



# HURON SHORES GENOGRAM

## Oscoda, Michigan

### “DID YOU LOOK” Presentation Summary



Over 40 family researchers and genealogists including some from as far away as Waterford downstate listened to Kris Rzepczynski present his ideas along with those of his wife, Melissa, who was unable to accompany him, on “Little Known or Forgotten Resources”. The premise of the program was to provide family researchers with both specific examples of lesser known resources as well as to provide them as examples of the similar types of materials available from other states and locations. The handout lists ten print sources and online tools of note.

Just before lunch, Kris told us that Seeking Michigan will be re-launched later in 2019 using a new software provider under the name “*Michiganology*”. The new site will provide for much better searches and will be integrated with the historical and genealogical holdings of both the Archives and the Michigan Historical Center. He advised us to watch for information on the new web site at <https://seekingmichigan.org>

The indexing of the Naturalization records was then covered and the presentation followed the handout closely. The only note not in the handout is that there is not a batch of records available for indexing at this time. The next batch is to be released soon and the availability will be on Seeking Michigan and on the HSGS Facebook page. The presentation was an abbreviated version of his usual coverage of this interesting and at times very complicated process.

A second short presentation was given on the Probate Records project. The counties are now required to offer their probate and other local records that are 50 years or more older to the Archives. Kris indicated that the Archives are prepared to accept them. Many of the

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### HSGS Genealogical Meetings and Events

#### July

18 HSGS Business meeting, China Buffet Restaurant, East Tawas, MI 5:30

12/13 Abrams Conference, Michigan Historical Center, Lansing, MI

#### September

12 MGC Meeting, Frankfort, MI  
TBD Pinecrest Cemetery Walk Oscoda, MI

#### October

17 HSGS Business meeting, Location TBD, East Tawas, MI 5:30

#### November

9 MGC Conference, Lansing, MI

HSGS needs Death-Readers for the “*Pinecrest Walk with the Dead*”. Join us June 12, 2019, 6:00 pm, Parks Library, Oscoda, MI for further information.



## Coming this summer!

### Pinecrest Cemetery Walk, Oscoda, Michigan Project 2019

Huron Shores Genealogical Society is planning to have a cemetery walk this summer at the Pinecrest Cemetery. In the past we have chosen the graves to feature, done the research and if possible contacted relatives who can provide further information or be willing to read at the walk.

This year we would like to do this project a little differently. We would like to ask the young people of the area to be our researchers and the readers for the project. They will be able to choose who to research, either an ancestor or some prominent person buried in the cemetery. We will meet with them over the summer,

assist in the research and their presentation and set a date for the walk.

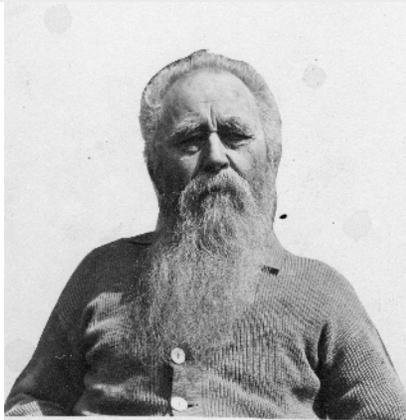
We will need 15 – 20 presentations. Participants can work alone or as a team. No age restrictions.

If you know a young person who would be interested please contact Judy Sheldon at 989-739-5497 or [huronshoresgs@yahoo.com](mailto:huronshoresgs@yahoo.com) or the Robert Parks Library, 989-739-9581.

An organizational meeting is planned for June 12, 2019 at the Robert Parks Library, Oscoda, MI from 6-7:00pm.

### The William McCuaig Family By Judy Sheldon

William McCuaig was born May 7, 1838 or 1839 in Kenyon Township, Glengarry, Ontario, Canada to Donald McCuaig and Sarah Dewar. Donald was born in Scotland and Sarah in Canada. William grew up in a large family with plenty of siblings: Catherine, John, Donald, Isabella, John, Christy, Duncan, Catherine, Flora and Margaret. William came between Christy and Duncan. He married Catherine McCuaig (not to make family research difficult) July 15, 1869 in Canada. Catherine was born about 1847 in Scotland to John McCuaig and Sarah Fraser. Their arrival in the United States was between 1881 and 1883. He settled his family in Au Sable, Iosco, Michigan. I can't determine what he did for a living as no occupation was listed on any census and "laborer" was listed on his death record, but from the *McCuaig Families-Some Reminiscences* we know he had arthritis and had broken his leg twice while in Canada in a work-related accident and was lame. After he moved to Au Sable he worked for Loud as a driver of a dump cart for the mill, then he was the caretaker at the Presbyterian Church. Around 1900 he fell and injured his spine and could no longer walk.



