

IONIA COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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NEWSLETTER

Volume 2 - Number 3

July-September 1997

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.

The Ionia County Genealogical Society meeting was attended by 31 people on May 10, 1997. The guest speaker was Stephen Lambers, retired Archivist of Calvin College University Heckman Library, which is located at Heritage Hall just off the East Beltline, in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

The Heckman Library is home of the historical archives of the Christian Reformed Church. There are 500,000 volumes of books there, all telling of the history of the Dutch and the Christian Reformed Church. Mr. Lambers' area of expertise included researching Dutch ancestors using the resources available at the library.

Some of the valuable tools available to researchers included a collection of publications by Robert P. Swierenga, past President of Kent State University. One entitled, "Dutch Household in U.S. Population Censuses, 1850, 1860, 1870", lists all of the heads of households of Dutch descent in the United States during the indicated years. Mr. Swierenga also published a book which gives the passenger lists of Dutch immigrants.

In addition, there are many books written in the Dutch language which tell the history of the many villages of the Netherlands. Although the library itself does not have staff available to translate these documents, they are able to assist in locating others who are willing to translate them. The Ionia County Genealogical Society also has a list of people willing to do translations.

Another resource available at the Heckman Library Archives is 600-700 genealogies all indexed. There is a collection of over 7,000 letters written from the Netherlands which includes 1,600 names of families who are searching for their relatives in the United States. He stated "Unfortunately, Dutch-Americans did not treasure their letters from the Netherlands in the same manner."

A valuable source of genealogical data is found in the Banner and DeWachter Obituary Files and Wedding Anniversary Files. This information was found in the weekly publication for the Christian Reformed Church. Some of the obituaries and wedding files are in the Dutch language. They include the names and dates and locations of people who were celebrating wedding anniversaries or those who had died both in the United States and in the Netherlands.

Ionia County School Manual 1894-1896

Board of Supervisors

Township	Name	Address
North Plains	John W. Cowman	Hubbardston
Ronald	William W. Mattison	Ionia
Orleans	Luther E. Hall	Ionia
Otisco	Frank L. Moon	Otisco
Keene	Judson Lee	Saranac
Easton	Stephen T. Minard	Ionia
Ionia	Albert E. Jackson	Ionia
Lyons	Julius S. Tibbitts	Muir
Portland	Jason D. Woodbury	Portland
Orange	Henry H. Jordan	Orange
Berlin	Edward Patrick	Ionia
Boston	Charles B. Huhn	Saranac
Campbell	John Mick	Clarksville
Odessa	Marquis L. Foght	Lake Odessa
Sebewa	John M. Bradley	Sebewa
Danby	George Culver	Portland
<i>Ionia City</i>		
1st and 2nd Wards	Al. H. Geck	Ionia
3rd and 4th Wards	David C. Crawford	Ionia
<i>Belding City</i>		
1st Ward	Charles Eddy	Belding
2nd Ward	Joseph T. Angell	Belding
3rd Ward	William A. Wilder	Belding

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>>Ancestry Magazine subscriptions are now available through our organization. Every one year subscription means \$5.00 to our group; two years mean \$10.00; three years \$15.00, etc. If you are interested in subscribing, contact John Waite at (517)566-7317, or fill out the enclosed order form and send it to John Waite, c/o Ionia County Genealogical Society, 13051 Ainsworth Rd., Route 3, Lake Odessa, MI 48849. Make checks payable to ICGS.

Calendar of Events

ote your address label on this newsletter...if it doesn't say "1998" your membership dues are not paid. Don't miss out in the next issue - send in your dues TODAY!

July 12, 1997 - Regular meeting 1:00 p.m. at the Depot -Topic will be: **"Researching Your German Ancestors"** - George Evans

July 24, 1997 - Board of Directors meeting 7:00 p.m. at the Depot

July 26, 1997 - **DEPOT DAY IN LAKE ODESSA AT THE DEPOT ALL DAY - EVERYONE WELCOME!**

July 27, 1997 - Laux/Beachnau Family Reunion at Central Riverside Park 1:00 p.m.

