



# HURON SHORES GENOGRAM

## Oscoda, Michigan

### HSGS "GOT IRISH" PROGRAM RECAP

By Judy Sheldon

The luck of the Irish looked down on Oscoda as 36 attendees listened to Cathy Cottone of Lyon Township, MI share presentation on Beginning Irish Research on April 16. Cathy covered various US records that might give a clue to the county or village in Ireland where the ancestor came from. She then discussed Irish records such as Griffiths Evaluation, Cancel Books, Valuation Maps and Tithe Applotment. Her handout listed these and many more, plus websites and recommended reading. To contact Cathy, email her at [ccottone@lyon.lib.mi.us](mailto:ccottone@lyon.lib.mi.us).

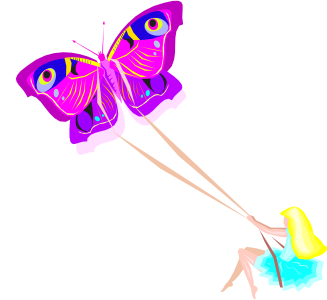


Cathy



Cathy showing Linda McCready, Rachael McCready, and Dale Harwood how to navigate the the Griffith's Valuation data base.

Photos courtesy of Lugene Daniels



### HSGS Genealogical Meetings and Events

#### July

- 8 MGC Delegate Meeting, Lansing, MI
- 8/9 Abrams Family History Seminar, Michigan Historical Center, Lansing, MI
- 21 HSGS Business meeting, Hsing's Garden Restaurant, East Tawas, MI 5:30

#### September

- 8 MGC Delegate Meeting, Frankenmuth, MI
- 18 Greenwood Cemetery Walk, East Tawas, MI 2:00

#### October

- 20 HSGS Business meeting, Hsing's Garden Restaurant, East Tawas, MI 5:30
- 22 DNA for Genealogy, Parks Library, Oscoda, MI 10:00 am

**Join Us at our  
October 22nd Workshop  
10:00 to 4:00  
"DNA Guide for Genealogy"  
Featuring Richard Hill**

## CHARLES R. BIRNBAUM

We are saddened to report the passing of long time member of our organization, **Charles R. Birnbaum** on Friday, May 27, 2016.

Charles was born in Saginaw on June 12, 1929. He attended Arthur Hill High School but joined the Air force in 1947 before graduating to serve during the Korean conflict. In 1958, Charles married Shirley Luite, the mother of his sons, Bradley and Stephen. On August 16, 1969 he married his loving and devoted wife, Patricia A. Arndt, the mother of his daughter, Vicki Ann Begick. He is survived by Patricia, Bradley and Stephen of Oklahoma and Vicki Ann of Bay City.

He spent the last several years researching his family history and that of many in Iosco county. Charles great grandparents moved to the Tawas area in 1870 and while doing his research he found he could trace relationships to many of the area families. He spent many hour at the Iosco County building working on this research. Charlie was also one of our more prolific indexers, one of the steps in our efforts to make information on families in our service area readily available to researchers. The Society and future generations will benefit immensely from these endeavors. Charlie and his contributions to the Society will be greatly missed.



### CHECK OUT THESE WEBSITES!

Caro, Michigan public library has digitized and placed on-line historic copies of The Tuscola County Advertiser (1868-1943). They have also put online local high school yearbooks for 1922-2006.

<http://caro.ploud.net/esshelf-research/digital-collection>

*(Editor's note - A search can locate the newspaper or yearbook with an item, but does not highlight it. Control F did not work well for me, so a page by page browse seems to be required to find the item.*

New York Civil War Units

<http://dmna.ny.gov/historic/reghist/civil/>

The Ancestor Hunt – Newspapers

Lots of newspaper links, tutorials and great information.

<http://www.theancestorhunt.com/newspapers.html>

Awesome Genealogy

Guides, common surnames, links to databases for the United States and other countries.

<http://awesomenealogy.com/>

### Family Tree Maker survives!

Ancestry.com has sold Family Tree Maker to MacKiev, a software company that wrote the Macintosh version. Check out <https://www.mackiev.com/familytreemaker/ftm3/faq.html> for the who, what where, when on changes, pricing and releasing of newer versions.