William McCuaig  
1839 - 1920

William and Catherine had the following children: Sarah Jane, Mary Ann, infant died early, Matilda, Laura, Daniel, John Angus, William Carleton and Lloyd Duncan. Sarah and Mary died very young of scarlet fever in 1873, the infant probably about 1874-75, Matilda, Laura, Daniel and John all born in Vankleek Hill, Ontario, William and Lloyd were born in Au Sable.

The family experienced the Great Fire of 1911. As the fire came into Oscoda people fled down State Street and over the Mill Street bridge into Au Sable. The McCuaig house on State Road seemed safe and Grandma McCuaig was making sandwiches for the fleeing people as they stopped in her yard. Then the wind changed and their son, William "Uncle Bill" came with a wagon to rescue them. " 'Don't look back,' he called to his parents as he whipped up the team – he saw that the flames had just caught the roof of the family home. Later, while sitting at the railroad depot awaiting the evacuation train, with the towns in smoke and ashes at his back, Grandpa mustered a bit of the McCuaig wit: 'Did you lock the door, Will?' he said. (nobody ever locked their door in those days, of course.) Uncle Bill responded in the same spirit: 'Yep. She's

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The McCuaig Family, continued from page 2

locked forever.' "(McCuaig Families-Some Reminiscences)

William died March 12, 1920 in his home on Adams Street, Oscoda, MI at the age of 82. He and Catherine who died in 1928 and many of his children are buried in Pinecrest Cemetery, Oscoda, MI.

Our Society has a closer connection to the McCuaig family than that they were residents of Oscoda. James "Jim" Donaldson, 1944-2016, is the great grandson of William and Catherine. Matilda married Edward Evans, their daughter, Dorothy Margaret married Carl Donaldson. Jim spent summers in Oscoda with his McCuaig relatives and as an adult had a house in Oscoda. He lived in Detroit and worked for Wayne State



Jim Donaldson with his friend or relative, Sherrie

University. He wrote and compiled several books on the Iosco area such as the Iosco's "Boys in Blue: Civil War Soldiers, Sailors and Veterans". He also had available until his death the only known copies of the Oscoda Press prior to 1952. His passing left a hole in resources for the Oscoda area as his collection has become unavailable.

Sources for this article are from Ancestry.com, *McCuaig Families-Some Reminiscences*, by James Donaldson, 1992 and the photos were given to HSGS by the Au Sable Oscoda Historical Museum.

"Did You Look", continued from page 1

larger counties and some of the less populated ones including Iosco have already sent their records in. Archives personnel will be visiting the balance of the counties to assess their holdings over the next few years of this multi-year endeavor. The Archives are partnering with Family Search in this project which is of a scope unique to Michigan among the states. Two LDS volunteers and Archives staff are unpacking the boxes of records, preparing them for scanning and using two cameras (soon to be three) to digitize the records. Every county is different. They are now working on Wayne

county. Soon after the filming is done, batches of the records will appear on the Family Search web site and be available for browsing of the non-indexed records.

During the afternoon session, Kris covered the Basics of Archives and Library research. The presentation followed the handout closely.

The sessions and the refreshments provided were well received and the most frequent comment heard was "I wish we had had more time to ask questions". Copies of the handouts are available in the HSGS room at the Parks Library or on request for the cost of mailing.

**"Break Down Brick Walls Genealogy Workshop" with Karen Krugman**

Co-sponsored by: Plainfield Township Library and Plainfield Township Historical Commission

JUNE 29

Session #1 - So Your Female Has No Surname

Session #2 - Extra! Extra! Read All About It

12:00 - 12:30 BYO Brown Bag lunch

Session #3 - Chasing Elusive Ancestors

Session #4 - Thinking Outside the Box

Karen Krugman has held offices and been a member of several local and national genealogy societies. She has written five books based on her family history research and was co-author of the Ford Cemetery Book where Henry Ford is Buried.

TO REGISTER CALL: 989-728-4086

## Got a Rebel in the Family?

Contributed by Judy Sheldon

A revolutionary: a person who works for or engages in political revolution. They could be described as a rebel, revolutionist, mutineer, agitator, subversive or an anarchist.

Do you have an ancestor who fits that definition? Do you have one who worked to overthrow the recognized government of the land?

Most people would respond, "Oh my, of course not!" Well, if you have ancestors living in the American Colonies in and around the time of 1765-1783, you just might have a revolutionary in your tree. If the scholars are right about 15 to 20% of the white population supported the King of England and remained loyal to the British Crown!