August 9, 1997 - Reg. meet. 1:00 p.m. at the Depot - **"The Importance of Women in the Civil War."** - Shirley Hodges

August 10, 1997 - Coonradt Sedore Reunion

August 21, 1997 - Board of Directors meeting 7:00 p.m. at the Depot

August 30, 1997 - Lake Odessa Depot Museum open to public 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

September 13, 1997 - Regular meeting 1:00 p.m. at the Depot

- **"Clerks and Genealogists Working Together"** Barbara Trierweiler, Ionia County Clerk

September 15, 1997 - Deadline for this year's applications for the **First Families of Ionia County Society**

September 25, 1997 - Board of Directors meeting 7:00 p.m. at the Depot

September 27, 1997 - Lake Odessa Depot Museum open to public 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

October 11, 1997 - Regular meeting 1:00 p.m. at the Depot - **"Preservation of Documents"**-Dick Harms,
Grand Rapids Public Library Archivist

October 23, 1997 - Board of Directors meeting 7:00 p.m. at the Depot

October 25, 1997 - Lake Odessa Depot Museum open to public 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

November 8, 1997 - Regular meeting 1:00 p.m. at the Depot - **"Researching Odessa Township"** - John Waite

November 20, 1997 - Board of Directors meeting 7:00 p.m. at the Depot

November 29, 1997 - Lake Odessa Depot Museum open to public 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

December - **NO MEETING** - Merry Christmas!

New acquisitions for our library.

~To Kansas and Back: Homesteading Days of the George Edwin Scott Family by Donna Foy .

~Veterans World War II - Ionia County Area - Book One and Two copied and indexed by Larry and Marilyn Cahoon.

IE SEARIGHT KOUTZ HISTORY by Cindy Bryant

Searight Koutz was the youngest of the ten children of John Jacob and Sarah, (both buried in North Plains Cemetery). He was born March 6, 1838 in Pennsylvania according to his service records. So that would seem to indicate that the Koutz family did not move into Ohio until after his birth. He moved to Odessa Township, Ionia County, Michigan in the 1850's with his parents and was married near Muir, Michigan in 1860. He was a Civil War veteran, enlisting at Lyons, Ionia Co., MI on August 30, 1862 and served with the Michigan Cavalry, Company E, 6th regiment. He was at the battle of Gettysberg. Searight gained rank and was mustered out November 24, 1865 as Quarter Master Sergeant. Those dates are from a 1943 letter from the US Government. He served under the then young General Custer.

Searight moved to Hecia, Brown County, South Dakota when the Sioux reservation was opened for settlement. This was in the early 1880's. The winter of 1886, Searight came back to Michigan and spent the winter. He signed Sylvia Mabie's autograph book and also his visit was recorded in a local newspaper.

Around 1898 or 1899, when the Sisseton Reservation was opened for settlement, Searight and family moved to Roberts County, SD, near Sisseton, where they homesteaded. The families stayed at the old Fort Sisseton, and lived in the abandoned fort buildings while the men put up buildings on their land.

At one point, Searight owned a feed store and livery stable in Claremont, SD with his son-in-law, Jerome Galusha. About 1918 Searight moved to Alvin, Texas. Searight died at his son Charles' home in Minnesota in 1923, but is buried in Texas. Searight's wife, Nancy R. Evans, was the daughter of Henry Evans, who is buried in N. Plains Cemetery, Ionia County. One child of Searight, Noah (1978-9), is buried in Lakeside Cemetery, Lake Odessa, MI, ages nearly 4 month. The stone is toppled, cracked and mostly under sod.

Searight had two older brothers also in the civil war. Edmund Koutz and Isreal Koutz are both buried in N. Plains Cemetery. Edmund came home sick with dysentery and died and within 3 weeks, 4 of his 5 children also died, leaving his widow and one son.

