

Let us give thanks..



**INDEXERS ARE THE GENEALOGIST'S BEST FRIENDS**

**HSGS Web Site.** <[www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/mi/iosco/3501hsgs.htm](http://www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/mi/iosco/3501hsgs.htm)> is the address for our HSGS's indexes on the Internet. The search engine for this site, or all of Michigan or any of the other Michigan's counties is [www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/mi/search.htm](http://www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/mi/search.htm). We currently have 1,163 indexes, 27,923 printed pages, and 1,232,769 name citations indexed: If indexes were printed out they would be 9 feet tall and weight 284 pounds. All these files are on HSGS's master file on our computers external drive, & the CD we sell, but only about 94% are on the web site (does not include new indexes within the last month, draft indexes not yet finished, & a some random data corrections). The status of our master indexes & CD follows:

Master Index Status	Nov	Dec	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
On the web, current	877	891	904	928	979	994	1009	1021	1057	1063	1081
On the web, out dated	54	54	54	54	31	30	30	30	30	30	30
New, not sent to web	13	13	20	24	16	7	11	13	6	18	22
Future, being edited	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7
Future, partially done	36	36	37	38	38	38	23	22	23	23	23
<b>Totals</b>	<b>987</b>	<b>1001</b>	<b>1022</b>	<b>1051</b>	<b>1071</b>	<b>1076</b>	<b>1080</b>	<b>1093</b>	<b>1123</b>	<b>1141</b>	<b>1163</b>

HSGS member and Vice-president Dan Stock is HSGS's Web Master and places our indexes directly on our USGENWEB web site.

**New Indexes Added This Month:**

- Oscoda Army Air Field History Apr 1944 – Jul 1944. By Alonzo J Sherman of Oscoda MI.
- Oscoda Army Air Field History Aug 1944 – Apr 1945. By Alonzo J Sherman.
- Grant Township School: 1910. By Alonzo Sherman.
- Carlson Photo Collections #1 & #2. By Alonzo Sherman.
- Herald 1935(02), 1935(03), 1935(04) & 1935(05). By Joan Doerr, Gettysburg PA.
- Warbers: 1966(12), 1967(01), 1972(12), 1973(01), 1973(02), & 1973(03). By Jim Farrand of National City MI.
- Warblers: 1977(09), 1977(10), 1977(11), 1977(12), 1978(02), 1978(03), & 19878(04). By Barbara Johnson of Eden Prairie MN.

**New Files Scanned this Month by Alonzo Sherman:**

- Oscoda Army Air Field History Apr 1944 – Jul 1944.
- Oscoda Army Air Field History Aug 1944 – Apr 1945.
- Burleigh Township Property: 1908.
- Grant Township School: 1910.
- Warblers: 1961(09), 1961(10), 1961(11), 1961(12), 1963(01), 1963(09), 1963(10), 1963(11), 1966(12), 1967(01) & 1968(09), 1972(12), 1973(04), 1973(06), 1973(09), 1973(10), 1973(11), 1973(12), 1975(09), 1977(03), 1977(04), 1977(05), 1977(06), 1977(10), 1977(12).

**HSGS's Treasurers Report:** Savings \$1,251.93, Checking \$804.74, cash \$2.00, = Total \$2,094.67.

**Wanted.** A copy of the HSGS Newsletter for November 2004.

**Glass Negatives.** The joint agreement HSGS had with the Iosco County Historical Society to scan their glass negative file has been canceled by them. They have a new president and are seeing things in a new way. Recent word from the streets indicates they may let HSGS scan them in a few months.

**Wireless Internet.** This is scheduled to be available in the Parks Public Library September 27<sup>th</sup> 2007. It is here now,

**HSGS is moving into separate room in the Parks Public Library.** We will have slightly more book shelves, but the other aspects of space is about the same. The new room will give us much more privacy than sitting in an open room adjacent to five public Internet computers and the library desk. Room is ready except for new carpet.

**Harvest Your Ancestors 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Workshop.** The Huron Shores Genealogical Society held their 3<sup>rd</sup> annual workshop/open house on Saturday, October 27, 2007 at the Parks Public Library. Attending were over 20 persons interested in finding their roots, several from out of town who happened to see the information on the workshop and decided to attend. Attendees were beginners to advanced family historians.

Alonzo Sherman was the introductory speaker, sharing his research story on a Smith family traced back through the American Revolution. Al has used all of the available sources including the emerging DNA resources to piece together this family from the early 1700's to the present.