Loyalists or Tories or King's Men are the terms used to describe these "loyal" colonists of the British Crown. They were often older people, less willing to break with old loyalties and traditions, often connected to the Church of England, and often were established merchants and businessmen with strong business connections throughout the Empire. Some were also recent immigrants who had not become completely Americanized.

As with any "revolution" families can be divided and the American Revolution was no different, pitting parents against children, siblings against siblings. Sound familiar? The war ended in favor of the "revolutionaries" and everyone lived happily ever after. Not likely!!! What happened to the

Loyalists? They were the losers, right? There were a number of scenarios to describe what happened to these not so happy citizens of the United States. First the majority just decided to stay and make the best of it. If staying in their home village was too difficult they may have moved to another. Then there was the option of relocating to another country. Well, they were still considering themselves British subjects, so some (7,000) returned to England, but many others (46,000) went to Canada where they were welcomed. Others went to Florida or the West Indies. Of interest is that the black loyalists who were free men went to Canada, England or Florida, the white loyalists from the South took their slaves and went to the British West Indies.

There is an organization in Canada that is similar to our DAR and SAR in that they research and verify descendants of Loyalists. The United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada is an organization dedicated to the history of the United Empire Loyalists and their contribution to the development of Canada. <http://www.uelac.org/>

Family historians often wonder why a couple of generations lived in Canada before coming to the United States. If the early Canadian dates fall in line with the Revolution you may be looking at a Loyalist family.

Sources:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American\\_Revolution#Loyalists](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Revolution#Loyalists)

[https://www.journal-news.net/shepherd-loyola-chicago-awarded-grant-to-create-historical-database/article\\_5a5fb313-b496-53ce-ba88-929eb82e032d.html](https://www.journal-news.net/shepherd-loyola-chicago-awarded-grant-to-create-historical-database/article_5a5fb313-b496-53ce-ba88-929eb82e032d.html)

<https://www.americanantiquarian.org/proceedings/44497991.pdf>

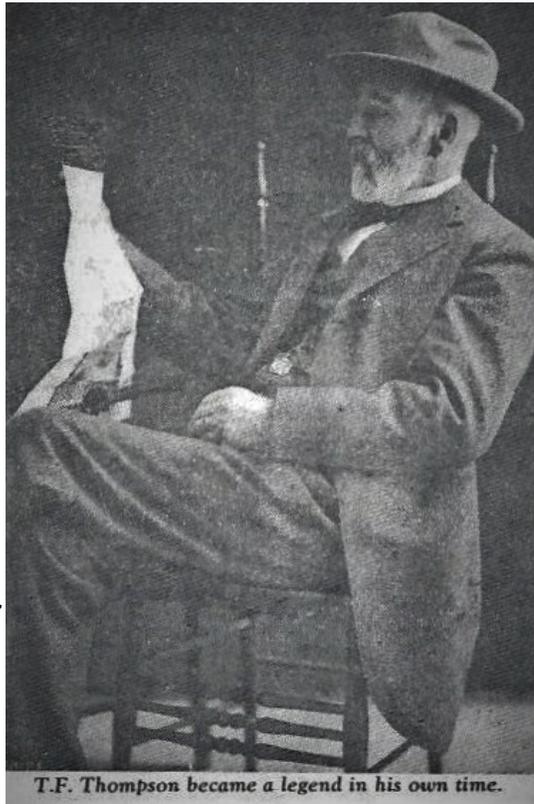
[https://uknowledge.uky.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1623&context=gradschool\\_diss](https://uknowledge.uky.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1623&context=gradschool_diss)

<https://dspace.stir.ac.uk/bitstream/1893/2514/4/The-Loyalist-Regiments-of-the-American-Revolution-Final.pdf>

## THOMAS FERGUSON "TOMMY" THOMPSON Iosco County Lumberman and Businessman

By Judy Sheldon

Thomas Ferguson "Tommy" Thompson a well-known and respected lumberman and businessman, and a staunch Republican, was born in Newry, Northern Ireland on 12 September 1831 to James Thompson and Jane (possibly Ferguson). On the 1900 US Census it states that he immigrated in 1847 at the age of 16, but we can't definitely identify him in earlier censuses prior to 1880 because the name, birth place and birth year are very common. In the book "*History of the Lake Huron Shore, 1883*", it states he came from Saginaw, Michigan in 1870 to Iosco County and purchased a large tract of land in the northwestern part of the county along the AuSable River. Thomas and twelve others partitioned the county to create Thompson Township in 1870, this was granted and the first township meeting was held at the Thompson house in April 1871. He married Margaret Crummer on 1 November 1871 in London, Middlesex, Ontario, Canada where her family lived. They had two homes and farms, one in East Saginaw and one large house/inn centered on two hundred acres on his Iosco property where they spent much of their time. It was a settlement called Thompsonville in Thompson Township, the stopping place for weary travelers, hunters, and lumbermen. The home was an impressive one and run with an iron fist by Margaret. She was as strong and adventurous as her husband, traveling through Europe with Thomas and out shooting him with a rifle on numerous hunts. On his farm he had the finest Shorthorns and Devons in Northeast Michigan. Thomas was known as being exceedingly generous, but with his stature and strength he was seldom