## A Surprise in Whittemore

By Judy Sheldon

I have been working on a friend's family tree for several years. One line of the family, Buchholz, has been in Detroit, MI since the first generation came over from Germany. Imagine my surprise when I discovered that one of his great-great uncles, Charles August Buchholz, had passed away in Whittemore, MI in 1967. My family contact had no idea why this man would have been in Whittemore. Why was he Up North? Was he visiting? Was he living with someone, but with whom?

My first thought was to look for a news article, either an obit or perhaps an accident report. There was nothing in the local papers. Checking the online family trees were also no help, all they had was his death date and place. I also discovered that he was buried in Tyler Street Cemetery, Van Buren Township, Wayne County, MI with his wife. I then contacted one of the owners of a tree that seemed to have a vast knowledge of the family, but this person was also in the dark as to why he would have been in Whittemore.

I didn't skip over the possibility that there might have been a Buchholz family living in the area. There had been a Buchholz family who settled in Tawas area in the 1880s who was from Germany. Julius Buchholz, 1857-1928, married Augusta Borovski in 1884 and they had at least four children. Unfortunately none of these fit in with the Buchholz family from Detroit.

So now I decided to get a copy of the death record. The county clerk was more than willing to sell me one! Now the story gets more interesting as he died in the McMillan Nursing Home in Whittemore. The informant was a son, Charles, who lived in Westland, MI, not Up North. Who put Charles August in the nursing home? Let's look at his children: William, Charles, Ethel and Willard. I could find no evidence that any of the sons had lived Up North, but what about Ethel? Who did she marry? This is the break through – Ethel married John Shaffer whose family owned property in Burleigh Township. By the 1950s the Shaffer's had moved from the Detroit area to Iosco County where they lived out their lives.

This is my guess at the end of the story, Charles August's wife, Emma, died in 1947, after a period of time he moved to Whittemore to live with his daughter and spent the last six months of his life in the nursing home before he died of cerebral hemorrhage at the age of 81.

Charles August Buchholz was born in 1885, Detroit, MI to Frederick Buchholz and Louisa Kirschke. He married Emma Liebenow in 1917 in Detroit, MI.

I have shared the above discoveries with the other family researchers, filling in a few holes in their lineage. A mystery solved!!!

## DNA with Richard Hill

October 22, 2016 at the Parks Library

We are excited to be able to present this program on DNA, as many of us have tested or plan to test and need guidance in interpreting the results.



Mr. Hill searched for years for his biological family, turning to various forms of DNA testing to further his search. He has created a web site [DNA-Testing-Advisor.com](http://DNA-Testing-Advisor.com), which makes genetic genealogy understandable to all. Mr. Hill has become the go-to person for adoptees, genealogists, and others seeking to find lost relatives or confirm suspected relationships. His book "*Finding Family: My Search for Roots and the Secrets in my DNA*" has had rave reviews and received the 2013 gold metal Global Ebook Award. In another of his books "*Guide to DNA Testing*", he describes and compares the major test types. Then he explains their purposes, strengths and limitations in a unique table that you will not find anywhere else.

We also have a special drawing prize for this event!

## Colonel John L BURLEIGH: Burleigh Township Namesake

By Lugene Daniels

While no one with the surname BURLEIGH ever lived in the township or owned land there, I wanted to know why our township was named as such. A couple written histories reported that the township was named for a senator, and since John L BURLEIGH was a state senator when the township was formed on 1 May 1877, it is logical to assume that he was the namesake. However, I wanted to find something to substantiate these early stories.

After countless hours of searching for the “real” story in old newspapers, I finally discovered this bit of information embedded on a full page of words in the Iosco County Gazette dated 20 September 1877.

*“An Elegant Present---A few days ago Supervisor A W RIKELY, of Burleigh Township, received a very elegant and costly flag, 30 feet long and 20 feet wide, which was presented to his township by Senator John L BURLEIGH, of Ann Arbor, after whom the township was named. This beautiful banner will soon be flung to the breeze from a fine liberty pole, and will be carefully preserved by the Burleighites, who are not only proud to become the recipients of so fine a present, but equally proud to have their township named in honor of so public spirited a man. We understand that Senator BURLEIGH also contemplated presenting the new township with a library at an early day, and congratulate the people over there upon their good fortune.”*

Knowing that my hunch was now fact, I proceeded to research a man that had captured my fascination.

