. They have, for example, over three million microfilms. These, and other things are categorized in the Family History Library Catalog. This catalog, as well as many other materials, such as state-by-state and country-by-country research outlines can be ordered from the LDS Catalog Distribution Center.

Jan mentioned many other things that are happening within the genealogy area of the church. A television series, called 'Ancestors', is being aired on several PBS stations. This is the sequel to a series that was put out several years ago. It explains the basics, and gives information for the more advanced researcher, too. The LDS website is being expanded all the time. Over 1,000,000 names are being added each month to their databases, and these can be searched on-line at no cost. Check it out at: [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) <<http://www.familysearch.org>> Also at the same website is an index to the new Pedigree Resource File, a series of CDs containing submitted family information. Currently there are about 15 CDs in the set, each with about a million names. You can view the index on line and then see the disks at the Family History Center, or order them for yourself.

PAF, the LDS family history program, can also be downloaded from the website (you will have to purchase a book with all the instructions on how to use it). The material in the Pedigree Resource File is not verified by the church, but they request documentation and they give you information on how to contact the submitter so you can find out how well-documented the material is.

Other projects were discussed. The vital records project is attempting to get vital records, as well as census, land, deed, and probate index records from all over the world. A new series on all the death records from the United States is coming out in the future. As you can see, there are many things happening. One final note. Grand Rapids also offers small workshops on various topics. You might want to contact them for details at (616) 949-3343.

If you have heard a really good speaker somewhere and you would like to have them speak at our ICGS meeting, send us their name, address, telephone number and topic of discussion and we will look into it.

## CONDOLENCES

Our sympathies go to our members, Sharon **KISELA**'s who lost her nephew in PA recently. Also member **LeAnn SCHUCK**'s mother, **Madelene B. MCNAUGHTON**, 83, formerly of Orleans, passed away July 19, 2000. and **Lois HALLER** lost her brother, **Keith**, in July.

**ALUMNI ROSTER  
IONIA PUBLIC SCHOOL**

Source: 130th Anniversary Roster of  
Graduates of the Ionia Public School  
District. June, 2000, Page 7

**Class of 1871**

BELLAMY, Mary  
BIGNELL, Nettie  
BURDICK, Dora  
RICE, Emma  
WOODRIDGE, Anne

**Class of 1873**

HUTCHINS, Lee M.  
WOOD, Charles T.

**Class of 1874**

HUTCHINS, Ella J.  
HARTER, Frank  
KNEELAND, Kate

**Class of 1875**

DONOVAN, Nancy  
EWING, John T. Prof.  
KING, Brayton  
MITCHELL, Stephen  
WEIR, James W., M.D.  
WILSON, Alice  
WILSON, Charles M.

**Class of 1876**

BEAL, Rollin H.  
CLARK, Mary  
DODGE, Wm. F., Rev.  
GLEASON, Sarah  
GUNDRUM, Gena  
HAWLEY, Royal A., Judge  
HOWELL, Phebe A.  
HENDRICKS, Lou  
HUTCHINS, Carrie M.  
LEWIS, Edward B.  
MATHEWS, Robert N.  
ORTH, Louis P.  
PECK, Eva  
POWELL, Henry, Rev.  
RIPLEY, Eliza  
SCHEURER, Mina  
STANTON, Edward S., Att'y  
THOMAS, J. Ray

**Class of 1877**

CHIPMAN, Dewitt  
HISCOCK, Alice  
HOOVER, David E.  
HUNT, Ormand F., Judge  
KNOWLES, Anis J.  
MITCHELL, Mary  
PATTERSON, Wm.