T.F. Thompson became a legend in his own time.

challenged and when he was, it was only recorded once that he lost. [*Along the Historic Riviere aux Sables*, Neil Thornton, 1987, p. 87-92]

Thomas and Margaret had five children:

Thomas Andrew, born 1873 Iosco County, died 1949 in Levy County, Florida. He oversaw his father's Florida interests. He was married to Pauline Bisette in 1897, and may have been married to others. He is buried in the family crypt in Forest Lawn Cemetery, Saginaw, Michigan.

• Alice Ethel, born 1876 Iosco County, died 1921 New York County (Manhattan) New York. She married Seth C. Adams in 1894, Saginaw, Michigan. She is buried in Forest

Lawn Cemetery, Saginaw, Michigan.

- Charlotte Agatha, born 1877 Iosco County, died 1963 Troy, Ohio and buried there. She married Leonard Able Wheeler in 1898, Saginaw, Michigan.
- Henry Spangler, born 1879 Iosco County, died 1917, Troy, Ohio and is buried there. He married Bessie Olivia Coleman in 1904 in Miami County, Ohio.
- Helen, born 1890/91 Saginaw, Michigan, died 1929 in Wichita, Kansas and is buried there. She married Oak L Throckmorton in 1912, Saginaw, Michigan.

As the lumbering industry faded in Iosco County, Thomas and Margaret moved back to their Saginaw home in the mid-1880s. Here Thomas continued to monitor his business interests and his political interests. In about 1898 he ran for mayor of Saginaw, but lost to the incumbent. Then in 1902 after spending two months in Florida with his son, Thomas Andrew, he and Margaret returned to Saginaw where he suddenly fell ill and died

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## Six Must-See Active Genealogy Blogs

by Lindsey Russell

In genealogy, we tend to focus on the major websites: Ancestry, Family Search, My Heritage, and more. Unfortunately, many wonderful genealogy blogs get lost in the shuffle as a result. In selecting the blogs highlighted below, I shied away from big names like Ancestry and Family Search. Instead, I focused on general genealogy blogs that are active, updated at least once a week, and provide other resources. Here are six that deserve a closer look.

**The Legal Genealogist** by Judy G. Russell -

<https://www.legalgenealogist.com/blog/>

Judy Russell is well-known in genealogical circles, but my bet is that just as many people do not know what her blog has to offer. Known as the “legal genealogist,” Judy covers topics such as DNA, Court Cases, Primary Law, Copyright, and much more. If you ever question the legal use of genealogical material you may find, this is go-to place for answers.

**Family History Daily** - <https://familyhistorydaily.com/>

This blog is an all-around solid place to start. Not only does it include several how-to articles with tips on everything from “Beyond the Tree: 4 Enduring Ways to Share Your Family History Research” to “Probate Records Could Be the Key to Unlocking Your Family’s Hidden Past.” The site itself offers: Help by Topic, Beginner Guides, Tips and Tricks, Free Genealogy Sites, and Online Courses. It contains lots of great information and tips.

**Genealogy Gems** - <https://lisalouisecooke.com/blog/>

There is so much more than just a blog at [lisalouisecooke.com](https://lisalouisecooke.com). What intrigues me most is the podcast. In addition to several in-depth, knowledgeable articles on the blog, the website not only includes a podcast, but premium options, a book club, information for societies (including printable articles), a store, and much more. If you have never experienced a podcast before, check it out.

**The In-Depth Genealogist** -

<http://theindepthgenealogist.com/blog/>

Similar in setup – not information – to Genealogy Gems, The In-Depth Genealogist includes a subscription-based digital magazine and a comprehensive (and free) resources section covering subjects such as Kids’ Korner, Ancestral Profiling, and the Heritage Tourist, among many others. The articles posted on the blog itself cover a wide range of topics such as “Who Can I Marry?” and “There Is No Place Like Home: The Dwellings of Our Ancestors.”

