HURON SHORES GENOGRAM

Oscoda, Michigan

**Immortalized in Death presenters from left to right -
Lugene Daniels, Rick Rockwell, Pam Ashford and Jim Barnum**

Immortalized in DEATH!

The Immortalized in Death program presented by the Huron Shores Genealogical Society on Saturday, May 14, 2011 at the Robert Parks Library, Oscoda, MI brought out 25 area residents including one from as far as Posen, to hear speakers who handle records created when a person dies. Lauri Finerty drove her hearse, coffin included to serve as a bill board in the parking lot.

Participating in the morning session were Lugene Daniels on church records; Rick Rockwell, Arenac County Clerk; Pam Ashford, Alcona Probate Court Registrar; Jim Barnum, Buresh Funeral Home representative; and Elizabeth Gorske, publisher for Arenac County Independent, Oscoda County Herald and Ogemaw County Herald. Each shared their knowledge of their respective areas and provided many helpful tips on how to make a visit with them or to similar locations most productive.

Following a very tasty lunch of sandwiches and other goodies from Mancino's, one of our own members, Lauri Finerty, also known as "The Cemetery Lady" gave a very informative session on cemetery lore in the afternoon. After giving a brief review of the types of markers, Lauri provided many helpful ideas on how to read, clean and photograph grave markers. In addition to the hearse, she also gave us glimpse of the contents of the toolkit she routinely carries with her when visiting a cemetery. Copies of the workshop handouts are available on request at the cost of copying and mailing.

Thank you to all who helped put this great program together!

HSGS Genealogical Meetings and Events

July
4-11 Celebration of 1911 Au Sable-Oscoda Fire
8-9 Mikado Days, Mikado, MI
14 MGC meeting in Lansing
21 Quarterly meeting in East Tawas, 5:30pm

September
8 MGC meeting in Lansing
18 Reno Township Cemetery Tour, 3:00

October
1 Fall Workshop: Military Records with an emphasis on Michigan, featuring Sam Pardee and Cindy Grostick, 10:00am – 3:00pm, Oscoda, MI
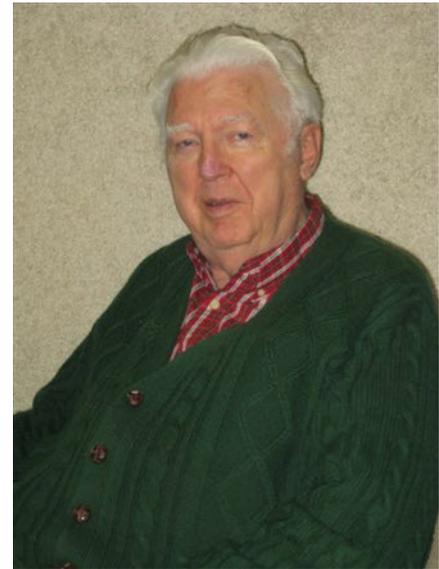20 Quarterly meeting in East Tawas, 5:30pm

November
10 MGC Meeting in Lansing

Huron Shores Genealogical Society
6010 Skeel Ave
Oscoda, MI 48750

As a society we have set as goals:

To preserve and perpetuate the records of our ancestors.

To encourage the study of family histories and genealogies.

To aid individuals in the compilation of their genealogies.

To cooperate with other societies and share information.

President - Judy Sheldon
Vice President - Pam Carroll
Secretary - Lugene Daniels
Treasurer - Daniel Stock
Database Manager - Alonzo Sherman

We are saddened to report the passing of Sidney Young, HSGS member since 2000.

Common Genealogy Myths

Myth

William Smith the second is always William Smith the second!

Truth

Not so. In many small villages there might have been several men with the same name –surname and given. These men would then take numbers, William the first, second, third, etc. Now this would have been simple if they had held their number for ever, but not so. If one died or moved away the others below him moved up in order, therefore William the second could later in life be William the first. When reading land records or other documents, watch carefully for other ways to identify your person, because his ordinal number may be different on various documents in his life.

Who We Are
"Our Database Manager" - Alonzo Sherman

Alonzo was born in Michigan in 1927 and served in the US Army and held Civil Service jobs from 1950 until his retirement in 1978. He moved to the Oscoda area in 1971 as an employee on the Wurthsmith Air Force Base and has lived here ever since.