Searights Koutz's Civil war sabre and pistol. Steve Hodges is now the owner of it.

REMINDERS:

...Bake Sale - We will be holding a bake sale on June 19th from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Independent Bank on Main Street in Ionia. If you are willing to do some baking or have some time that you would like to spend at the bake sale, please contact Marilyn Steward at (616) 527-6651.

...Show and Tell!! At our next meeting on June 14, we will be setting up tables for you to show off your projects. Bring them along, finished or unfinished. After the meeting we will be looking forward to seeing just what all you have been working on! Any questions? Call me at (616)

74-3141.

Unit operational records, 1930-1954 and 1954 to present for units which served in Southeast Asia	Archives II Textual Reference Branch <u>National Archives and Records Administration</u> 8601 Adelphi Road College Park, MD 20740-6001 (301)-713-7250
Unit operational records, 1954-present for units which did not serve in Southeast Asia; Organizational History Files 1955-1979	Freedom of Information and Privacy Acts Office SAIS-IDP-F/P, Suite 201 1725 Jefferson David Highway Arlington, VA 22202-4102 DSN 327-3377; (702=3)-607-3377
Organizational History Files 1980-present	Organizational History Branch U.S. Army Center of Military History 1099 14th Street, N.W. Washington, DC 20005-3402 DSN 763-5413; (202)-761-5413
Unit Rosters, pre-1917	Archives I Textual Reference Branch <u>National Archives and Records Administration</u> Washington, D.C. 20408 (202)-501-5430
Unit rosters, 1917-present, Regular Army	<u>National Personnel Records Center</u> (Military Personnel Records) 9700 Page Avenue St. Louis, MO 63132-5100
Unit rosters, 1917-present, Army Reserve	For soldier himself: Army Reserve Personnel Center ATTN: ARPC-SFR-SSD 9700 Page Avenue St. Louis, MO 63132-5200 For the public (please submit request under the Freedom of Information Act): U.S. Army Reserve Personnel Center ATTN: ARPC-IMP-F (FOIA) 9700 Page Avenue St. Louis, MO 63123-5200
Information pertaining to unit Lineages and Honors	Organizational History Branch U.S. Army Center of Military History 1099 14th Street N.W. Washington, DC 2005-3405 DSN 763-5413; (202)761-5413

IONIA GENWEB PROJECT NEWS

from Beth Wills, Coordinator for Ionia/Montcalm Counties

This is part one in a series of articles about the Ionia GenWeb Project. Those individuals that have access to a computer that is "hooked up to the Internet" have a wealth of genealogical information at their fingertips.

The History of the GenWeb Project - In March and April 1996, a group of genealogists organized the Michigan Comprehensive Genealogy Database. The idea was to provide a single entry point for all counties in Michigan, where collected databases would be stored. In addition, the databases would be indexed and cross-linked, so that even if an individual were found in more than one county, they could be located in the index. At the same time, volunteers were found who were willing to coordinate the collection of databases and oversee the contents of the web page.

>What A Coordinator Does - The job of the county coordinators is to write the web pages, accept and organize queries and to assist in the "on-line" organization of the genealogical data found in the county. County coordinators do not actually do research. At this time, there are county coordinators from almost 96% of all of the counties in the United States. From any one county page, you can find any other county page, plus the project pages for many other countries outside of the United States.

....What you can find on the Ionia GenWeb page.

>Vital Records - Records available in Ionia County and in the State of Michigan and where to write for them.

>Churches - These links tell about the early churches in Ionia and the first members of those churches.

>Libraries - Information about the local libraries as well as those major libraries with genealogy collections. There are numerous rolls of microfilm on area happenings as well as a number of family histories on file.

>Cemeteries - There are more than 50 cemeteries in Ionia County. This link will take you to a listing of those cemeteries. Some of the burial records are already in the archives for your "on-line" viewing! This is an on-going project. Almost half of the cemeteries in Ionia have been transcribed and placed in the archives. Most of the cemetery records in Ionia were made in the early 1970's and they need to be updated.

