



HURON SHORES GENOGRAM

Oscoda, Michigan

HSGS "SCOTTISH AND SCOTS-IRISH" PROGRAM AND ANNIVERSARY RECAP



After reminding the 30 attendees, including many faithful regulars and some new faces, that the term Scotch refers to the beverage produced in Scotland and that Scots is the proper term for referring to those of Scottish descent, Derek

blount proceeded to give a very interesting overview of the records available to family researchers seeking family members in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

The first session covered "Scottish Ancestry beyond the Clans" and the second session dealt with "Ulster Scots research" Some of the more interesting tidbits from his presentation follow:

Scottish Ancestry Beyond the Clans

Scottish Marriages

"Regular marriages - In the late Middle ages and early modern era, women could marry from the age of 12 (while for boys it was from 14) and, while many girls from the social elite married in their teens, most in the Lowlands married only after a period of life-cycle service, in their twenties. In some cases, marriage may have followed "handfasting", a period of betrothal, which in the Highlands may have effectively been a period of trial marriage."

"Irregular Marriages - Under early modern Scots law, the forms of "irregular marriage" included the agreement of the couple to be married with some form of witnessing or evidence of such, as a result of mutual agreement, by a public promise followed by consummation and Cohabitation and

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HSGS Genealogical Meetings and Events

June

- 17 "Solving Mysteries with Online Tools" Katherine Willson, Plainfield Resource Center, 9:00 to 3:30
- 19/22 "Walk with the Dead: Ancestors" Day Camp, Robert Parks Library

July

- 19 HSGS Business meeting, Hsing's Garden Restaurant, East Tawas, MI 5:30
- 21/22 Abrams Conference, Michigan Historical Center, Lansing, MI

September

- 10 Alabaster Cemetery Walk, Alabaster, MI 2:00
- 17 Rain date for cemetery walk

October

- 20/21 MGC Delegate Meeting and Conference, Lansing, MI



Whittemore-Prescott Senior FFA Member Taylor Hart Earns Lugene Daniels Memorial Scholarship

By Lindsey Russell

Taylor Hart, a senior at Whittemore-Prescott High School, is the first recipient of the Lugene Daniels Memorial FFA scholarship. Huron Shores Genealogical Society president Judy Sheldon and vice-president Lindsey Russell presented Miss Hart with the \$500 scholarship on April 26th, 2017 at the annual Whittemore-Prescott FFA awards banquet. Also in attendance representing Huron Shores Genealogical Society was Dan Stock. Miss Hart also received recognition for the scholarship at the Whittemore-Prescott High School awards assembly on May 25th, 2017.

Current FFA advisor Mr. Matt Jakubik worked with Huron Shores Genealogical Society to set up the scholarship and application process for active senior FFA members planning to pursue higher education. Miss Hart not only participated extensively in FFA activities while at Whittemore-Prescott High School, she also played basketball, volleyball, and softball; ran track; attended Bay-Arenac Career Center; all while managing to remain on the honor roll for all four years of high school and earning numerous academic awards. As a member of the Whittemore-Prescott FFA, Taylor Hart helped start the FFA garden project, attended MSU FFA State Convention as a

delegate, and held several offices, including treasurer, sentinel, and president, among various other activities. Miss Hart is the first recipient of what is hoped to be an annual scholarship. As the first recipient, she leaves large shoes to fill, indeed.



As an organization, Huron Shores Genealogical Society wanted to honor the memory of former secretary Lugene Daniels. Lugene served as an FFA advisor for the Whittemore-Prescott chapter and as a school

board member for Whittemore-Prescott Public Schools for several years. When approached with the idea of creating a scholarship in memory of Mrs. Daniels, Whittemore-Prescott FFA decided to fund the scholarship moving forward. Mrs. Daniels' commitment to agricultural education and FFA as an organization will continue.

After the initial shock of Lugene's death subsided, the HSGS board decided to honor her memory in some way. For those who knew Lugene, it should come as no surprise that the decision was made to create an FFA scholarship in her name. FFA played a larger role in Lugene's life, both as a student and later when she served as a mentor and advisor. Not only did Lugene leave a large void in Huron Shore Genealogical Society, she is dearly missed in the Whittemore-Prescott farming community as well.

The Sanborn Fire Insurance maps are now available for free on the Library of Congress web site. The Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps and can be accessed at: <https://www.loc.gov/collections/sanborn-maps/> The Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps Online Checklist provides a searchable database of the fire insurance maps published by the Sanborn Map Company housed in the collections of the Geography and Map Division. The online checklist is based upon the Library's 1981 publication Fire Insurance Maps in the Library of Congress and will be continually updated to reflect new acquisitions. The Sanborn maps are arranged by state, then city and release data. Maps of AuSable/Oscoda, the Tawas, and Harrisville can be found on the site.