PETER, Mary  
SESSIONS, Clarence, Judge  
SMITH, Mae  
THOMAS, Delia  
VANVLECK, Clara

**Class of 1878**

ADAMS, Edgar J., Judge  
BENEDICT, Alfred L.  
COLTON, Allen L.  
DONOVAN, Kate  
FREEMAN, Emma D.  
HOWE, Ernest C., M.D.  
NOLL, Charles H.  
PRESTON, Hassie  
RICH, George R.  
ROOT, Ida  
STEBBINS, Estella  
WALKER, Evelyn H.  
YORK, Alice

**Class of 1879**

BABCOCK, Hattie  
BENEDICT, Comelia A.  
BROOKS, Lida  
FINK, Charles  
GOSS, Dwight  
GRAVES, Myron O.  
HALL, Ida  
KENDALL, Horace E.  
LOOMIS, Mortimer  
MILLIGAN, Bertha  
POWELL, Ella  
ROGERS, Ada  
TOWNSEND, Sue  
TOWNSEND, Julie

**Class of 1880**

HORTON, Alberto  
MILLARD, Grace  
MILLARD, Lillian  
MILLER, Louis P.  
SANFORD, Willard Y.  
SMITH, Anna  
SMITH, Erwin F., Ph. D.  
THAYER, Minnie  
THAYER, Walter  
TOWNSEND, Gertrude  
TUBBS, Mary E.  
UDELL, Ida  
WINCHELL, Elmer  
WOODWARD, Belle

Whoever said "seek and ye shall  
find" was NOT a genealogist.

**The People vs. Michael McElroy**  
Ionia Co., Michigan  
May - October 1879  
submitted by  
Jim Cyr

**As** remembered by Marjorie  
RATHBURN CYR GRAY 1984, age  
91 (1893-1989).

My grandmother, Martha SNYDER,  
1850-1915, was born in Goshen,  
northern Indiana, and her father's  
name was John or Jacob SNYDER  
(SNIDER). Martha met James MC  
ELROY in Ludington, MI where he  
worked in a sawmill. They married  
in 1872 and my mother, Laura Ellen  
was born October 30, 1873. Her  
brother, James Jr., was born two  
years later. When James Jr. was  
about six months old both their  
parents came down with typhoid  
fever. James Sr. died and Martha  
recovered. James Sr's father,  
Michael MC ELROY and his family,  
were living on James Sr.'s farm,  
sixteen miles south of Ionia, MI.  
Martha was now a widow and the  
property was now hers. Martha's  
father, John SNYDER, a German  
Mennonite, drove to the farm to tell  
Michael MC ELROY, an Irish  
Catholic, to move or else.  
Unfortunately, Michael MC ELROY  
shot and killed John SNYDER. Then  
Michael MC ELROY hitched up his  
horses and wagon and took his  
family and all drove to Ionia. He  
gave himself up and pleaded  
self-defense.

[Many years later I went to the  
courthouse and tried to see the  
papers, but it was so many years  
they would not get them out for me.  
Many thanks to the deputy clerk at  
Ionia County courthouse for finding  
the following in August 2000]

Ionia Co. Court Records, Journal D,  
Fol. 456-469 and 496-500, May-Oct  
1879

The People vs. Michael McElroy,  
Murder, Louis S. Lovell, Circuit  
Judge  
...April 29, 1879 Return of Justice  
filed



...May 5 Information filed

...May 5 Michael MC ELROY pleads not guilty

...May 5 VOSPER Bros. appointed as attorneys for Michael MC ELROY

...May 5 Following couples and individuals listed as witnesses: JONES, PALMER, DAVID, LAIRD, SMIEHART, COVERT and COOK.

...May 12 First jury panel names listed, good and lawful men, trial begins.

...May 16 First panel unable to agree or make a verdict and panel is dismissed.

...Oct 6 Second jury panel names listed, trial begins.

...Oct 7 Second panel excused due to illness of one member.

...Oct 7 Third jury panel names listed, trial begins. Following couples and individuals listed as witnesses: DAVIS, HUFF, WELLMAN, BROWN, ROBOOTH, SMIEHART, MARTIN, AND SHAVER.

...Oct 11 Third panel concludes trial, verdict - not guilty.

We received the following from the Athen County Genealogical Chapter O G S. in Athens, Ohio.