Donnie Boursaw was the featured speaker. A family history researcher for over 35 years, she is the librarian for the Family History Center in West Branch, MI. Her opening message to everyone was to be proud of our ancestors. Regardless of who or what they were, they are the reason we are here today. They made our lives possible!

Donnie then took the group on a virtual tour of the changes and new offerings of the LDS Family Search web site and what is now available to Family History Center visitors. The web site will have a new look in 2008. The LDS church is proceeding with a huge project to index and digitize their entire collection held in the vaults in Salt Lake City. The indexing is being done by thousands of volunteers all over the world on their home computers. These records will eventually be available free on the Family Search web site.

There are also new partnerships with the Family History Centers are organizations such as Heritage Quest, World Vital Records, Foot Note, National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), The Godfrey Memorial Library, and Kindred Konnections. This is just the beginning of what the Family Search web site and the Family History Centers will have to offer genealogists in the years to come. It's an exciting time and a long way from the when, not many years ago, the only way anyone had access to these records was to visit the library in Utah or spend hours on the phone or writing lots and lots of letters. (Judy Sheldon Greenbush, MI: Member of Huron Shores Genealogical Society).

**TRAINING AVAILABLE (One Time Events):**

<b>Year/Mo/Day</b>	<b>Description/Location/Contact</b>
2007/11/24 Sat	Traditional vs Computer Based Genealogy: Not Either/Or, but Both. 1:30pm in the Explorer's Room at the Detroit Public Library.

**OTHER TRAINING:**

- Individual Training Schedule (Recurring), see p10 of February 2005 Newsletter.
- Individual Training Schedule (By Appointment), see p11 of February 2005 Newsletter.
- Training Courses Online, see p11 of February 2005 Newsletter.

**SOME USEFUL GENEALOGICAL INTERNET ADDRESSES:**

See June 2005 Newsletter. Prepared by Judy Sheldon. Please notify us at judesheldon@yahoo.com of any broken links or links you think should be added to this list. If you have any updates please let us know, as we will publish an updated list in the next few months.

**HURON SHORES GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY ACTIVE MEMBERS:**

C/o Robert J Parks Public Library, 6010 N Skeel Ave, Oscoda MI 48750, and Phone 989-739-9581. The Library is open Mon, Fri & Sat 9:00am-5:00pm & Tue-Wed-Thur 9am-8:00pm (HSGS member available by chance or appointment). HSGS meetings are 5:30 3rd Thursday of Jan, Apr, and Jul & Oct in the "Different Blend Coffee Shop," 513 W Bay St (US-23), East Tawas MI. Officers, active project leaders and indexers are listed below:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Current Projects</b>	<b>Phone &amp; E-mail</b>
Anschuetz, Greta L	Transcribing the 1970s Herald	215-694-9332, <gretala80@yahoo.com>
Birnbaum, Charles	Iosco County Death Indexes, News Herald Index, Saginaw News Obits	989-362-5994 <Birnbaumcr@hotmail.com>
Carraway, Marianne	WAFB Newspaper 1955-1993	989-739-9569 <mcarraway@charter.mi.net>
Daniels, Lugene	Burleigh Twp Farming etc. Secretary in 2008	989-756-3852
Doerr, Joan	Tawas Herald Newspaper Index	410-461-1407 <JoanDoerr@hotmail.com>
Donaldson, James	Assists, With His Oscoda Press Collection	313-835-2440 <ab6943@wayne.edu>
Farrand, Jim	Transcribing the Warblers	989-469-2308 <farrand@chartermi.net>

Name	Current Projects	Phone & E-mail
Gervais, Eileen	Transcribing the Warblers	989-469-3524
Johnson, Barbara	Transcribing the Warblers	952-934-7797, < <a href="mailto:bjohnson@edenpr.org">bjohnson@edenpr.org</a> >
MacMurray, Jim	Tawas School Yearbooks	330-824-34230 <a href="mailto:jimm14@aol.com">jimm14@aol.com</a>
Petee, Bonnie	Transcribing various records	810-636-9348 < <a href="mailto:gypsy2@chartermi.net">gypsy2@chartermi.net</a> >
Sheldon, Judy	Treasurer & Secretary in 2007 Secretary in 2008	989-739-5497 < <a href="mailto:judesheldon@yahoo.com">judesheldon@yahoo.com</a> >
Sherman, Alonzo	Librarian/Publications/Indexes.	989-739-3650 < <a href="mailto:shermanaj@hotmail.com">shermanaj@hotmail.com</a> >
Stock, Dan	Vice-president & web master	989-739-4239 < <a href="mailto:etts95@yahoo.com">etts95@yahoo.com</a> >
Stonehouse, Naomi	President	989-362-8187 < <a href="mailto:alvene2000@yahoo.com">alvene2000@yahoo.com</a> >
Summers, Leona	Oscoda Press Index	989-724-6510 <none>

### **HISTORY OF THE HURON SHORES GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

See March 2006 Newsletter.

