



# HURON SHORES GENOGRAM

## Oscoda, Michigan

### HSGS SPRING PROGRAM WELL-ATTENDED

By Lugene Daniels

Despite the abundant sunshine and perfect 75-degree temperature outside, 24 eager genealogists preferred to be inside learning about “The Land Gives Up Names,” the HSGS spring program.

The event was held at the Parks Library in Oscoda on Saturday June 7, and Kris Rzepczynski from the Archives of Michigan was the guest speaker. The program was divided into two sessions.

The first session was on the Michigan Rural Property Inventory survey. Conducted by enumerators employed by the Works Progress Administration after the Great Depression, this survey of rural properties is a wealth of information for the family historian. The survey, conducted from 1935 to 1941, discloses all sorts of information about a rural property, such as type of house, when built, number of rooms, dimensions of rooms, and layout. Also, one will find out about the out buildings on the property, the crops grown, the style of fencing, and much, much more.

For the best results, one should have a property description to obtain the survey at the Archives. If you are a family historian and have never checked out this great resource, please do so at the Michigan Archives in Lansing. The Archives are open Monday through Friday from 1 to 5 p.m. and on Saturday from 10 am to 4 p.m.

The afternoon session was about the Homestead Act of 1862. Like the Michigan Rural Property Inventory, the information revealed in an application for homestead is also very valuable to the genealogist. The Homestead Act has been called the most important act for the welfare of the people ever passed in the US. More than 270 million acres were transferred to individuals after homesteading, which is about 10% of all land in the US. Homesteaders had to live on the property for five years before the transfer and had to show (by application) that improvements were continually made to the property. It is those applications that



Photo courtesy of Lugene Daniels

### HSGS Genealogical Meetings and Events

#### July

- 17 HSGS Business meeting, A Different Blend Coffee House, East Tawas, MI 5:30
- 18-19 Abrams Genealogy Seminar, Lansing, MI

#### September

- 7 Civil War Veterans Walk Clayton Township Cemetery 2:00 pm
- 11 MGC Delegate Meeting, Lansing, MI

#### October

- 11 HSGS Fall Event - Irish Research
- 16 HSGS Business meeting, A Different Blend Coffee House, East Tawas, MI 5:30

expose how the family lived. These land entry files and applications are available at the National Archives in Washington, DC and may be ordered online.

Without a doubt, land records are a significant treasure for the family historian. Personally, I do not believe that one's story is not complete without detailed information about where one lived and how one lived. The Michigan Rural Property Inventory and the Homestead Act tells the researcher all of that!

**Join Us at our  
October Workshop on  
“Irish Research”  
Watch for details on  
our Facebook Page**

## CLAYTON TOWNSHIP HONORS 4 CIVIL WAR VETS

By Lugene Daniels



On Saturday May 31, nearly 150 people attended the Headstone Dedication honoring four Civil War veterans at the Clayton Township Cemetery in Arenac County. As sunshine and lilac fragrances blessed this burying ground on this glorious day, family and friends enjoyed this terrific community event.

The Sons of the Union Veterans of Civil War, USGrant Post #67, from Bay City, and as pictured conducted and re-enacted the actual ceremony bestowed upon fallen Civil War soldiers.

The four soldiers that were honored with a new military headstone were:

## LUTHER HOUGHTON JOHNSON

Luther Houghton Johnson was born on 26 September 1826 in Wellsville, Allegany County, New York. Johnson was part of Co I 160<sup>th</sup> Regiment of the New York Volunteers, where he served for three years. Johnson was twice married and fathered four children.

Luther Johnson was not a resident of Clayton Township in Arenac County when he died there on 13 January 1906. He was visiting his nephew, William H Lewis (also a Civil War Vet interred at Clayton), at the time of his death.

## GEORGE EWALT FISH

George Ewalt Fish was born on 16 December 1839 in Sparta, Lexington County, New York. At the start of the Civil War, Fish enlisted in November of 1861 in the 1<sup>st</sup> US Lancers Michigan Cavalry. This unit dissolved and Fish enlisted again; this time with the 7<sup>th</sup> Michigan Cavalry. Eventually he obtained the rank of Full Quarter Master Sargeant.

Around 1869, Fish and his family, along with the Isaac Clayton family, moved to the Melita area. At that time, this was Bay County. In 1870, Fish was among those who petitioned and applied for the establishment of a new township, which would become Clayton Township of Arenac County.