Genealogy and historical interest in the community has been Al's passion for years. He is known as the "local historian" to whom everyone turns for information on our area. He has researched his family, written his family history, collaborated with other Sherman families through his web site and shared his knowledge with many, many others. As a member of the Huron Shores Genealogical Society since 1990, he has been vice president, secretary, treasurer, librarian and his present position of database manager. AuSable-Oscoda Historical Society and Museum and the Iosco County Historical Museum have also benefited from his dedication to the history of the area and his many talents in restoration, organization and preservation of historical documents.

His duties include assigning work to indexers, indexing primary source material, proofing the indexes

Please visit our web site at:
http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~miiosco/huronpage.html
to learn more about us and to link to our many indexes and our archived newsletters.

JOIN US ON A TOUR OF THE
RENO TOWNSHIP CEMETERY
Sunday September 18, 2011 3:00 pm
Public invited; light refreshments will be served.
This program is free
Sponsored by the
Huron Shores Genealogical Society

Join the Huron Shores Genealogical Society as members present a program at and about the Reno Township Cemetery in Iosco County.

Those who attend will learn about historical tombstones and the genealogical information held by each. This cemetery has several examples of different styles of markers. Learn about the symbolism common on most markers.

Learn about the families of Reno Township. See how most of the families are connected by blood or by marriage. Listen to family members as they talk about their ancestor.

The Reno Township Cemetery is located on Towerline Road.

**From the M-55 and M-65 intersection -
go east one mile; turn south on Towerline Road and go to the end of the road where the cemetery is located.**

Congratulations to Alonzo and Terry Sherman on their Marriage June 4, 2011

The Anderson Grave Marker in Reno Cemetery

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before they are posted on our website on RootsWeb or burned to our Society CD. It was Al's idea to move from printed indexes to an electronic form. Our CD of indexes is now available for purchase, so everyone has the opportunity to have a copy.

Alonzo received the 2009 Lucy Mary Kellogg Award from the Michigan Genealogical Council. The Lucy Mary Kellogg award was established in 1992 by the Michigan Genealogical Council to honor Lucy Mary Kellogg, the first woman and the first from the Midwest area to be named to the National Genealogy Hall of Fame, as one of their founding members and an eminent Michigan genealogist. Her accomplishments on the state and national levels were recognized in 1991. Alonzo is only the second recipient of the award from northern Michigan.

There have been two major projects in the past several years that have benefited from his expertise. The first was the scanning of the glass negative collection housed at the Iosco County Historical Museum, indexing these and placing the images in our scan file. The second is the Iosco County Veterans Memorial project (http://www.ioscovets.org/). Al is our Society's representative on the project committee. Our Society did the ground work on creating a working list of all veterans from Iosco County, Revolutionary War to the present.

Huron Shores Genealogical Society

Remembering Our Veterans
by Judy Sheldon

The month of June we remember our veterans and the service they gave to their country, as we attend the parades and visit the cemeteries, there are families who can not visit the graves of their loved ones. These men and women are buried in cemeteries far from American soil, far from their families. But they are not forgotten or ignored. Their sacrifice is honored by the residents of the countries where these soldiers are buried. In order to let the soldier's American family know that he or she is being cared for, many of these surrogate families and/or groups try to reach the real family of the soldier.

This is where our genealogical society (Huron Shores Genealogical Society) has become an active participant. We have been contacted over the past few years by various groups and individuals to search for the families of the soldier they are adopting. Finding a live person can be just as difficult to find as a deceased person, but we have been very successful in making our world a little smaller. Our group, through its indexing endeavors, has posted to the web various indexes to books or articles about Michigan soldiers, leading the surrogate families to request our help in locating the American families.

To show the lengths some groups will go to honor our soldiers, I would like to share the case of Sgt. Chester F. Nowakowski, a Michigan World War II soldier with the 34th Bomb Group, 18th Bomb Squadron. He was a rear gunner on a B 24 Liberator flying out of Suffolk, England on December 7, 1944. They were returning from a raid in France to prevent German reinforcements following D-Day. As they approached the Mendlesham Air Field in Suffolk, England, they were warned of German bandits and scattered, turning south. Chester's plane was hit and caught fire. The radio operator was killed by gun fire, the tail gunner and the ball turret gunner bailed and both died, the others were able to bail out and survive.