>Newspapers - See what was being published in the early days of Ionia and who was publishing the news. You will also find links to their microfilm holdings and a neat project called The Obituary Daily Times that is in the process of indexing obits from all over the world. You can be a part of this project.

>Census Records - Ionia's census records are available on microfilm at the Hall-Fowler Library in Ionia. The 1850 Ionia County Mortality Index has been transcribed and placed in the archives for your "on-line" viewing. The county census records have not been indexed - but plans are underway to get them indexed and placed in the archives. The archives have a new project in the works, the US GenWeb Census Project. The goal is to have on-line, in the archive, all the census' for 1780 to 1920 for the entire US. Check out the progress and if you have any census data please let me know.

Early Ionia History - Read about the early settlement of the city of Ionia and pioneers that first came there.

Early Ionia Businesses - Find out about some of Ionia's early businesses and their proprietors.

Historical Societies and Historians - Names and addresses of the local societies with links to those "on the web".

Ionia County Communities - Read about the early settlements and the pioneers that settled the area.

Biographies - A large number of Ionia's early settlers have biographies already transcribed and placed in the archives for your "on-line" viewing. This link will take you to the index of biographies for Ionia County. This is a huge project that has been largely due to two fantastic county volunteers. Cindy Bryant and Cheryl VanWormer have been typing fast and furiously to make those bios available to searchers world-wide. If you have a biography that you would like to have placed in the Ionia archives - we would LOVE to have it.

Ionia County Lookups - find out about the available county resources and those people willing to do look-ups in that resource. I could really use some help here - if you own a county resource and would be willing to look-up facts for researchers, please let me know.

Ionia County Surname Index - This page lists the names submitted by those researching Ionia County. See if anyone is searching the same lines as you and take a few minutes to submit the names you are searching.

Ionia County Queries - Submit your query and read the queries posted by others.

Ionia County Archives - A listing of the records that have been placed in the archives. A number of cemetery transcriptions, indexes, family diaries and bibles, etc. have already been placed in the archives. This project will be "under construction" for a long, long time. If you would like to help with the transcription of records to be placed in the archives, please let me know.

Map of Ionia County and Surrounding Areas - a map of Ionia and the surrounding area.

Ionia Area Obituaries - a number of obituaries for Ionia county residents are here - if you have an obituary for an Ionia County resident, I would be happy to post it here.

Contact me at Beth Ellen Wills, e-mail bwills@ionia-mi.net. Coordinator Ionia County, Mich. GenWeb Project web site <http://www.rootsweb.com/~miionia>, also Coordinator Montcalm County, Mich GenWeb Project, web site <http://www.rootsweb.com/~mimontca>

from our mailbox

From the News of the Coonrad Sedore Clan, Vol. V: No. 2, April 1, 1997 there will be a

Grand Ledge Michigan Reunion: *The reunion will be held Sunday, August 10, 1997 at Brodbeck Pond near Lake Odessa. There will be swimming, fishing, and games. Contact Mrs. Jan Sedore, 13307 Wheaton Rd., Grand Ledge, MI 48837-9712 or Mrs. Jean Pixley, 13027 Benton Rd., Grand Ledge, MI 48837-9730 for more details.*

From John A. TROMP - I am trying to find anything about my grandfather's family. According to his death certificate, he was born 22 March 1862 in Ionia, MI. His name was George McClellan CONLEY, son of Robert Conley and Susan Dillon (both of Ireland). E-Mail: waterco@apci.net

From Jody PAULSON - Researching Buchner, Swift, Jesko, Muchler and Burns. E-mail: Dennisp@iserv.net attn: Jody

From Kathy Knail - I have been researching the BROAD family in Ionia for some time now. If anyone has information about the Pere Marquette Railroad tragedy of 1907, I would love to get in touch; my great uncle Charles Broad was killed in the wreck. Other names I'm look for are HOLCOMB and PELZER. Contact Kathy at 2396 Pine Knott Dr., Beaver creek, OH 45431.