### **MICHIGAN MANUALS FOR SALE**

See June 2007 issue.

### **FOR-FEE-RESEARCHERS**

#### 1. **Iosco County Michigan:**

- **Naomi Stonehouse**, 111 5<sup>th</sup> Ave, Tawas City Michigan 48763, 989-362-8187, [alvena2000@yahoo.com](mailto:alvena2000@yahoo.com).
- **Jean Dudley**, 4591 Deep River Rd, Standish MI 48658, 989-846-4653, [defdudley@eJourney.com](mailto:defdudley@eJourney.com).
- **Iosco County News-Herald**, 110 W State St, POB 72, East Tawas MI 48730, 989-362-3456. Reportedly published articles can be purchased for \$5.00 per page plus postage.

#### 2. **Arenac County Michigan:**

- **Jean Dudley**, 4591 Deep River Rd, Standish MI 48658, 989-846-4653, [defdudley@eJourney.com](mailto:defdudley@eJourney.com).
- **Arenac County Historical Society & Museum**, 304 E Michigan Ave, Au Gres MI 48703, 989-876-6399.

#### 3. **Other Michigan Counties:** Inquire at the Library of Michigan for a list of for-fee-researchers, 717 Allegan St, Box 30007, Lansing MI 48909, 517-373-1580.

#### 4. **Allen County Public Library at Fort Wayne IN.**

- Betty Thomas, 306 Mabry Cv, Fort Wayne IN 46825-1123

## HSGS's Indexers Roll Of Honor

See June 2007 issue.

From the Front page of the

# Bay City Times

Monday, 29 October 2007

# Digging for roots

Iosco genealogy society garners attention  
for its extensive index of 1.3 million names



By **HELEN LOUNSBURY**

hlounsbury@bc-times.com | 450-9994

OSCODA – With 75 genealogical societies active across Michigan, Iosco County's "Huron Shores" group is smaller than most, in membership and treasury.

But the dwarf Huron Shores Genealogical Society has created a family history Goliath that's second to none in Michigan, devoted researchers say. That giant is an electronic index. To date, the volume catalogues 1.3 million local names and directs where to find the referenced name for fuller information.

### TAKE A LOOK

To use the Huron Shores Genealogical Society indexes online, visit [www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/mi/iosco/3501hsgs.htm](http://www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/mi/iosco/3501hsgs.htm).

The index contains 1.3 million names in 28,000 pages.

The society is housed at the Robert J. Parks Public Library, at the former Wurtsmith Air Force Base in Oscoda. For information, call (989) 739-9581.

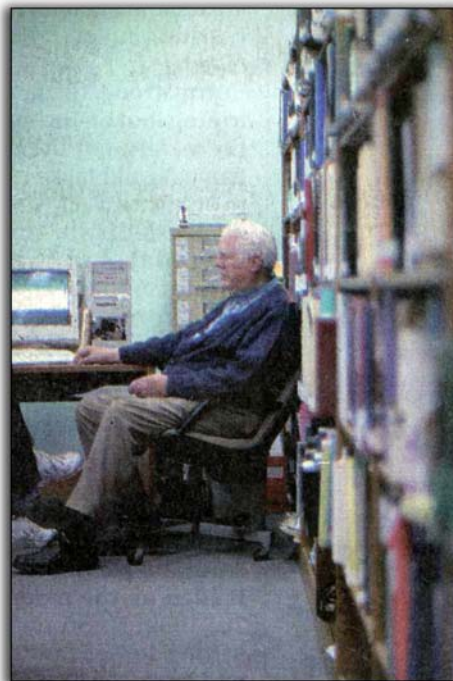
If the society were to publish its roll – compiled over 20 years by volunteers reading every church, cemetery, census, military, school, newspaper and courthouse record they can grab – the 28,000-page volume would stand 9 feet tall, librarians say.

"There's not another county in the state that has indexes like theirs," says Donnie Boursaw, a noted Michigan genealogist and a librarian for the Church of the Latter Day Saints' Family History Center in West Branch. "They get inquiries from all over the world.