A story played out over and over during the war, but this crash has had long lasting effects on the people who live where Chester's body was found hanging in a farmer's tree by his parachute. Chester is buried in Cambridge, England at the Cambridge American Cemetery, but the town, Flowton, Ipswich, Suffolk, England, where he died, honor him with wreaths and a memorial ceremony in the farmer's field where his body was found. His unit is part of a history lesson on WWII taught by a local teacher who leaves flowers on Chester's grave when he visits Cambridge.

We were able to connect this wonderful English group with Chester's family in Michigan. They now share stories and pictures and keep Chester's memory alive on both sides of the ocean. Remembering our soldiers is more than a special American day; it's an every day world event.

D-Day wreath laying ceremony at B-24 Crash site of Chester Nowakowski, Nedging, England Aubrey Barber is the elderly gentleman next to his wife (with the cane) who at the age of 22 went with his mother into the fields the morning after the crash to look for survivors and found Chester's body in the tree on the left edge of the picture. His family owned the farm during and after the war.

A Bible Mystery Success Story
HSGS Helps a Family Reconnect with their family Bible

The mystery started when a Bible was left at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church office in Oscoda, MI. The person who left it gave no information on the Bible, who had had it, or where it had been found. It was passed on to our society to see if we could find a family to return it to. Upon leafing through the book, we found the family pages. A gold mine of births, marriages and deaths going back to Ireland in the early 1800's was found. We had the surnames for Farrele, Mullen and Rippingille to work with. First our searches of Ancestry.com and FamilySearch.org gave us a little historical perspective on this family. Among the last generation of names was the Rippingille family. Checking ZabaSearch.com and PIPL.com we learned that this isn't a real common name and that one of the persons mentioned in the Bible was an engineer in Detroit, MI who had several patents. One last place to check was Facebook.com and voila – there was one of the persons found in ZabaSearch.com. With a message to this lady, we were in contact with a very excited family who had no idea this Bible existed or how it would have ended up in Oscoda, MI. It was returned to the family. One happy ending! Some questions remain and may never be answered, but this family has some great new found information!
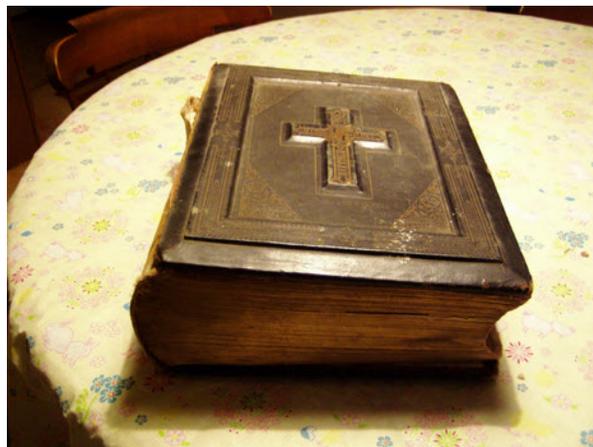
Our Regular Meetings

Our regular business meeting are held quarterly at 5:30 PM on the third Thursday of the month. Our next meetings are:

<p align="center">July 21, 2011
October 20, 2011</p>

We meet at the "A Different Blend Coffee House" in East Tawas.

Our office is open whenever the Parks Library is open:

Monday, Friday and Saturday	9:00 - 5:00
Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday	9:00 - 8:00

Literary Club Members Participating in a Japanese Tea Ceremony
Can you help identify these lovely ladies?
HSGS File GN#2-JANA-1000

Ancestry Adds a New Features

Ancestry.com is introducing a new feature to appear in the Search results. They are adding web records from sources outside of the Ancestry.com site. These will be available without a subscription to Ancestry.com. An example would be records in the Allen County Indiana Deaths at http://friendsofallencounty.org/search_deaths.php. The symbol for the record is a square with an arrow pointing out of it. There are only a few sites available at this time, so its possible you will not see this right away in your searches.

HSGS Upgrades Its Database Searching Capabilities
By Alonzo Sherman

The old adage "Time is Money" while not literally the case for amateur genealogists is very true when conducting multiple searches for researchers asking HSGS for assistance locating information on their families.

The HSGS database currently consists of 1,387 individual computer index files; that includes 34,747 pages of indexes (Which if printed it would be about 8 foot tall); and has a total of 1,524,620 name citations imbedded in an about 15 million word database of 260MBs. While using a single name search in this database, i.e. Robert Bowie, is relatively fast. The sequential searching for all the variations on this name can become very time consuming. The following relates how we have upgraded our searching capabilities to improve the service provided to researchers.