**FORTY-EIGHT YEARS IN A COUNTY STORE**--An Interview with Letha PATTERSON written by Dorothy Jeanette (ROBINSON) CODY.

Continued from the July - Sept Newsletter

After that first year Rosamond attended beauty school and no longer lived with us. At one time we had boarders here including Andrew BLONDIN from Bay City. Andy had a ditch digging contract with the township. He had three men working for him and they all stayed here. There are seven living rooms in this place so we could accomodate them. Connie HILLER was a boarder here

for six or seven weeks once when the roads were too bad for her to drive back and forth to teach the school. We had quite a lot of business from the school children from across the corner when they came in at noon and after school. I was disappointed when they closed the school.

We raised a thousand chickens a year for several years and once had three litters of pigs. We always raised a large garden for our own use.

We started in business October 1, 1933 and the next spring Harry put a truck on the road selling groceries in the rural area from near Saranac toward Sebewa Corners. He covered 35 to 50 miles a day. Another man by the name of PATTERSON was doing the same thing in the area around Collins where he had his store. They kept their territories separate. Harry ran the route himself. He kept that business going until he had a bad sick spell in 1944 and had to discontinue it. He used to get up at 4 a.m. to load the truck and get on the road by seven. I took care of the store and fed the chickens and pigs. Also I was busy packaging sugar, cheese and some other bulk articles for the next day's run of the truck.

Every Thursday we drove to Grand Rapids with the panel truck and picked up merchandise for the store. At that time there were seven wholesale houses in Grand Rapids. Now they have simmered down to one or two. We bought from Rademaker-Doogy, Lee & Cady, Wolverine Spice Co., Domke, Sonneveld, Hazeltine Perkins Drug Co., Armours, Farmer Peet and Heruds. It was a day's work to get the stock. Some of the wholesalers had trucks on the road and delivered pop, cheese, and meats to us. Lee & Cady delivered from Ionia and later when their Ionia location was closed their trucks came from Lansing and Jackson.

When electricity came in 1938 it helped out a lot. We had an old Delco battery system that had seen better days before we came. Often it

gave trouble starting. There was a wood furnace in the building when we took over. The hall upstairs was heated with stoves. When we came, what money we had was locked up in the bank during the bank holiday. Every cent we could get ahold of from our outside activities as well as from the store we put right back into stock for the store. For one year I drove daily to Ionia to work as a teller in the Ionia County National Bank.

We never had a vacation until the late 1940's when we went to within 129 miles of Mexico City. For that vacation we closed the store and had Cleo and Gordon PIERCEFIELD tend our chickens and watch things.

Harry died in 1966. After his death it was good for me to have the store for motivation during my adjustment to living without him. My daughter and her husband were very helpful and brought stock for the store from Kalamazoo. They have been bringing stock to me ever since. They are both retired and would like to travel, but this task they do for me restricts them considerably.

In the 1940's when the Mexicans were working on the muck truck crops we began to get a calling for Mexican foods. We had a marvelous Mexican following here. It was a very good business. They were big buyers and that helped us immeasurably.

When Harry was living we never had any trouble with holdups. Since then I've been held up three time. It was a frightening experience.

The people who traded at the store in the 1930's are mostly all gone. Florence GOODEMOOT and Ida FLETCHER were always getting something going in the community.

I bought a new furnace and I've done a lot of repair work. I know I cannot do another fifty years here, but if I keep going until October 1, 1983, it will finish the first fifty.

## Highlight on First Families No. 5



**LeAnn Schuck**

LeAnn was born in Lansing, Ingham Co., Michigan the daughter of **Madelene Burell Currie** and **Lewis Jay McNaughton, Jr.** Both of LeAnn's parents have ancestors going back to the 1880's in Ionia County so she has presented us with a wonderful documentation of these early settlers.

LeAnn married **Bruce Allen Schuck** on 2 Sept 1961 and we would like to congratulate them on entering their 40<sup>th</sup> year of marriage.

Lewis Jay McNaughton, Jr. was born 12 Aug 1916 in Lowell, Kent County, Michigan the son of **Lewis Jay McNaughton, Sr** and **Rose Etta Wood**. In 1937 he married Madelene Burell Currie in Belding, Ionia County, Michigan. She was the daughter of **Byrell Currie** and **Winnifred Mariam** and was born in 1916 in Belding, MI.

