



HURON SHORES GENOGRAM

Oscoda, Michigan

A Message From Your President

The pandemic continues to limit our activities, but we are slightly getting back to some semblance of normalcy. If you haven't already done so, please get your vaccination so that normal returns sooner rather than later. The programs that we had planned for last year were postponed until this year and now we are postponing them indefinitely. Our Scandinavian and Native American programs were quite aggressive and don't really lend themselves to virtual programming. We will be looking at something else for the fall, in the meantime we have shown the John Colletta program "Discovering Your Roots" from the Great Courses series. We had a small but very interested turn out. We hope to show this program again in the Fall. Even if you have seen it, you always pick up something new on subsequent viewing.

Lauri Finerty is planning two cemetery walks, one this summer and another in the fall. More information will be coming soon. Check your email or the Society's Facebook page.

We are back in the Parks Library in Oscoda. Dan and Lauri are manning our space on Wednesday and Thursday and I will be on most Saturdays. We could use more volunteers to help out. If you can spare a day or two a month that would be a blessing to us. Please let me or Lauri know if you are willing – we will have a short training meeting for anyone who is interested in helping the Society.

Check out the Michigan Genealogical Council's website for the Barbara Brown seminar, which will be held in July. It will again be virtual this year and the featured speaker is Judy Russell, The Legal Genealogist.

Finally, we have all been saddened by the loss of two of our long time supporting genealogists, Rachael McCready and Jean Bell, they will be greatly missed.

And, just a reminder that renewal dues have been due, so if you haven't sent yours in and you want to help the Society continue it's work bringing our past to life, please it's not too late. Wishing you all a great summer!

HSGS Genealogical Meetings and Events

- July
- 9/10 Barbara Brown Virtual Family History Seminar
- 15 HSGS Business meeting, Grace Ev. Lutheran Church, East Tawas, MI 5:30 and by virtual Zoom
- Summer
- TBD Cemetery Walk, Thompson Cemetery, see details on our Web site.
- September
- 18 MGC Fall Virtual Family History Seminar
- October
- 15 HSGS Business meeting, Grace Ev. Lutheran Church, East Tawas, MI 5:30
- Fall
- Colletta Series repeat



Rachel Sue McCready Obituary Notice

Rachel Sue McCready, age 89, passed away peacefully on May 7th, 2021, at her “hunting camp” outside Tawas City, and went home to Our Lord.

She was born December 5, 1931 in Sturgis, Michigan, the first child of Leigh Audland Rerick and Ruby Esther Shuman Rerick. She graduated from Sturgis High School in 1949 and Michigan State College in 1953. The following year she attended the University College of Wales as a Rotary Foundation Fellow, traveling all of Great Britain and 12 countries on the continent in her year abroad.

It was at Michigan State that she met William H. McCready when she was a member of Tower Guard, a Sophomore Women’s Honorary society, whose main service project was reading to the blind students. That duty eventually become a love, and they were married August 26, 1954 on the TV program “Bride and Groom” in New York City.

While Bill attended University of Michigan Law School, Rae continued reading his class work to him and taught 4th grade at Eberwhite School in Ann Arbor for over three years. She earned her M.A. from U of M in 1958. They moved to Tawas City in 1958 where she taught 4th grade at East Tawas Elementary and 5th grade at Alabaster School, a part of the Tawas system. It was always a pleasure for her to meet and be greeted by her former students.

Rachel became a full time homemaker to raise her 4 children. She enjoyed sharing in their activities, such as leading a Girl Scout troop, sewing dance recital costumes, and attending band concerts, as well as bowling on the Wednesday afternoon league, attending Bible study, and delivering dinners to the homebound. Later, she worked as secretary in the Iosco County Prosecutor’s office, Register of Probate, Tawas City Clerk and as Acting City Manager, insurance clerk at a dentist’s office, and bookkeeper at a nursing home.

Rachel became interested in the Daughters of the American Revolution, joining on the basis of her ancestor, Joseph Hutton De Frees, and after serving as Regent of the River Aux Sables Chapter, she served four years as DAR of Michigan’s State Librarian. She was active in patriotic causes, and served as secretary, then treasurer, of Sunrise Side Republican Women’s Club, and the Iosco County Republican Executive Committee.

She was a Christian, worshipped weekly at Alabaster Bible Church, and attended Bible studies regularly. She loved participating in the Tawas Community Concert Band, playing French horn, and serving as treasurer for six years. She had been active in the Tawas Senior Center, serving as auditor for many years and as Chairperson.