John L BURLEIGH was born on 15 October 1842 in Cambridge, Middlesex County, Massachusetts. He was the only child of John Adams BURLEIGH and his wife, Mary LEMOINE. Supposedly, his ancestors were among the early settlers of New England. John L BURLEIGH received a common school education as

a youth in Berkshire County, Massachusetts and New York City, New York. While in New York City he also received education from a private tutor and worked as a clerk in a large mercantile house.

According to his military records, BURLEIGH was the first to sign the muster roll for the 17th New York Regiment when the Civil War erupted at Fort Sumter. He climbed the ranks of the military with rapid succession, and was promoted to Captain following his brave responses at the Hanover Court House battle on 27 May 1862 in Hanover County, Virginia. Captain BURLEIGH was wounded at the Second Battle of Bull Run on 30 August 1862 in Manassas, Virginia.

In 1863, John L BURLEIGH advanced to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel of the Seymour Light Infantry. However, due to injuries received from previous Civil War battles, he decided

to leave the military and pursue a business career in the East Indies.

For a few years, BURLEIGH traveled extensively throughout the world, as stated in a short biography of the man printed in 1878 in the *American Biographical History of Eminent and Self-Made Men, Michigan Volume*. In addition to his employment in the commission business in the East Indies, he enjoyed the sights and cultures of England, Ireland, France, Italy, and Egypt. In a passport application letter discovered on *Ancestry.com*, dated 30 June 1863, 21-year-old BURLEIGH is described as a man of blond complexion, with blue eyes, light hair, and whiskers. The passport listed his height as 5 feet 10.5 inches.

Around 1865, ill health issues provoked BURLEIGH to return in New York City, where he engaged in business until 1874.

On 27 June 1866, John L BURLEIGH married Mary Augusta SKILLIN, the

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eldest daughter of Simeon D and Sarah Amelia (THORNE) SKILLIN. The following marriage announcement was printed in the New York Times on 18 August 1866.

*“MARRIED. BURLEIGH-SKILLIN. At Trinity Chapel, on Wednesday, June 27, at 12 o’clock M, by Rev E B Russell, Rector of Grace Church, Albany. Col John L BURLEIGH to Mary Augusta, eldest daughter of Simeon D SKILLIN, all of this city.”*

At least three, and perhaps four, children were born to the union of John L and Mary Augusta BURLEIGH. Their only daughter, Minnie S BURLEIGH, was born on 29 August 1867. She was the only surviving heir of John L BURLEIGH when he died in 1909. Minnie lived her entire life on Long Island, namely Greenport. She traveled extensively throughout the world, as evidenced from her passport activity found on *Ancestry.com*. Minnie attended the Delaware Academy, as listed on the 1880 census. Her mother boarded at the academy while Minnie was a student there. By 1930, when the federal census was taken, Minnie was a patient in the Central Islip State Hospital in Islip, Suffolk County, New York. Minnie died at 75 years of age and her funeral was held on 20 March 1943 from the Holy Trinity Church in Brooklyn. Her body was interred at the Stirling Cemetery in Greenport.

John L BURLEIGH and his wife Mary Augusta brought forth a son, John Adams, on 20 September 1869. A son named John H BURLEIGH was buried in the SKILLIN Family Plot at the Greenwood Cemetery in Brooklyn, New York on 27 April 1874. Due to a lack of documentation, it is possible the John Adams and John H are the same person. More research is needed to substantiate this theory.

A second son, Walter Russell BURLEIGH was born in September 1871. He only lived one year and eleven months and was buried on 7 August 1873 in the SKILLIN plot with his maternal ancestors.

At the age of 32 years, John L BURLEIGH moved to Ann Arbor, Michigan, where he was admitted as a student at the University of Michigan Law School. While there, he entered the political

arena and moved in social circles in the Ann Arbor area. He graduated with a law degree in 1876.