The Huron Shores Genealogical Society started in 1982 and operated without a computer index for about 10 years, using only personal memories and reference books. In early 1992 the database and the search engine format requirements were identified by Rosemary Klenow, Jim Donaldson and myself, based on a three months study. The first index was created on July 10, 1992, and used a single name search engine.

HSGS's database has always been created and edited in Microsoft Word (Tables) format. It is still created that way basically because of the better sorting and editing capabilities. Five to fifteen new files are added monthly. The database is the result of the work of about 40 indexers since 1992, located in seven states. The formats and search engines evolved through the years. The evolution continues as in 2010 a Boolean search engine (FileLocatoPro) was found and purchased to allow HSGS to implement the last of the major features defined in the 1992 study. Some file conversions were needed to accomplish this and are about 90% completed.

FileLocatoPro is a Boolean search, which uses the AND, OR and NOT operators, that allows multiple surname & given name spellings to be searched at the same time. To search for William Sherman, and allow for the alternate spellings and not allow for Willis to be selected, the inquiry is written as (sherman, OR shearman OR scherman,) AND (will OR wm OR bill) NOT willis. Multiple name searches usually take from 30-60 seconds, depending on the complexity. FileLocatoPro can search for a whole family at one time using multiple spellings and nick names for all family members.

The new index files created by our indexers and edited by me are converted to MicroSoft-Tabs format and added to the HSGS's office database, where the FileLocatoPro search engine is used for searching. Both patrons and staff can use the search engine in our office.

Patrons can also purchase all of the HSGS indexes on one CD from HSGS for $10.00, postpaid in USD. They can use the Microsoft search engine for single name searches or purchase a Boolean type search engine like FileLocatorPro identified for multiple name searches if desired.

In addition, duplicate index files are converted to a ASCI text format and added to our Internet web site http://www.usgwarchives.org/mi/iosco/3501hsgs.htm. This web site provider offers free access to our indexes via the Internet and which can be searched using the Michigan Gen Web proprietary search engine.

The above is not intended to be an explanation on how to operate the system. If you desire to know more contact the writer of this paper to obtain a detailed write-up or to make an appointment to visit our location for a demonstration.

Refer all questions To:

Alonzo J Sherman, Database Manager
Huron Shores Genealogical Society
c/o Robert J Parks Public Library
6010 N Skeel Ave
Oscoda MI 48750
989-739-9581, shermsherma@hotmail.com
or huronshoresGS@yahoo.com

Postscript. We are currently experimenting with merging files from adjacent history and genealogy societies into one regional database. To date it appears very workable when using the FileLocatorPro search engine subject to the limits of computer speed and storage capacity. Searching could be done for the whole database, or just specified parts of it if desired. A search could be done by using keywords in normal textual presentations for places things and events for historical indexes, or structured (surname, comma, space given name etc) as is common for Genealogical indexes.

If you, as a new or renewing member, would be willing and able to hold an office, work on a committee, or help with indexing materials, HSGS would appreciate your help very much. You may indicate your area of expertise and/or interest on the following membership form. We will be happy to contact you about your interest in helping.

Thank you!

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION   NEW _ _ _ _   RENEWAL _ _ _ _ _

$10 per year $12 per year with mailed newsletter

Make checks payable to: Huron Shores Genealogical Society

DATE: _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _   PHONE: _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ E-MAIL: _

NAME: _

ADDRESS: _

CITY: _   STATE: _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ ZIP+4: _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

What is your level of genealogical experience? (circle one):   Beginner   Intermediate   Advanced

Do you use computer software to manage your genealogy?   No
   If yes, list the software
           you use: _

Send this completed form and and your check if appropriate to:

Huron Shores Genealogical Society

% Robert J. Parks Library

6010 Skeel Ave, Oscoda, MI 48750-1577

WEB LINKS

Treasure Maps Genealogy - Genealogy and family Tree how-to help, since 1995

http://www.amberskyline.com/treasuremaps/

A barrel of genealogy links on **Genealogy Today**
Four categories: Original barrel, Civil War, Family oriented, Commercial

http://www.genealogytoday.com/barrel/

Cemetery Searches in Detroit, MI - These sites have grave search capability

Woodmere Cemetery

http://www.woodmerecemeteryresearch.com/records.php

Mt. Elliott, Mt Olivet, Resurrection, All Saints, Guardian Angel, The Preserve

http://mtelliott.com/genealogy