At 74 years of age, George E Fish died in Maple Ridge on 24 November 1913.

## ALVA SCOFIELD

Alva Scofield lived most of his life in Livingston County, Michigan, where he was born during September of 1841. However, he resided in Clayton Township late in life, and that is how he came to be buried there.

In August of 1861 Alva Scofield enlisted in Company I of the 5<sup>th</sup> Michigan Infantry. Later he was part of Company K of the same regiment.

Scofield married three times. He was laid to rest beside his third wife, Mary Ann, in the LaBounty family plot of the Clayton Township Cemetery. He was about 83 years of age when he died on 3 April 1925.

## CHARLES HAMLIN

Charles Hamlin was born in Stark County, Ohio on 10 April 1845. He was not yet 18 years of age when he enlisted at Alliance, Ohio in Company K of the 115<sup>th</sup> Ohio Volunteer Infantry on 13 February 1863.

On 1 September 1870, Charles Hamlin married Zelpha Rosell Sebrell in Lexington, Stark County, Ohio. In 1880 the family moved to Arenac County and settled on an 80-acre farm in the southwest quadrant of section 27 of Clayton Township in the Melita area.

Later in life, he built a home in Sterling in Deep River Township. It was here that he died on 22 July 1930.

## FamilySearch/WorldCat Integrate

More than 1 million FamilySearch materials are now at WorldCat ([www.worldcat.org](http://www.worldcat.org)), the world's largest multi-library catalogue. Links to WorldCat resources are now also on FamilySearch.

FamilySearch records added to WorldCat include large collections of vital records from all over the world.

Any digitized records link back to FamilySearch.org where they can be viewed online. Film records can be requested from FamilySearch to satellite FamilySearch Centers (Family History Centers). FamilySearch library catalog results link to corresponding WorldCat records to help users find other libraries with the item.

## MEET OUR NEW VICE-PRESIDENT



My name is Lindsey Russell and as the new vice-president of Huron Shores Genealogical Society, I want to take a minute to introduce myself. I grew up in Arenac County, Michigan, Omer in particular, and am currently going back to school at Saginaw Valley State University to obtain my teaching certificate in order to teach

Spanish and/or social studies at the middle school or high school level. When I am not studying, I work throughout the school year as a substitute teacher, read, write, and spend time with family. Summers are extremely busy as I work full-time in the family business: Russell Canoe Livery and Campgrounds. My brother Garrett Russell and I plan on purchasing the business from our parents in the near future.

Ultimately I hope to have the opportunity to teach American history at the high school level one day. My interest in genealogy grew out of my love of history. I get particularly excited when I discover a piece of family history that fits in particularly well with what I know about American history and adds a personal touch to a larger historical story. Thanks to my involvement with HSGS, I've uncovered details about my maternal grandmother's family that helped me more fully understand just how far back the teaching tradition in my mother's family goes, as well as a relative on that side of the family that can assist me in my research. I'm looking forward to being an active member of HSGS for many years to come.

### CLAYTON TOWNSHIP CEMETERY CIVIL WAR VETERANS WALK

Lugene Daniels and Sandra Bowen are planning to have a walk co-hosted by the Huron Shores Genealogical Society and the Arenac County Historical Society honoring the 16 Civil War veterans buried in the Clayton Township Cemetery on September 7 starting at 2:00 p.m. Stories relating to the veterans will be read

by descendants of the veterans and members of the sponsoring organizations.

If the weather should be really inclement on the 7th, the event will be rescheduled for the next Sunday Sept 14.

***Superintendents. of the Poor***  
***Part II: Poor Farm and Infirmary***  
 By Alenzo Sherman

The Iosco County Superintendents of the Poor purchased a farm in 1871 to be used as the county poor farm. It contained 320 acres and was located on the south one-half of Section 10 of Tawas Township on the north side of West Spartan Road, between Plank and Kobs roads.

After the original farmhouse burned down in October 1871, the superintendents renovated an old log house near the east end of the farm. Sometime around 1900, a new house was built, now located at 1284 W. Spartan. These houses became known as the poor house.