**The Ancestor Hunt** -

<http://www.theancestorhunt.com/blog>

As far as I am concerned, the name alone deserves a second look. This blog focuses on letting genealogists know when resources - particularly relating to photos, free online newspapers, and yearbooks - are updated. For example, a recent post listed free online historical African American newspaper links listed by state. The site itself includes headings such as: Newspapers, Newspaper Links, BMD Records, Photos, Yearbooks, Voter Lists, and more. There is plenty to explore.

**Geneanet Blog** -

<https://en.geneanet.org/genealogyblog>

The blog post here seems to be divided into three categories: Geneanet News, Genealogy News, and more posts. The focus appears to be on news topics of interest to the genealogical community. There are a wide variety of topics covered that may lead one to the perfect resource to break through that wall. The Geneanet site itself offers a wide variety of services and allows for uploading of family trees and search. It also appears to have an active community, several ongoing projects, and various resources for genealogists.

**THOMAS THOMPSON Continued from page 5**

on 7 April 1902 at his home, 1422 South Washington Ave. He is buried in Forest Lawn Cemetery, Saginaw, Michigan. His obituary appeared in the Saginaw Daily News and the Tawas Herald.

Margaret lived a number of years after Thomas died. She and Helen are still found in Saginaw in 1910. In 1920, she is in Suwannee, Florida living next to her son Thomas A, as head of a farm. Then she was visiting Higgins Lake, Roscommon County, Michigan where the family had a cottage, she died on 2 August 1923 from heart failure. On the death record Charlotte is the informant and Margaret's residence is in Troy, Ohio, so she may have



The Thompson Grave in Forest Lawn, Saginaw, MI with the permission of Janet K.

moved to Ohio between 1920 and her death. She is also buried in the Forest Lawn Cemetery.

There are a number of photos ordered by Thomas Thompson in the Ard Emery glass negative collection. Several of them may be of the Saginaw home, perhaps of Margaret and a daughter and a son and their pretty white dog. We wonder if Ard traveled with Thomas to Florida as there is a picture of a mule drawn rail car of the Tallahassee Railroad Company.

### From *"150 Years of Michigan's Railroad History"*

Michigan Department of Transportation, 1986

*"Elijah J. McCoy, a black inventor raised in Ypsilanti, patented the first automatic lubrication system for locomotives and other machinery, a clever device so effective that it was difficult to sell imitations that weren't 'the real McCoy;' thus, McCoy's name became synonymous with anything genuine or authentic."*

## *Dampfplauderer*

You know that friend of yours who just won't stop talking? That person you can never get off the phone, or the person who goes on and on with pointless stories? Germans have a name for someone like this: a *Dampfplauderer!*

A *Dampfplauderer* is a person who has always has something to say, but never says anything of substance. This sort of person likes to hear him or herself talk. Unfortunately for the rest of us, we're often stuck listening to a *Dampfplauderer*, pretending to care while contemplating how to end the conversation.

The English translation for the word *Dampfplauderer* is "chatterbox" - and that's a pretty good translation. The word chatterbox, after all, is usually associated with

someone that has a lot of idle chatter, but says very few meaningful things. Listening to a *Dampfplauderer*, you might start wondering what the point of their story is, only to realize there is no point.

The term consists of the words *Dampf*, which means "steam," and *plauder*, which means "chat." So a literal translation could be "steam chatter" - someone whose words come out like steam - lacking real substance.

Whether it's a friend who likes to talk or a colleague who speaks too much in meetings, I'm sure we have all got a *Dampfplauderer* in our lives!

From the March 2019 German Genealogy Group's publication *"The Family Researcher"*

**Huron Shores Genealogical Society**

**6010 Skeel Ave  
Oscoda, MI 48750**

**Our Regular Meetings**

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

Our next meetings are:

July 18, 2019, China Buffet  
724 E Bay St. (US-23), East Tawas  
October 17, 2019 (location TBD)

HSGS staff will be in our office at the Library during the following hours:

Wednesday & Thursday 11:00 to 2:00  
Saturday 11:00 to 2:00

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

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 - Dale Harwood  
Treasurer - Daniel Stock  
Interim Database Manager - Judy Sheldon

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.  
Editor's note - To access the Internet links in this issue, copy and paste them to your browser.

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

\$10 per year    \$15 per year with mailed newsletter

Make checks payable to: Huron Shores Genealogical Society or pay via our web page using Pay Pal

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?    Yes \_\_\_    No \_\_\_

If yes, list the software you use: \_\_\_\_\_

Would you, as a new or renewing member, be willing and able to hold an office, work on a committee, or help with indexing materials? Yes \_\_\_\_\_    If yes, we will contact you about your interest in helping.

HSGS would appreciate your help very much. Thank you!

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