From Eric Lund - I would like to find the newspaper obituaries for the newspaper that served Lake Odessa for the following: Charles F. MOE b. 1868, d. 7 Oct. 1940 (Ionia record #86) m. Glendora SIBLE b. 1870, d. 6 Feb. 1929 (Ionia record D152); Charles Merlin MOE b. 1948, d. 2 June, 1969 Vietnam; Clarence L. MOE b. 1894, d. 28 Aug. 1959 (Ionia record F-49) m. Jennie E. _____ b. 1896, d. 3 Aug 1967 Alma, MI; and Earnest Jennings MOE b. 1897, d. 27 Feb. 1956 Los Angeles. E-mail: GBKuehnle@compuserve.com

From Carol A. McKellar - I am hoping to learn of my ASELTINE/AZELTON families who resided in Ionia Co. in the mid to late 1800's. My 3rd great grandparents, Isaac and Nancy AZELTON are interred in Danby Cemetery, but I have not been able to find a death record for them. Believe they lived with/near the Thomas Frost family as their daughter, Ann, married Thomas Frost, Sr. of Portland. Contact at 5069 Joyce Dr., Saginaw, MI 48603.

From Teresa Jo (Leak) Sweet - Looking for Thomas LEAK who came from Wales, UK to Sebewa Twp., 1850's, father of Christopher Leak who married Ida Gray or Grey, who resided in Woodbury until death at age 97 in 1970 or 1971. They had a son Leon Leak, my grandfather, who married Leona CURTISS in 1920-30. They had a daughter, Mary Jane Leak, and a son, Donald Leon Leak b. 26 Mar 1934 who married Ardell Marie MEYERS of Sunfield on Feb. 1954. I was born on 12 Sept. 1954. Donald later married Shirley Briang in Lake Odessa in 1965 or 1966 and have a daughter, Danelle Ann Leak b. 5 Oct 1966. E-mail: sweets@pathwaynet.com

From Karen June Remington - Researching Darling, Grinnell, Johnson, Selden, and Slaght. Phone (517) 647-6905.

From Cyndi Kuhlman - Researching Wellman BROWN, b. 1805 in PA, d. by 1867, buried in Danby Twp. Cemetery, Ionia Co., MI. His wife was Margaret SPRAGUE, b. 1813-14 in NJ., d. after June 1870, buried in Danby Twp. Cemetery, Ionia Co., MI. Known children are Catherine, Ezra, Allen, and Ogden. Margaret and son, Ogden living in Ionia Co. in 1870 Federal Census. Ezra BROWN's wife Eunice GOLTRY d. 17 May 1872, buried Danby Twp. Cemetery, Ionia Co., MI. Ezra and Eunice's son, Elmer Ezra BROWN, b. 17 Apr. 1869, Roxand Twp., Eaton Co., MI, son William H. b. 20 Apr. 1872, Portland, Ionia Co., MI. Ezra's second wife, Lucinda ROBERTS, m. 28 Nov. 1873 in Eagle, Clinton Co., MI. E-mail: kuhlmanc@iserv.net

From Jim Burgess - currently living in Helena, Montana. Research great grandparents Quirin and Mary SMITH/SCHMITT, residents of Pewamo, MI. Catholic, farmers. Quirin b. 8 Nov. 1837, Mary b. 6 May 1839, m. 29 Aug 1866 (or close to that date). Their children were: John SMITH b. 20 July 1862, Mike SMITH b. 15 May 1864, Kate SMITH b. 28 Dec. 1967, Mary SMITH (2) b. 15 May 1868, Lena SMITH b. 28 Sept. 1869, Peter SMITH b. 17 Mar. 1871, Joe SMITH b. 27 Sept. 1872, Anna SMITH b. 26 Sept. 1874 (my grandmother), Rose SMITH born 24 June 1876, Henry SMITH b. 15 Apr. 1878, Nora SMITH b. 4 Nov. 1879 and Albert SMITH b. 6 July 1881. I have a little more information and a few old pictures. E-mail: jeb@initco.net or write 41 Park Drive, Clancy, MT 59634.