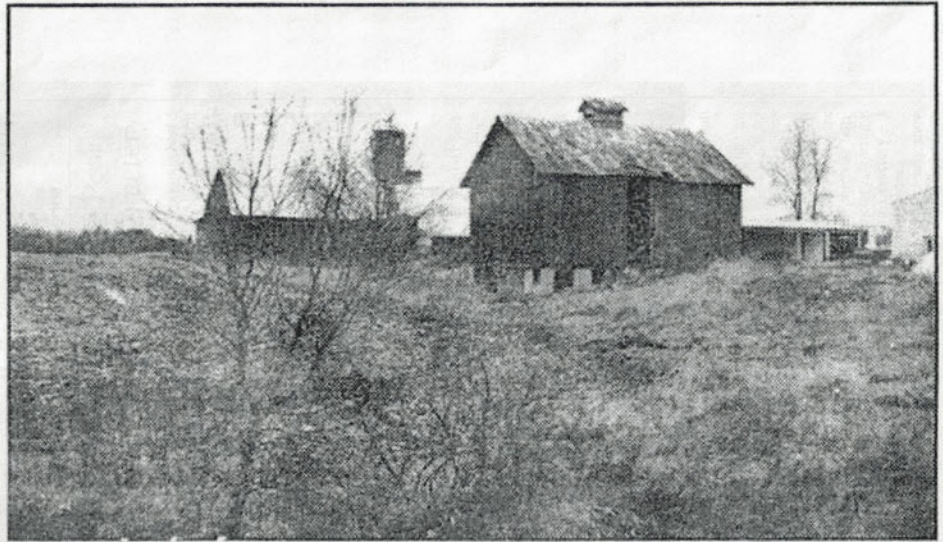
All the standing pine timber on the farm was sold in 1874. After some land was cleared in 1876, the county solicited bids for someone to rent the farm and work it on shares. Rent was \$500 per year and the county got one-fourth of the crops.

The county solicited bids in 1879 for a Keeper of the Poor, who was required to be a farmer, have a wife and a team of horses. The Keeper of the Poor was paid \$500 per year to operate the farm, in addition to his pay for caring for the inmates, which was weekly \$3.75 for an adult, \$3 for a child of 3-10 years, \$2 for a child less than three years and \$1 for a child less than three years with her mother.

The Keeper of the Poor was directed to furnish good wholesome food consisting of potatoes, bread, onions, cabbage, tea, sugar, coffee, beans, butter, syrup and rice, and to also furnish fresh meat or mutton twice a week. At least twice a week, on the days that fresh meat was not furnished, the keeper was to provide fresh beef or mutton soup. Meals were served at 7 a.m., noon and 5 p.m.

Various records indicate that the county provided a barber, who came to the poor-farm and cut the inmates' hair. The

county also furnished a doctor, who made calls to the poor farm to care for the inmates. Chewing tobacco was purchased for the men and snuff for the women.



*Photo by Michael L. Burns*  
**Two old barns are all that remain of the former Iosco County Poor Farm Infirmary, now in private ownership.**

There were no records found that indicate what, if any, work was required of the inmates on the farm. However, on poor farms in other counties and the one this author visited in the 1940s, inmates able to work were required to work.

A journal kept by the Keeper of the Poor for 1874-1893 is now located in the Iosco County Register of Deeds Office, an index to which was published by the Huron Shores Genealogical Society in 2004.

The journal contains information on about 200 inmates, listing name, age, sex, residence, date admitted, cause of pauperism, date discharged and cause of discharge, along with notations if blind, mute, epileptic, idiotic or insane. The age of inmates from 1874-1893 ranged from eight to 87 years of age and there were individuals, as well as families. Apparently, there was a journal kept after 1893, but the location is unknown.

Continued on page 6

## **Lizzie Braun**

**15 Oct 1866 – 3 May 1899**

By Lugene Daniels

Before considerable research, very little was known about Lizzie BRAUN, or her husband, Thomas J BRAUN, who obviously bought this impressive monument to mark her grave at the Reno Township Cemetery to celebrate her life.