She was predeceased by her husband, William H. on March 23, 2011, and by her parents. She is survived by her children: Linda of Indianapolis; Lois (Ron) Schneemann and grandchildren Heidi and Sam of Ft. Wayne, IN; Lt. Col. (Ret.) Keith (Suzy) of Burke, VA; and Kenneth of Loda, IL and granddaughter Xochitl Paez of Dallas, TX; also a sister, Eleanor Cary of Burr Oak, MI, and many nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held at a future date and location to be announced. Please keep her and her family in your prayers. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to Leader Dogs for the Blind, 1039 S. Rochester Road, Rochester Hills, MI 48307 or a charity of your choice.



What a Year and Moving Day!

By Judy Sheldon

What a year this has been! In March 2020 Michigan as well as many other states shut down and people went into a semi quarantine style of life. Our lives seemed turned upside down, no in-person anything, work from home, schools on remote, meetings and conferences canceled, Zoom became a way of life and on and on. Historians pulled out all the stories and reports and statistics on the Spanish Flu of 1918 and how similar this pandemic was to this earlier pandemic. Scientists worked frantically to create a vaccine for COVID-19.

Now, one year later, we have a vaccine, slowly ever so slowly and cautiously we are returning to our pre COVID lives. As in any aftermath of a catastrophic period such as war or pandemic it will not be the same and never will be. Loved ones have been lost, many will suffer prolonged complications of the virus, work and school patterns have changed, jobs were lost, businesses floundered and relationships have changed.

Let's fast forward to 2121. What will family historians be able to learn about our experience in this past year? In our digital age, will newspaper accounts survive, how many health

reports will be available and most importantly what was the impact on our ancestors and their families?

It is now our time to reflect on the past year and write down your experiences, good or bad, sad or happy, frustrating or not. Some of you may kept a journal this whole time and that is great! Next question is where will these thoughts be saved for those 2121 researchers? To save these writings for future generations many museums and historical societies are asking people to donate a copy to them for future researchers. Huron Shores Genealogical Society would like to hear from you, send us your experiences of the past year, so that these can be included in our newsletter. The newsletter is not only kept by us, but is sent to the Allen County Public Library where they archive thousands of society newsletter and journals for historical purposes. If you prefer not to be published, we can add it to a file of COVID-19 experiences.

Save those experiences, they will mean a lot to future family historians who say "I wonder what it was like to live through COVID-19 pandemic?"

Moving Day

As many of you know, I have recently moved from northern Michigan to the southeast part of Michigan. A bitter sweet move for me with all the stress of packing, selling a house, buying another and moving all the stuff and then unpacking. We are settling in and finding places for things and working on the gardens. I got to thinking about what my early ancestors had to endure when they came to this country or left one part for another. I'm sure not anywhere near as easy as our move was!

Several of my ancestors were here in colonial times. They were farmers and merchants, settling in New York, Virginia, and the Carolinas. I don't know if they were ever able to visit the homeland or keep in contact with relatives nor do I know for sure the motivation to leave England or Scotland and settle in some rather uncivilized areas. The trip in the 1700s wasn't very pleasant either, a perilous transatlantic crossing usually took at least six weeks and could take as long as two or three months. The children of these early pioneers then faced the Revolutionary War and had to make the difficult choice of who to side with. In the case of the southern families they were "Patriots", but in the case of the New York family some of them had to flee to Canada after the war and start a new life. Once again leaving behind family and not being particularly welcome back to visit. So pack a few belongings

and hope you aren't seasick too often!

My Southern folks had sand in their shoes. The West called to just about every family after the Revolution. Some as families and some as single men took out for Kentucky, Alabama, Arkansas, Kansas and Texas. Just imagine packing all you care about on a wagon or just a horse, leaving behind the farm or the city and taking off across the mountains and rivers into the wilds of unchartered land filled with wild animals and often unfriendly native people.

My next group of ancestors immigrated in the mid 1800s, mostly from Germany. The promise of better living conditions and the opportunity for financial success drew them to New York and Pennsylvania and ultimately to Michigan. Many of them served in the Civil War with the promise of citizenship. They were followed by a group in the late 1800s who were immigrating because of political reasons. But whatever the reason they too left family and friends. The trip over would have been quicker and they were able to bring more of their belongings.

So, when I grumble about the moving process, I need to remember that I had it pretty easy compared to those before me. No premade boxes, no moving company, just crates or steamer trunks loaded on a wagon to get to the nearest train south!

Before You Download, Repost or Share That Content . . .