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Repute. All forms of irregular marriage except for "cohabitation with repute" as it was known in Scots Law were abolished by the Marriage (Scotland) Act 1939. Popularly described as "by habit and repute", with repute being the crucial element to be proved, this form of marriage was abolished by the passing of the Family Law (Scotland) Act 2006.

Church and Religious Records

"Kirk Session Records - The Kirk Session was the local church court. These records have been digitized at the Scottish National Archives (www.nas.gov.uk) but are not online as yet."

Old Parish Registers 1553-1854

"Burials were not commonly registered in the Parish Register but can be found in the Kirk Session Records. Not all Parish records have survived.

There were no Old Parish Registers for Deaths. Records for deaths were most often recorded in the Kirk Sessions. They were recorded as burial costs and mortcloth rental not as a death. Caution! - Entries for these records usually occur after the event and could be weeks later when payment was made."

Ulster-Scots Research

While many precious original documents were destroyed through an explosion in the Public Records office in 1922, the Public Records Offices

(now known as the National Archives) have reconstructed many of the missing records relying on genealogical collections then in existence. Two sources of these reconstructed records are:

(1) The Tenison Groves Collection - "This is a massive collection of over fifty rolls of microfilm and is both hand and typewritten. It covers various counties and hold numerous complete transcripts of muster rolls, householder's lists, extracts of wills, deeds, parish registers, and miscellaneous documents. One portion also contains an alphabetical list of families and a breakdown by county." The Tenison Groves Collection - (FHL microfilms 258, 471-258, 524) and the Religious Census of 1766 on microfilm (LDS Family History Centre, 100173).

(2) Phillip Crossle Genealogical Collection 1521-1603 - "This collection also covers various counties. It contains collections of other authors, for example: Smith papers which in turn includes lists of inhabitants for the city of Armagh for the year 1770; extracts from parish registers, chancery, wills, lists of gentry, etc. Indexes to the exchequer and chancery bills. Numerous extracts from the Registry of Deeds and an enormous amount of miscellaneous material."

Phillip Grosse Genealogical Collection - (FHL microfilms 597, 132-597, 142; 597, 099-597, 102; 597, 114-597, 126; 596, 881-596, 886)

Copies of the handouts for the presentations are available on request for the cost of mailing by HSGS from the Parks Library.

During the lunch break, the attendees helped HSGS celebrate its 35th anniversary. Thank you to Marie Dalton for our anniversary cake, so yummy! Also during the break and after the presentations, Derek assisted a number of attendees with their questions. A big thank you to Derek Blount for a great program.



NAMES CAN BE A KILLER

By Judy Sheldon

This story started out as a simple reporting of a horrible accident in 1899 at the Emery Mill, but as I looked for more information on the victim I discovered a nightmare in the spelling of the name. Below are the two reports of the accident in the local Tawas Herald and The Detroit Free Press. Not only do the names not match, but the number of children conflict.

The tale of **Thomas Dietrich/Dittrick/Dittrich/Ditrick/Dettrich/Dittrick/Didrich/Detrick**

Tawas Herald - 21 July 1899, p. 1, c. 4

Instantly Killed - A horrible accident occurred at the Emery Mill, East Tawas, last Friday afternoon, which resulted in the instant death of Thomas **Ditrick** (sic), the well-known millwright.

Mr. Ditrick was engaged in removing the machinery of the mill, and while taking down a gang saw pulley, the weight of which was about two tons, a rope broke, allowing the pulley to fall to the ground, catching the unfortunate man's head, killing him instantly. The remains were removed to E. L. King's undertaking establishment and prepared for burial.

The funeral services were conducted from the Presbyterian church on Sunday last, Rev. A. C. Kay, officiating. The deceased was about 47 years of age and leaves a wife and five children.

The Detroit Free Press - 15 July 1899

Well-Known Millwright Instantly Killed

East Tawas, Mich., July 14 – Thomas **Dettrich**, a resident here for the past thirty years and a well-known millwright, while removing a large band wheel at Emory's Mill this afternoon, was instantly killed by a block giving away and letting the wheel, of several tons weight, fall upon his head...He leaves a widow and four children.