Additionally, in 1876, BURLEIGH was nominated as a Democratic candidate for the mayor of Ann Arbor. Although flattered to receive the nomination, Burleigh withdrew his name from the race. Instead, he ran on the state senatorial Democratic ticket for the Fourth District, composed of Washtenaw County. Overwhelmingly, he won the race by edging out his Republican opponent, George S WHEELER, by 739 votes.

Colonel John L BURLEIGH was an active member of the Senate of the Legislative session of 1877-78 for Michigan. Without a doubt, BURLEIGH was instrumental in administering the separation of Burleigh Township from Alabaster Township in Iosco County during his term.

As a state senator, BURLEIGH was an earnest advocate for measures to purify politics, a champion for the cause of education, and a supporter of the interests of the laboring classes. During his short two-year term he served proudly and creditably on a variety of committees in the Senate, such as the Judiciary and Military Affairs, Claims and Public Accounts, Asylum for the Insane, Expiring Laws, and Engrossment and Enrollment of Bills. One of BURLEIGH’s famous quotes is *“Politics needs missionaries more than the heathen.”*

John L BURLEIGH developed and was editor of the *Ann Arbor Democrat*, a Democratic newspaper that was first published on 12 September 1878. The newspaper was a large eight-column publication that disclosed firm standards of Democratic beliefs and principles. In 1879 the *Ann Arbor Democrat* merged with the *Saline Standard* and BURLEIGH became partners with B Frank BOWER and Louis LEISEMER as publishers of the weekly chronicle for a short time.

Once again, due to ailing health, Colonel John L BURLEIGH returned to New York City during the mid-1880s. He resumed his profession as a lawyer in Brooklyn and held an office in the Garfield Building located at 26 Court Street

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## Burleigh, continued from page 5

in Brooklyn, New York. The seven-story Garfield Building served as an office building in the heart of the financial district of the city. It was built during the early 1860s and razed shortly after the end of WWI.

Also, throughout this adulthood, BURLEIGH was an actor. While living and working in New York City he participated, acted, and delivered prose and poetry from various stages.

Mary Augusta (SKILLIN) BURLEIGH, wife of John L, died on 4 September 1893. Although there are no documents that state the couple lived separate lives during their later years, many facts seem to point toward that theory. Mary A was buried with her parents and some siblings and her two sons in the SKILLIN Family Plot at the Greenwood Cemetery in Brooklyn.

John L BURLEIGH died in Brooklyn, New York on Sunday 9 May 1909. An Episcopal service was



held two days later at the Church of the Redeemer located at Fourth and Pacific Streets in Brooklyn. His remains were interred at the Stirling Cemetery in Greenport, New York on Long Island. His daughter Minnie was laid to rest beside him after her death in 1943.

Without a doubt, Colonel John L BURLEIGH was a colorful man constituting a wide variety of interests and personal passions. Throughout his military, professional, and civic careers, he served the public in various capacities with honesty, trustworthiness, and dependability.

Conclusively, as the namesake for our Burleigh Township, Colonel John L BURLEIGH probably never really knew how the integrity and compassion of the people of Burleigh Township match those same qualities of his personality. There is comfort in knowing that Burleigh Township was named for such a man.

### Tidbits from the Tawas Herald January 22, 1892, p. 1 - Not a good week for fires

AuSable had a fire on Friday with a loss of about \$100,000.00. Nineteen prominent businesses burned in the village. The blaze was discovered about 8:45 in the rubbish under Rosenthal's store. The fire alarm was sounded, but the fire hydrants were frozen and if it were not for the help of the Oscoda Fire Department, the entire business section of AuSable would have been nothing but a pile of ashes! As of the writing of the article the following businesses suffered losses: H. A. Hall on building and stock, A. R. Weir on building, C. R. Henry, W. C. T. U. on Red Ribbon Hall, City of AuSable, Mrs. Wilson on household goods, R. McCormick on building and stock, AuSable court of Foresters on lodge room, Wilcox & Richards on building and stock, Wilcox, Richards & Cootes on stock, J. Solomon on building, Dr. Pelton on office, Mrs. Lappan on stock, Rumford & Venners on stock, D. Rosenthal on building and stock, H. Aldred on building, Peter Courture on

building and stock, A. W. Jahran on building and stock, A. Bonenfant on building, Robert Dedrich on stock, Joseph Bonneville on stock, Schloss Brothers on building, Seed & Co on stock, W. H. Decker on household goods, H. Quesnel on stock, Charles Porter on buildings, Albert Stockman on buildings and J. W. Salt on stock.