Submitted by Gaynol Fales

Most all of us share and repost on social media sites like Facebook or Pinterest, and download photos and documents on genealogy site likes Ancestry or MyHeritage. What most of us don't understand is that our sharing and downloading may be illegal under United States copyright laws (i.e., the right to make copies). You may think "It's just for me" or "It's just for my family history" or "I'm just sharing it with family," yet certain laws and policies still apply. Let's take a look at what we need to check before we share or download content and what we need to do after we do it.

Social media and genealogy sites have a policy page to check, and these are found in the main navigation menu or in the footer, usually connected to the About, Services, Policies, Terms or Legal pages. The policy copyright will explain what rights the company claims and that members' copyrights apply regarding reuse of their respective created and uploaded content. So unless it applies to names, undisputed facts or historical events, if you copy and download site content, you could be violating someone's copyright.

Facebook's policies are located in Help (in the footer) then Policies and Reporting>Intellectual Property>Copyright.¹ On this page are links to guidelines about copyright infringement. Facebook cautions that members can't be too careful even if the creator/owner is acknowledged and no profit is coming from it. Because of the monetizing potential of Pages, even deciding in what sense one is or is not profiting has to be weighed. This may hold true even though others have already posted or shared the same thing. Facebook says users must be wary and determine whether what is being downloaded, posted or shared is "in the public domain, is covered by fair use, or [if] there is another exception to copyright."²

The sharing and content co-opting rules on a genealogy resource like Ancestry similar to social policy.

Ancestry's statements are found in the footer link Terms and Conditions.³ Expressly permitted content can be used for both personal and professional family history research but only if you "keep all copyright and other proprietary notices on any Ancestry Content you download or print"⁴ and don't "distribute, republish, or sell significant portions of any Ancestry Content."⁵ Ancestry is also clear that it wants to be alerted when a member believes intellectual property rights have been violated.⁶

An added dimension with sites like Ancestry is that what you upload to or download from public trees also involves copyrights. For example, say you download from a public tree a photo of a newspaper obituary to use in the family history you're going to give out or publish. Is it permitted? As Judy Russell says, "It depends."⁷ Facts accumulated from that obit are yours to use because facts are in the public domain, but the obituary itself could be under some type of copyright.

If you did not personally write that obit, have rights to the original copy or have some kind of statement from that newspaper proving you wrote it, that obit may not be yours to copy, even if it's about your own family member. If the obit was published before 1989, it's likely in the public domain but not always. The website may have special restrictions on some content. The newspaper could still hold rights as well. If the obit on the tree was downloaded from some other online resource, the legalities compound.

If a photo or a manuscript (family letter, diary page, etc.) was uploaded to a public tree and you want to distribute a copy in any way, permission must be obtained from the person who posted it. Even then, potential exists for trouble because that submitter may not actually own the copyright and hasn't received permission from the legal owner.

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Dorothy "Jean" J. Bell

Hale, Michigan July 29, 1936 - May 9, 2021

Jean loved genealogy and history. She and her sister Beatty wrote and published a history of the Hale Area Schools. Jean went on to publish 2 more history books on her own.[Hale and Up the Tracks 1&2] She had at one time over 6,000 historical pictures that she loved to collect.

THE RECYCLING OF GRAVES IN GERMANY

Reprinted courtesy of James Derheim of European Focus Private Tours

Genealogists who plan research trips around visitation of cemeteries may find this is a hard pill to swallow - but the fact of the matter is, in Germany and in many other central European countries like Belgium, Holland, Switzerland, and Austria, space is too tight to allow the constant expansion of cemeteries. With 83 million people living above ground in Germany, for example, a country the size of our state of Wisconsin, there isn't much room leftover for new burial plots. The outlines and dimensions of a cemetery are usually constant, kept the same as they have been for hundreds of years. Sometimes the cemetery surrounds the church. In this case, right across the wall from the cemetery there could be homes, businesses, and streets. There just isn't any room for expansion. Even when the cemetery is located on the edge of the town it's oftentimes competing with homes, apartment buildings, and industrial parks for space.

So, what the Germans and many of the other Europeans do, is after a period of about 15-20 years, if the family no longer pays for the upkeep and "rental" of the burial plot, the remains of the person buried there are removed, the headstone is taken away, and a new person is buried in that spot. The removal of remains is made a little easier by the fact that unlike here in the USA, people are not buried in thick concrete vaults along with a coffin. In Germany, after 15 or 20 years, the leftovers from a person's mortal life could probably fit inside of a shoebox.

In some towns, these remains are placed into a common grave, which is marked but not catalogued. So, in other words, if a genealogist has fantasies about going to Germany and finding dead relatives in the cemetery from the 1800s or even the early 1900s, those dreams need to be held in check against the possibility that the grave may no longer exist.