So I started looking for other records and this is what I found:

About 1852 Born in Canada to Walter Dietrich of Canada and Rachel Buchanan of Ireland

1870 Federal Census, Saginaw, MI; Thomas Didrich
1880 Federal Census, Tawas, Iosco, MI; Thomas Dittrick

1899 Marriage record, Oscoda, Iosco, MI; Thomas B. Dittrich to Laura M Brichtel/Brechtel

1889 Birth of son, Thomas, Baldwin, Iosco, MI; Thomas Detrick

1898 Birth of daughter, Lillian, East Tawas, Iosco, MI; Thomas B Dettrich

1899 Michigan Death Certificate from SeekingMichigan.org, Thomas Dietrich

Evans King Funeral Home; Thomas Dietrick

He is buried in Greenwood Cemetery, East Tawas, MI

1899 Death as entered on Find A Grave; Thomas Dittrick

1904 Saginaw obituary for W. H. Dittrick, (This is Thomas' brother)

1905 Saginaw obituary for Rachel Dittrick

1910 Federal Census, Bay City, Bay, MI: Louise Dittrick

1911 Marriage for Thomas Dittrick

1920 Federal Census, Bay ward, Bay, MI; Louisa Dittrich

1930 Death record for Louisa Dittrick

1930 Find A Grave for Louisa Mary Brechtel Dittrick

1942 Death record for Thomas Lester Dittrick

SSDI for Laura Dittrick, 1966 (also born same date as Lillian)

From looking at the records I would guess that the accepted spelling by the family was Dittrick, but never take one spelling as the only one – be creative, search with first names, dates, spouse's names, children's names, places or any other combination you can think of. As for the four or five children mentioned in the newspaper account of the accident, well, we have three names, two birth records, two death records – so what happened to the other children? No idea!

READING THOSE LAND RECORDS AND DEED MEASUREMENTS

By Judy Sheldon

This article started with a question from my brother about whether Texas had townships or a different name for county. Well, to answer that right up front—they have counties, but no townships. On further reading, I discovered that the USA uses a wide variety of methods to measure land. Never assume that the common way of measuring used where you live is the same as where your ancestors lived. The following is just a VERY brief idea of the types you will encounter when reading land records.

<http://people.smu.edu/rjepson/landmeasurements.html>

Length/Distance

Chain = 66 feet or 4 rods
 Furlong = 660 feet
 Link = .66 feet
 Perch = 16.5 feet
 Pole = 16.5 feet
 Rod = 16.5 feet
 Vara, Texas-Spanish = 33 1/3 inches
 Vara, S. Colorado = 32.993 inches
 Vara, Florida = 33.372 inches
 Yard = 3 feet

Area

Acre = 43,560 sq feet
 Arpent LA, MS, FL, AL = .84625 of an acre
 Arpent AR, MO = .8507 of an acre
 Labor Texas-Spanish = 177.136 acres, 1,000,000 sq Varas
 League = 4428.4 acres, 25,000,000 sq Varas
 Section = 640 acres
 Sitio Texas-Spanish = 1 league
 Township = 36 sections, 36 sq miles

How many of these terms sound familiar?

Those of us living in Michigan are used to measurements in rectangles based on a prime

meridian and a baseline. We have nice rectangular counties and townships and sections with only the occasional topographical feature messing up the nice straight lines. This system was created in 1785, known as the Public Land Survey System (PLSS) to survey land ceded to the United States by the Treaty of Paris in 1783. The original colonies as well as Maine, Vermont, Tennessee, Kentucky and West Virginia continued using the British system of metes and bounds. This system used local markers, many times based on local topography.

There are many other areas of the US that use some other system. The old Cherokee lands of Georgia use the term section, but it is undefined and not the same as a section in the PLSS. In California before statehood in 1850 crude boundaries based on Spanish and Mexican land grants were used. Texas has its own hybrid system of the same Spanish land grants, but in west Texas a more standard system was used by the railroads when measuring land. Louisiana uses arpents from the French and Spanish descriptions as well as the PLSS. These are but a few of the exceptions found throughout the states. So if you read an old land grant or even a current deed and it sounds very strange, check out the history of the area, it may be reflecting the early settlement of the area.

The term county can be called a parish in Louisiana, a borough in Alaska, a city-county like Denver, and independent city like Baltimore, MD.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/County_\(United_States\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/County_(United_States))

If you are thoroughly confused, just think what a surveyor must be if they work for companies that own property in various parts of the country, i.e. oil companies.

For the first time in many years, the National Genealogical Society will be holding its annual conference in Michigan. Titled "Paths to Your Past" - 2018 Family History Conference, May 2-5, 2018 in Grand Rapids, MI.

Local host society: Western Michigan Genealogical Society. Look for additional details which will be posted at

<http://conference.ngsgenealogy.org/>.

ALICE PARK, GREENBUSH, MICHIGAN

By Judy Sheldon

I began reading about Carl E. Schmidt and discovered he had created a 40 acre park north of Greenbush, Michigan. As I asked around if any of the local historians had ever heard of it, none had. The following is what I could find.

Before I can tell you about Alice Park, I have to preface the story with some historical information about Carl E. Schmidt. He was a successful businessman in the leather and shoe industry in Detroit, MI, a Police Commissioner in Detroit, worked with two governors and helped establish state forests and preserving oil, gas and mineral resources. He had a knack for making things happen, even when the odds were against him. His trips north to hunt and fish sparked an interest in the Greenbush area. He was determined to prove that even the poorest land could yield a profit. In 1905 he began to purchase more than 10,000 acres of the poorest land in and around Cedar Lake in Iosco and Alcona counties. His story of success in farming and tourism is for another time.