Lewis Sr. died 6 Oct 1971 in Lansing, Ingham Co., MI. He was listed as a truck farmer for a greenhouse business. He died of hypostatic pneumonia and pulmonary failure due to emphysema. He had suffered from arthritis for 20 years prior to his death.

Lewis Sr. married **Rose Etta Wood** 21 April 1906 in Ionia Co., MI. Rose was born 30 March 1891 in Fenwick, MI. She died 24 April 1986 in Montcalm Co., MI of cerebral thrombosis. She was an inpatient in an extended care facility. She too had severe arthritis.

**Luella A. Long** was the first person that was proven for first families status. She was born 3 July 1866 in Keene Twp., Ionia Co., MI the daughter of **Charles W. Long** and **May Ann Jackson**. She died in Belding, Otisco Twp., Ionia Co. in Muston's Convalescent Home at the age of near 80. Cause of death was myocardial and respiratory failure.

Luella was married twice. Her second husband, **Frank Lincoln**, preceded her in death. Her first husband was **Frank William Currie**.

Frank and Luella were married 19 April 1887 in Belding, Ionia Co., MI. He died 12 Sept 1912 in the same place. Frank and Luella were the parents of **Byrell Currie**, LeAnn's grandfather.

Space does not allow for all the details of LeAnn Schuck's family history, however, if you are interested in learning more about this line, feel free to contact us at the Ionia County Genealogical Society (616) 374-3141 or e-mail us at [pkswiler1@juno.com](mailto:pkswiler1@juno.com)

Thank you to LeAnn for all your hard work and sharing your history with our society members. A listing of all the surnames found in LeAnn's family can be found on our website.

## 2000 Calendar of Events - Ionia County Genealogical Society

### October 2000

- 3 7:30 p.m. First Families of Ionia County Society Committee Meeting at Swilers
- 14 1:00 p.m. Regular Membership Meeting, Randy Riley speaking on Unique Sources at the Library of Michigan
- 26 7:00 p.m. ICGS Board of Directors meeting at Swilers
- 28 First Families Banquet - Details to be announced.

### November 2000

- 7 6:30 p.m. First Families Committee Pizza Celebration at Depot
- 11 1:00 p.m. Regular Membership Meeting, Shirley Hodges speaking on The Joys of Genealogy
- 16 7:00 p.m. Board of Directors Meeting at Swilers

### January 2001

- 2 7:30 p.m. First Families of Ionia County Society Committee Meeting at Swilers
- 13 1:00 p.m. Regular Membership Meeting, Member speakers will share the reasons why they got into genealogy
- 25 7:00 p.m. Board of Directors Meeting at Swilers
- 27 10:00-2:00 Depot Museum open to public for researchers

**\*\*All regular membership meetings are held on the second (2nd) Saturday of each month, except December, at 1:00 p.m. The public is welcome, and refreshments will be served.**

**PLEASE NOTE:** The October meeting will be held at the Odessa Twp. Hall on M-50  
Future meetings of ICGS will be held at the Community Room of Lake Manor on Emerson Street just west of the Depot Museum

#### ICGS Newsletter:

Editor: Pamela Swiler

Asst Editor: Leora Slosser

**NEED TO REACH US?** ICGS, 13051 Ainsworth Rd., Route #3, Lake Odessa, MI 48849, PH: (616)374-3141

FAX: 616-374-8424 or e-mail: [pkswiler1@juno.com](mailto:pkswiler1@juno.com) or [pkswiler@voyager.net](mailto:pkswiler@voyager.net)

**IONIA COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

13051 Ainsworth Road

Route 3

Lake Odessa, MI 48849

**ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED**

TO:

Snow birds...  
Don't forget to  
Give us your winter  
Address!

\*\*\*\*\*

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.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Membership Information:**

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

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

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

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

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

*Note: All information may be published in upcoming newsletters or placed on the internet GenWeb Project unless you indicate in writing otherwise.*