A brief death notice for Lizzie was printed in the "Whittemore News" column of the Tawas Herald, dated May 5, 1899: *Mrs T J BROWN died Wednesday morning of inflammation of the bowels. Funeral was held Friday from the M E Church, under the auspices of the L O T M, of which she was a member.*

Thomas J BRAUN was enumerated in the 1910 federal census in Burleigh Township of Iosco County. Thomas J, age 36, a widower, was born in Michigan in July of 1863. He listed his occupation as a jeweler. Living with him were three children, all the result of the union between Thomas J and Lizzie Braun. A son, Harvey, age 14, was born in June of 1886 and attended school. A daughter, Myrtle, age 7, was born in May of 1893. The youngest daughter, Florence, age 1, was born in June of 1898. Also living with the family was Sophia BRAUN, age 18, who was listed as a sister to Thomas J. Sophia listed her occupation as a dressmaker.

Obviously, after the passing of Lizzie, Sophia came to live with her brother to help him care for the young children. The youngest child, Florence, was only eleven months old when her mother died.

Thomas J and Sophia BRAUN were probably the offspring of Joseph and Mary Sophia BRAUN, who can be found in the 1870 and 1880 federal censuses for Cass City, Brookfield Township, Huron County, Michigan. Joseph and Mary Sophia ventured to the US from Germany, or Bavaria, as oftentimes referred in census reports. Other siblings on these census



**Lizzie**, written as such on the tombstone, is definitely unusual. Exactly why her given name was inscribed as such is anyone's guess. That is the LOTM (Ladies of the Maccabees) symbol above her name. The LOTM was the female counterpart to the Maccabees. It became a national auxiliary in 1892 and was known as the supreme hive, hence the beehive within the symbol.

records to Thomas J and Sophia were John, Christon or Christiana (female), Catherine, and Joseph.

A marriage record for Thomas J BRAUN and Elisa BAKER was found in Kent County, Michigan, recorded sometime between 1883 and 1886. The record was located in Book 8, Page 96.

[Continued on page 6](#)

## LizziE Braun continued from page 5

After the death of Lizzie, Thomas J BRAUN left losco County and by 1910 he resided on First Avenue in St Maries, Kootenai County, Idaho. He owned a barber shop and worked as a barber. Living with him were his daughters, Myrtle, age 16, and Florence, age 12. A widowed sister, listed as May GRAVES, age 38, also lived with them. She worked as a cook in a hotel. A boarder, Willias A BEARNWALL, age 28, worked as a truck operator.

For the 1920 census, Thomas J BRAUN can be found in Wenatchee, Chelan County, Washington. He had a wife, Pearl, and still worked as a barber and owned a barber shop.

A death record for Thomas J BRAUN has not been located.

The three children of Lizzie and Thomas J BRAUN moved away from Michigan.

Harvey, the eldest, claimed his birth date as June 7, 1885 and his birthplace as Nashville, Michigan on a WWII registration for the draft. He worked as a station agent for the Southern Pacific Railroad Company and resided in Niles, Washington Township, Alameda County, California. Sometime around 1910 he married a woman named Mary, who had a son by

the name of Edward WARGIN, born around 1893. Harvey and Mary also birthed a daughter, named Florence Marie, sometime during 1928. Harvey died in San Joaquin, California on September 20, 1968 at the age of 83.

A one-liner was printed in the "Whittemore News" of the Tawas Herald dated August 9, 1901: *Harvey Braun can run pretty fast---you bet!*

Myrtle BRAUN was born on May 15, 1893. Around 1912 she married Frank A McGOWAN (born in Canada in 1886). Undoubtedly, the couple was probably married in Idaho. For the 1920 census, the couple resided in St Maries, now in Benewah County, Idaho. Frank was a brakeman for the railroad. They had two sons, Michael J, age 5 years and 9 months, and John P, age 2 years and 9 months. By 1930, the family had relocated to Washington Township, Alameda County, California. Frank worked as a carpenter. John P was the only son listed on the census record, and he was age 12 at the time.

Research surrounding Florence BRAUN resulted in few findings. However, she was baptized in Burleigh Township and has a birthdate of June 27, 1897. Her parents are listed as Thomas and Lizzie BRAUN on her baptismal record.

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 Poor Farm continued from page 4

A new 120-acre farm was purchased in 1921, also in Tawas Township in Section 20, located on the north side of M-55, west of Lorenz Road, It was called the County Infirmary and expanded to 160 acres by the 1930s to include the complete southeast quarter of Section 20 of Tawas Township. The infirmary was closed during the late 1930s, after Social Security was implemented.