Tawas City lost Union School building!

Monday about 1:00 pm the fire bell sounded and the towns folk realized that the school was on fire. The fire department responded but it was determined that the building could not be saved. They turned their attention to the wood shed and other outbuildings which were saved. The teachers were given great credit for rushing into the burning building to save books, furniture and any other items that they could rescue. Several years later the school was rebuilt at the same location.

## Two-Day Seminar at the Archives of Michigan July 8th and 9th

This year's Abrams Foundation Family History Seminar, sponsored by the Michigan Genealogical Council (MGC) and the Archives of Michigan will feature **Amy Johnson Crow**. It will be held on Friday and Saturday, July 8th and 9th, 2016 at the Michigan Historical Center, Lansing, MI. The following link will take you to the program and registration information: <http://seekingmichigan.org/events/2016-abrams-foundation-family-history-seminar>

## GREENWOOD CEMETERY WALK PLANNED

### SUNDAY, 18 SEPTEMBER

Once again, the Huron Shores Genealogical Society and the Iosco County Historical Society are partnering to produce a cemetery walk at the Greenwood Cemetery in East Tawas. This program will be an obituary walk, where a reader will present the obituary of the deceased being honored. About 15 people will be highlighted on the walk.

At this time, the stations have not been decided, so if you have an ancestor buried at Greenwood and would like to be part of this event, please contact Lugene

Daniels at [lueandlynnDaniels@hotmail.com](mailto:lueandlynnDaniels@hotmail.com) or 989.756.3852.

The event is scheduled for Sunday 18 September 2016 at 2:00 in the afternoon. Light refreshments will be served. This event is open to the public and everyone is welcome.

The Greenwood Cemetery is a very historic and interesting burying ground. A cemetery walk is a splendid way to re-live the past through the stories of those buried there.

## MORE TIDBITS FROM THE TAWAS HERALD

Tawas Herald, 5 February 1892, p.1

Charles (Karl) Dettmer died February 2<sup>nd</sup> at the age of 41 years. He lived about 5 miles from town on Hemlock road. He was survived by his wife, Augusta, six children and his aged parents. The funeral was at the Zion Lutheran Church. He is buried in Cold Creek Cemetery, now Zion Lutheran Cemetery. Charles was born 29 April 1851 in Nieder Zehren, Prussia. In the 1880 census these children were listed: Clara, George, Martha and William. From other references there are two more daughters: Margaret and Pauline. Charles Dittmer and Augusta Klein were married in Tawas, MI on 5 March 1871. Augusta was born September 1846 or 1847 in Schwalgendorf, Prussia and passed away 21 May 1941 in Saginaw, MI.

Tawas Herald, 15 April 1892, p.1

Gus Gowl, a pioneer of this city, left with his family for Duluth, MN. He was the brother-in-law of Albert and Fred Malone/Mallon. His trade was gang-sawyer and known as one of the best. He left to run

a gang for a large mill, Hamilton & McClure in West Duluth.

Tawas Herald, 24 June 1892, p1

William Pfeiffer, a former pioneer of Iosco County and Tawas City area, died in Bacyrus, Crawford, Ohio on Saturday last. He was born about 1816 in Germany. He was survived by two daughters: Mrs. Christine (William) Youngs and Mrs. A. Hill (this probably should be Miller) and a son-in-law, John Miller. He is buried in Greenwood Cemetery reportedly with his wife Ann. He appears in the Early Land Owners index for 1866 and on the Paupers index for 1876, 1877, 1878 and 1879. According to online family trees his wife's name was Ann Barbara Bevier and his children were: Christine E., Catherine, Minnie, Anna Elizabeth and Charles. Anna was married to John Miller in Tawas on 17 September 1880. In the 1880 census Anna was a servant for Charles Emery in Tawas. Charles supposedly drowned in Lake Huron in 1868.