Headstones are not always kept around. In my travels, I have seen them used as foundations, steps, pieces of roads, and discarded on a pile of rubbish. This is not a reflection of

the lack of sentimentality of the Germans, it's just a fact of life as it continues.

Typically, when a person passes on, the daughter or the son of the deceased will take on the responsibility of caring for the plot. These graves are maintained with extreme care and thoughtfulness, with fresh flowers grown right on the graves, a weekly visit to make sure the flowers and other plants are tended, and in some cases, a candle that is lit on the grave for the celebration of the person's birthday. In all cases, German cemeteries resemble parks or flower gardens more than they resemble a final resting place. They are, to put it quite simply, beautiful places to walk through.

When that son or daughter gets to be in their middle or late 50s, the desire to continue tending the grave of their parents dwindles, as they start thinking about their own final resting place. This is the time when usually, that grave is given to someone else. That someone may or may not be a family member.

In some cases, a grave will have a stone that reads simply "Familie Meyer." This grave will oftentimes contain the remains of generations of family members, with only the living relatives

knowing exactly who is buried there. Official registration offices are rare and can usually only be found at the very large cemeteries. In many cases, their records only cover those people currently buried there, and therein lies the paradox. If people only keep their graves for 15-20 years, then how do you know if your ancestor was actually buried there at all, or what that ancestor's wife's name was, or children? The genealogist's best course of action is to get this information not from the dead but from the living, by brushing up on their German or by (with fingers crossed!) finding someone in the town who can speak English and who can answer questions about families who have long since been "recycled."

James Derheim, European Focus Private Tours

www.europeanfocus.com



Photo courtesy of Daniel J Stock

Editor's note - I recently received an email from Family Search advising me that I could look at information about an ancestor that turned out to be a "Find A Grave" link via Ancestry to my great-great-grandmother, Philipina Allgeier Eiermann, b 1829 d 1877, Rohrbach, Germany with additional links to a number of family members with birth and death info and a note that the grave is no longer at the site.

“but my Grandmother was born in a little fishing village”

By Judy Sheldon

That was the comment from a cousin when I shared my research on her grandmother, my great aunt, Blanche Jeanne Couture Powers. You see Blanche was born 1 November 1896 in Alpena, MI. Alpena's population really hasn't changed much over the years. In 1900 it was 11,800 and in 2010 it was 10,500, going up and down by a few thousand persons over the years. The Blanche my cousin and I knew lived in the Detroit area after she married Arthur William Powers in 1919. Arthur was my grandmother's brother. As kids we didn't know her early history, so compared to her life style as an adult, being from a fishing family seemed out of character.



From left to right - Adabelle Powers Hasseler, Arthur Powers, Blanche Couture Powers, James Power, Helen Powers Manz and Jane Nogle Powers.

1894. The history of this Couture family goes all the way back to France and Guillaume Couture born 14 January 1617 St-Godard-de-Rouen, Siene Maritime, Haute-Normandie, France and died 4 April 1701 Hotel-Dieu, Quebec, Canada. According to the Dictionary of Canadian Biography he was a carpenter, a *donné* of the Society of Jesus, discoverer, interpreter, diplomat, judge of the seneschal's court, and a first settler at Lévis, Quebec.

So, why did we think her early years out of character? Well, the Blanche I remember was a

petite lady, very well dressed (even for picnics at our farm), with never one of her always red hairs out of place. She and Uncle Art lived in a very nice home with white carpet. Yes, we visited once or twice and were threatened with our lives if we tracked in dirt. They drove top of the line cars. Uncle Art was a buyer on the Eastern Market and tended to flash a roll of cash, always smoked a cigar and told stories that most of the adults rolled their eyes at.

When I moved to Northeast Michigan, I knew Blanche was from Alpena and did a little digging. Lo and Behold there are cousins of hers living in Alpena and they had done considerable research on the Couture family!

Her parents were James F Couture (1865-1936) and Celina M Blais (1873-1956). James was born 7 February 1865 in Lanse de Beaufils, Gaspé, Quebec, Canada and died 19 January 1936 in Alpena, Alpena co., Michigan. Celina M. Blais was born 26 March 1873 in Alpena, Alpena co, Michigan and died 9 July 1956 in Alpena, Alpena co, Michigan. James was a fisherman. The family of James and Celina and four girls and two boys lived on 8th St several blocks from the Thunder Bay River and St. Anne's Catholic Church. James had immigrated in 1880, was naturalized in 1885 and married in

COVID-19 Museum and Historic Sites Update

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and Gov. Whitmer's order extending work from home for state employees, the Michigan History Museum and the Archives of Michigan in Lansing will remain closed to the public until hopefully August 2021.