Aerial photos taken of the poor farm in 1938 show one old house, old farm buildings, an orchard and the cemetery, which was grown over with brush. Aerial photos taken 10 years later show a new house being built just west of the cemetery. Aerial photos from 1960 indicate everything

was about the same, except the new house was completed and the cemetery was about four times larger than before.

The infirmary buildings on M-55 burned down in 1972, except for two old barns, which are still there. Both the old and new poor farms are now privately owned. The Poor Farm Cemetery continues to be owned by losco County.

*This is the second in a series of three articles about how losco County dealt with its impoverished citizens prior to 1939. The final installment will be on the Poor Farm Cemetery.*

**Richard Sheldon of Alabaster,  
believed to be the first Sheldon living in Iosco County, MI.  
By Judy Sheldon**

Richard Sheldon was born April 1831 (about) in Ireland (possibly in Cork County). His birth year varies and could be as early as 1824 and as late as 1836. His parents are Jerry Sheldon and Ellen Hogan. The family story is that Richard was to go into the priesthood, but I guess this wasn't his first choice as he left home and came to the America when he was about 15. He may have lived in Canada for a while and settled in Michigan (the Pontiac area) in 1852. Tawas City became his home by 1856. The Homestead Act gave Richard the opportunity to acquire 160 acres in Alabaster Township. He had 80 acres on either side of what is now Keystone Rd. Jane Ann Bradley (1852-1919) became his wife 1 May 1865 In Tawas City, MI. They had 16 children between 1866 and 1894. Two of his children died when their home burnt in 1874. The home was rebuilt and the story goes that when National Gypsum purchased the property they sold the house and it was moved. Richard farmed his homestead until his death on 1 November 1908. Jane remained in the farm

house until her death in 1919. Many of his children married into the families of Tawas such as the Wilsons, the Coyles and the Klenows, many of whom still live in the area. Richard and Jane Ann are both buried in the Alabaster Cemetery.

An interesting aside is a note found in the pocket of a convicted killer, Henry B. Farrington, when his body washed ashore in Ontario, Canada. It read "Jimmy Bradley, you can have confidence in this man, any business that he may want you to perform. Jane A. Sheldon" We have no idea what, if any, connection Jane Ann had with Mr. Farrington.

This is the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Sheldon Family Association. They will be holding their annual reunion in Fort Wayne, IN, August 7-9, 2014. This is a great time to share with other Sheldon researchers and time to research in the Allen County Library. See <http://sheldonfamily.org> for more information.

**Surnames and Interests of members**

When each of you send in your membership dues we ask for surnames and/or interests you are researching. This information has in the past just been filed. We thought by publishing these interests in our newsletter others with similar interests could correspond with each other.

We have also posted a place on our Face Book Group to list surnames you are looking for.

Here is the second of a continuing listing of member surnames and interests:

| Member                     | Surnames of Interest   |
|----------------------------|--|
| Ellen McGillivray-Tallant: | McGillivray family   |
| Kathy DeWeerd:             | Lange, Dommer, Gaul, Lawitzke                                |
| Diane Brown:               | Hempel   |
| Yvette Jenks:              | Jenks  |
| Doug Washburn:             | Washburn, Ballard, Casler, Jarman, Reno Twp, Lumber business |
| Chuck Watson:              | LaBerge, St. Martin  |

If you would like to contact any of the above members, please send a message to our society and we will forward it on to the member so they can contact you.

**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 - Lindsey Russell  
 Secretary - Lugene Daniels  
 Treasurer - Daniel Stock  
 Database Manager - Alonzo Sherman

**Our Regular 2014 Meetings**

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

Our next meetings are:

|         |        |
|---------|--------|
| July 17 | Oct 16 |
|---------|--------|

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<br>and Thursday | 9:00 - 8:00 |

Please call ahead for an appointment (989.739.9581) if you would like to have the help of a genealogical assistant.

**Please visit our web site at: <http://www.huronshoresgs.org>**  
**And our Facebook page at: <http://www.facebook.com/HuronShoresGS>**  
**to learn more about us and to link to our many indexes and our archived newsletters.**

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 form. We will be happy to contact you about your interest in helping.

Thank you!

|                        |                                      |              |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION | NEW ____                             | RENEWAL ____ |
| \$10 per year          | \$15 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 your check if appropriate to:

Huron Shores Genealogical Society  
 % Robert J. Parks Library  
 6010 Skeel Ave, Oscoda, MI 48750-1577