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Note: For those of you who do not have computers, if you have any information that will help these people, send it to ICGS and it will be forwarded via the internet. All information received will be printed in our newsletter and also be placed on our web-site. If you do not want your information published, please let us know.

COUNTY CLERK HIGHLIGHT - The **Barry County** Clerks Office is located at 220 W. State St., Hastings, MI 49058. Phone 616-948-4810. Fax 616-948-4884. Genealogy research is allowed Monday to Wednesday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. No research on Thursday as that is Circuit Court Motion day which allows no space for research. Office space is extremely limited and allows for no more than two at one time. No children are allowed. Your drivers license is required as identification. Certified copies are \$10.00 and each additional copy is \$3.00. Genealogy record fee n/a

...Births: Closed to the public

...Deaths: 1867 to present. Available to the public

...Marriages: 1839 to present. Open to genealogist. Not available for random searches.

...Divorces: 1850-1920. Now working on an index for genealogists use. Not totally completed.

...Other: Cemetery. Have copies of many of the cemetery records available for research.

>>We now have a delegate for the Federation of Genealogical Societies. **Alice Walker** from Mulliken has agreed to represent us this year and will be going to Dallas, Texas to attend the "Unlocking Your Heritage with Creative Problem Solving" conference September 3-6, 1997. We are in hopes that she will be bringing back lots of new information that we can all learn from. **Thank you, Alice!**

If there is anyone interested in being a delegate for next year, please let us know. The next conference will be held in Cincinnati, OH August 20-22, 1998.

>>If you are in need of someone to translate documents for you, we have resources for several languages: Dutch, German, French, Spanish, Polish, and Hungarian so far. Just let us know what your needs are.

..APPY GATHERING - Source Unknown - 1914

"The Champlin Reunion was held Saturday, June 13, 1914 at the home of Mrs. Loretta Bushnell, a sister of Mrs. J.N. Champlin. There were four generations represented of both families. It was also the wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Champlin. Just fifty-seven years ago they were united in Marriage at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Bushnell. Mr. Champlin is 82 years of age, his wife is 75 and Mrs. Bushnell is 83. There was a large gathering of relatives. The out of town guests were Horace Champlin of Hastings, Mr. and Mrs. Karl Wenzell of Kalamazoo, Mrs. Elizabeth Nelson and Mrs. Ray White and daughter, Vernice of Chicago, Mrs. Edd. Winslow and daughter, Lou Grommon of Battle Creek, Mr. and Mrs. C.J. Alden of Lansing and Mrs. and Mrs. Warren Johnson of Lake Odessa."

UNLOCK YOUR HERITAGE



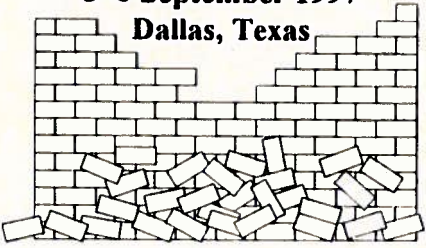
...with creative problem solving

FGS/DGS '97

*"A Conference for the
Nation's Genealogists"*

3-6 September 1997

Dallas, Texas



...Deadline for this year's First Families of Ionia County is September 15th! Anyone who turns in their information after that date will have to wait until next year to be considered for membership.

...We would like to highlight each township in our newsletter. If you know of someone who can provide us with an interesting historical perspective of a particular township, let us know.

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.

IONIA COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

c/o Pamela K. Swiler
13051 Ainsworth Road
Route 3
Lake Odessa, MI 48849

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

TO:

Has Your e-mail
Address changed?
Be sure to let us know!