"The name of the game in genealogy is to fill in the blanks," Boursaw continues. "The indexes they've created give people the pathway to fill in the blanks."

See **GENEALOGY, 2A**

**More to add:** Alonzo Sherman, who researches records for the Huron Shores Genealogical Society, views documents presented to him by Judy Sheldon, the group's treasurer.



**Book marker:** Sherman sits in his usual spot at the Robert J. Parks Public Library in Oscoda, where he often can be found doing research for the Huron Shores Genealogical Society.

# Page 2

## GENEALOGY society gamers national attention for extensive index

### FROM 1A

Huron Shores created the index one name at a time, pouring over thousands of historical documents.

"Do you know how time-consuming, how tedious indexing is?" Boursaw asks. "You go blind doing it. You get back aches. What they've done is remarkable."

The Iosco County society honed its indexing focus nearly 20 years ago – five years after its 1982 formation. As a start-up society, members decided to accumulate a library of genealogy resources as its first priority.

After an unremarkable outcome, members sat down to discuss what more the society could do given its limited labor and resource, recalls Alonzo Sherman of Oscoda.

"We had a champagne appetite and a beer budget," explains Sherman, a retired military intelligence data keeper. "So we decided to make indexing our focus – to focus on that back 1 percent of a book rather than the whole book."

By doing that, Huron Shores became a valuable compass for anyone, even those with champagne appetites, tracing Iosco ancestries.

"People used to have to travel here if they wanted to do research," Sherman adds. "Now they can do it from home, anywhere in the world."

By adopting indexing,

Huron Shores creates a two-step process for the researcher. Genealogists still must contact the society to request copies of records referenced in the index.

But such inquiries, in turn, generate revenue for Huron Shores. Sherman charges \$4 for each request he mails to researchers.

"It's wonderful to be able to tap Iosco County genealogy information from home," says Joan Doerr of Gettysburg, Pa., whose family on both sides springs from Iosco County. "Their index really is a gold mine."

Doerr, 59, is also among the Iosco society's small but dedicated indexing work force. She has spent eight years extracting names from the defunct "Tawas Herald" newspaper. Starting with 1892, the retired Fortune 500 company researcher has worked her way up to 1935, recording every name in each Herald issue.

"Old newspapers read like social columns," Doerr adds. "I get flesh and blood details about people that I can't get from vital records."

"It's the difference," she concludes, "between seeing a picture of a deceased family member and watching a movie of them. A picture tells you something, but a movie fleshes out the whole person."

It's through volunteers like Doerr that Huron Shores indexes grow and keep grow-

ing. The society's present cadre of 12 active indexers comes from eight states, members say. All share one quality – ancestry in Iosco County.

The hard work has paid off as the society landed a deal with rootsweb.com – among the genealogy world's best known Web sites – to host its indexes free of charge.

Users of the Web site quickly give praise to the Huron Shores data.

"Your information is the most complete and extensive of any county on rootsweb.com," a patron from Kansas e-mailed the Iosco group. "Your work is impeccable even when compared to professional, pay sites, and I just felt that I had to say something."

Another hobbyist from Oakland, Calif., echoed the sentiment.

"I feel truly fortunate to have relatives from Iosco County!" he e-mailed. "Let me thank you not only for your quick response to my earlier request, but also for the tremendous amount of information (Huron Shores) shares online. None of the (communities) I've researched come close to what you have given me."

The public library system serving Iosco recognizes Huron Shores' value as well. In 1993, library directors invited the society to move into the Oscoda branch free of charge.

"We wouldn't have the

money or manpower to do" the indexing they've done," says Iosco-Arenac District Library Director Stephanie Mallak Olson. "By giving them building space, they allow us to add their considerable resource to ours. And they give us a place to refer all our inquiries of genealogical nature."

Naomi Stonehouse of Tawas City was one such inquirer six years ago. She showed up at the society's library location after her brother and mother had tried tracing a family member but came up empty-handed.

"I thought I'd be searching for a needle in a haystack," Stonehouse recalls. "But the index, it told me exactly where to find records and articles on people. I can't imagine the hours and hours it saved me."

Nor has Stonehouse finished her quest for family history. Her inquiry left her so intrigued she started researching the families that pioneered the townships of her ancestors. Two years ago, she published a book, "Pioneers and Early Settlers of Grant and Reno Townships."

"I couldn't leave all those people and their stories untold," says Stonehouse, now Huron Shores president and an indexer herself. "Now I know why they say indexes are a genealogist's best friend. Without indexes, I'd still be at square one searching for clues."