The Archives of Michigan continues to provide reference services by [email](#) and by telephone at 517-335-2576. Or, [sign up for a one-on-one virtual appointment with an archivist](#) to ask research questions or to request records.

Registration now open for 2021 Barbara J. Brown Family History Seminar

Each summer, the Archives of Michigan and the Michigan Genealogical Council host a seminar to promote family history awareness and teach genealogical research skills. This event is generously supported by the Abrams Foundation in loving memory of Barbara J. Brown. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2021 annual event will take place remotely via Zoom on Friday, July 9 and Saturday, July 10.

Registration from June 1 - July 9 is \$45. [Visit the Barbara J. Brown Family History Seminar web page](#) for detailed information on the program and featured speaker, Judy G. Russell and to register for the event.

Before You Download, continued from page 4

Look for citation suggestions

Citations are commonly provided by genealogy resource sites. The company's note-type citations are usually found on the page from which you search a collection. For a specific record or image in a collection, the print option often contains the reference citation for that specific download.

Social media sites apparently don't offer help, but fortunately there are aids like the MLA chart on

LibGuides.⁸ Similar online guides exist for all the modern citation styles.

To sum things up, we should always be "copyright aware" before using any downloaded content in our research, reporting or writing. Read the policies while keeping in mind that even if you cite your source, you could still be guilty of copyright infringement. So let's be careful. It's natural to want to share an exciting find, but no one wants to get into trouble for it.

(All sources accessed 26 May 2021.)

¹Facebook.com https://www.facebook.com/help/1020633957973118/copyright/?helpref=hc_fnav

²Facebook.com <https://m.facebook.com/help/308895412492789>

^{3, 4, 5 & 6}Ancestry.com <https://www.ancestry.com/cs/legal/termsandconditions>

⁷LegalGenealogist.com <https://www.legalgenealogist.com/2012/09/12/copyright-and-the-obit>

⁸LibGuides.com <https://columbiacollege-ca.libguides.com/mla/socialmedia>

Women's WWI Registration, continued from page 5

entities discarded them as space became limited. So far there are three counties whose cards have been found: Genessee, Kent (Grand Rapids) and Midland. That doesn't mean they are the only ones still in existence! The hope is that local societies and history buffs will scour their county,

township, city records, and check with their museums for any of these cards. The Greater Grand Rapids Women's History Council is gathering as much information as can be found for a growing database of these committees and the registration cards.

Sources:

Tawas Herald, 10 May 1918

Caroline Bartlett Crane, *History of the work of the Women's Committee (Michigan Division), Council of National Defense during the World War* (n.p.:1922)

Women's History Council, <https://www.ggrwhc.org/projects/wwi/>

Yes, Debbie Mieszala of the *Advancing Genealogist* has done it again: the Law Library part of her website now lists the original published laws and court cases for Michigan from territorial times onward with links to those materials that can be found online:

- The *Historic Michigan Statutes* page begins by listing the known sources of historic Michigan statutory law, and adds links to digitized books including territorial laws, state laws, and topical compilations.
- And the *Historic Michigan Case Law* page includes links to digitized books include case law digests and reporters. Debbie notes that digests can work as indexes to case reporters.

So if you want to know, for example, how old you had to be to leave a valid will disposing of land in the Territory of Michigan in 1818, or how Rhoda Zeolida Critchett's name was changed in 1847, you know where to begin.

Head over to [Advancing Genealogist](#), and check out the new listings of *Historic Michigan Legal Resources*.

Huron Shores Genealogical Society

**6010 Skeel Ave
Oscoda, MI 48750**

Our Regular Meetings

Our regular business meetings are held quarterly at the Grace Ev. Lutheran Church, East Tawas at 5:30 PM on the third Thursday of the month.

Our next meetings are:

July 15, 2021 - In Person and Virtual meeting

October 21, 2021

An HSGS staff member will usually be in our office at the library during the following hours:

Wednesday & Thursday 11:00 to 2:00

Saturday 11:00 to 2:00

HSGS staff can also meet with clients by appointment. Please call the library (989.739.9581) or email to

huronshoresgs@yahoo.com to arrange an appointment with 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 - Dale Harwood

Vice President - Lauri Finerty

Secretary - Linda Glomski

Treasurer - Daniel Stock

Database Manager - Judy Sheldon

Director - Gaynol Fales

Please visit our web site at: <http://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.

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