During his stays in his summer home, Walhalla, he drove regularly throughout the countryside. In the spring of 1912 he, Pea Green (writer for the Alcona County Review) and Dr. Sigel had lunch at a spot known as Conklin Grove, also the



site of the first settlement in 1848 of Crosier Davison's fishery and cooperage. Mr. Schmidt was taken with the area and visited regularly, finally purchasing 40 acres from James Bell on July 10, 1912. Mr. Schmidt's plan for the property was to turn it into a park. Improvements to the area were started at once. In August four men were sent from his farm, Serradella, to trim, clear brush and clean up the property to the beach on Lake Huron. Shortly after this another team was sent to fence in the area. On a drive through the park in September, he, Dr. Tobias Sigel, F. W. Clark and Charles

Glaser were quoted in Joseph Labadie's journal, "We discovered two springs, one on each side of the lake side approach to this beautiful park, so ornamental that we stood quietly for some time beholding this splendid gift of nature." It was on this trip that the park was officially named Alice's Park after Mr. Schmidt's wife, Alice Schmidt. Improvements continued the following year with plans for cottages for his family to be built.

Over the next several years various groups from Greenbush and Harrisville, with permission, made use of the park as it was the show place of the area. The annual M. E. Sunday School picnic was held there in August of

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The West Branch Family History Center has Closed

After 27 years the West Branch Family History Center of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has closed its doors. Effective Friday, March 17, 2017 the Center was discontinued. As director of the Center for 27 years, Donnie Boursaw has expressed her appreciation for the wonderful support given to the center by its patrons over the

years. She thanks you for the support you gave, the research you so willingly shared, and the donations of both time and money that all of you made.

Without this patronage, the goals of the Family History Center program of the Church which enables its membership to fulfill the obligations of finding and uniting their families can not be realized.

Two-Day Seminar at the Archives of Michigan July 21st and 22nd

This year's Abrams Foundation Family History Seminar, sponsored by the Michigan Genealogical Council (MGC) and the Archives of Michigan will feature Jen Baldwin and will focus on New York research and One Place Studies (OPS). It will be held on Friday and Saturday, July 21st and 22nd, 2017 at the Michigan Historical Center, Lansing, MI. The following link will take you to the program and registration information:

<http://seekingmichigan.org/events/2017-abrams-foundation-family-history-seminar>

ALABASTER CEMETERY WALK PLANNED

SUNDAY, 10 SEPTEMBER

Once again, the Huron Shores Genealogical Society is planning to conduct a cemetery walk at the Alabaster Cemetery in Alabaster. 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 Alabaster and would

like to be part of this event, please contact Lauri Finerty through HSGS at 989-739-9581. The event is scheduled for Sunday 10 September 2017 at 2:00 in the afternoon. Light refreshments will be served. This event is open to the public and everyone is welcome.

A cemetery walk is a splendid way to re-live the past through the stories of those buried there. The rain date for the walk is September 17.

ALICE PARK, continued from page 6

1913, traveling to and from Harrisville by train. The following year the M. E. Sunday Schools of Harrisville, Fisher and Greenbush had their picnic there. I found references to the park being used as late as 1937.

The park was located north of Greenbush: lot 2 of section 2 in T25N, R9E. This is between Lake Huron and Cedar Lake Rd., on the north side of F30. The road we know as Cedar Lake Road is a part of a road then called M72 stretching from Oscoda, along the east side of Cedar Lake, west of Greenbush and Harrisville and almost to Sturgeon Pt and is not to be confused with the present day M72.

Mr. Schmidt died at Walhalla in 1934 and in 1941 his daughter, Alice Schmidt McRae sold most of this property to Herbert Hertzler, who then sold it to Herbert Moran. In reading the deed a portion was excluded from the sale. This was noted as "Alice Park" and was between US 23 and Cedar Lake Rd, north of F30 in a triangle shape. This is about where Ronee's flower shop and the self storage units are

now located. The flower shop was a gas station known as Alice Park Shell and it was also a restaurant. The rest of the property is now known as Rettke's Alice Park Subdivision, platted in 1949. If you are driving north on US 23 out of Greenbush, look for a long expanse of white fencing.

Sources:

Alcona County Review

Detroit Free Press

Bygone Days in Greenbush by Ada Greenfield
McRae

Alcona – The Community Pioneers by Doris
Gauthier

Journals of Joseph Labadie in the Carl Ernest
Schmidt scrapbooks, 1892-1935, held in the
Bentley Library, University of Michigan, Ann
Arbor, MI

Map of District #10, Michigan Department of
Conservation, Seekingmichigan.org

