



# HURON SHORES GENOGRAM

## Oscoda, Michigan

### Celebrate Your Michigan Pioneer Ancestors By Dale Harwood

The Michigan Genealogical Council is offering certificates celebrating Pre- Statehood and First Families of Michigan. They are honoring our ancestors who settled in the Great Lakes State. Certificates are available for Pre-Statehood settlers who arrived prior to January 26, 1837 and First Families who settled between January 26, 1837 and December 31, 1880.

Personalized certificates and a pin bearing the emblem of the certificate are presented to the recipients, and their ancestor's name will be added to a database of early Michigan pioneers.

My Ancestors, Christopher Snyder and Elizabeth (Betsey) Forshee Snyder, along with their first three children (including my Great-Grandmother, Esther Snyder Dunham) traveled from Canada to settle in Genesee County in 1864. I was able to document all of my ancestors to them including all death certificates and pictures of all of the ancestors back to and including Christopher and Betsey.

### HSGS Genealogical Meetings and Events

July

- 8/9 Barbara Brown Virtual Family History Seminar
- 21 HSGS Business meeting, Grace Ev. Lutheran Church, East Tawas, MI 5:30 and by virtual Zoom

October

- TBD Cemetery Walk, Sacred Heart Cemetery, Oscoda, see details on our web site.
- 20 HSGS Business meeting, Grace Ev. Lutheran Church, East Tawas, MI 5:30

Fall

Colletta Series repeat

November

- 12 MGC Fall Family History Seminar



## Is it True or Is it Not: Unraveling Family Stories

Contributed by Judy Sheldon

Family stories form the basis of our family research in many cases and if not verified with documentation can lead us down a never ending rabbit hole. Below are a few common stories and how they can lead us to false conclusions.

**Stories about our ethnic origins:** Relying on where we think our name came from, because the family went to a particular church or lived in an area founded by a particular ethnic group might not be the whole truth. Look for clues like when did they settle there and when did the founding people settle there. Time can make a big difference. Be sure to check the history of the time your family was in a particular area. This leads directly into the next possible problem. Look at the neighbors of your family for clues of origin. If the surname doesn't help, look at the given names for help.

**Confusion about settlement names:** Even in Colonial America names became anglicized or spelled as they sounded. Some have a religious history such as Pennsylvania Dutch. The name 'Pennsylvania Dutch' is not actually mistranslated 'Pennsylvania Deutsch', as is commonly assumed. In fact, the name comes from an older British and colonial American use of the word 'Dutch' to refer informally to the German language or its speakers. These are not people from the Netherlands (another myth) but are Anabaptists who fled to Germany from Switzerland. Some continued to speak Swiss while others spoke a mix of Swiss and Palatine German. Their dialects continued to split and evolve.

**False association with famous people:** Oh, don't we wish we could lay claim to a famous king or queen or explorer or even a notorious outlaw! Is your surname that of a famous person? Careful

research is needed to prove a connection. New technology has provided us with a boost in our research, DNA. Many proven descendants of famous people have taken the Y-DNA (males) or the Mitochondrial DNA test (females) and if you match with them you are on your way to stardom!

**Maiden names:** Names passed from generation to generation can get mixed up with the person they belong to and another person in the family. Use vital records of others in the family that would list the mother's name to confirm her name as much as possible. Obituaries can help as well. But sometimes records can be misleading. Great-great-grandmother Flora Thomson, nee Bowie was given a different spelling of her maiden name on each of the marriage and death records of many of her twelve children. Her father's birth record listed the spelling a Buoy and was married under the Bowie spelling.

**Birthplaces:** This one can really mess with you. Grandpa says he was born in X, he puts Y on some records, Z on others. Did he really not know where he was born? Well, he only knows what his parents told him for one. He may have been born in an area that changed political boundaries, like New York and Vermont, or the New England colonies bordering Canada. In the 1950 Federal Census a new born was listed by the place where the mother lives, not the actual place of birth. Someone else filled out the vital record who may not have known the place of birth, just hear-say.

**Military service:** We all know the "fish story" and how it grows and grows. Sometimes tales of military service or action in a battle make better stories than the truth. Check military service records and pension files.

**Surname origin:** This has been discussed above,

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## Michigan Archives Family-History-Seminar Friday, July 8 - Saturday, July 9, 2022

Each summer, the Archives of Michigan and the Michigan Genealogical Council host a seminar to promote family history awareness and teach genealogy research skills. The event is generously supported by the Abrams Foundation in loving memory of Barbara J. Brown.

For this year's event, the Archives are pleased to offer this flagship annual gathering as a hybrid event. Participants can attend sessions either online or onsite. This year, they are delighted to be hosting Dr. David McDonald, CG, whose sessions will all be via Zoom.

Dr. David McDonald has more than 45 years' research experience and has been a professional genealogist since his school days in suburban Chicago. He has lectured at various national and state genealogy conferences, and has coordinated courses on religions and their records, research in the Northwest Territory and subsequent states, and Advanced Methods. A native Midwesterner, Dave has done extensive research in all the states of the old Northwest Territory and adjacent areas of Ontario.

Visit the Archives web site at <https://www.michigan.gov/mhc/archives/family-history-seminar> to review the full Agenda and to Register for the Seminar.

### Is It True or Not? continued from page 2

but one item not mentioned is assuming families who immigrated at the same time, with the same name are related or families living in a particular area with the same name are related. Might be and Might not be!

I'm related to an Indian Princess! Native American ancestry, much like the famous person relationship is iffy, only less likely. Autosomal DNA testing can help clear the murky waters. It won't necessarily tell you a tribe, but might be able to locate an area where the Native population lived. There are numerous articles available to help you research Native American roots.

My family name changed at Ellis Island. NOT!!! Passengers were listed passenger lists before they left port and when they arrived in the USA the agents checked them off as they entered. Most offices had translators on hand to help. There are several possibilities: they changed their name before they left, they changed it after they settled because of its ethnic sound or ease of spelling in an English speaking community. Whatever the reason, Ellis Island wasn't the reason.

Family stories and legends are great places to glean hints of the true story, you just have to back it up with sound research!

## MICHIGAN GENEALOGICAL COUNCIL

Huron Shores Genealogical Society continues to be an actively participating member of this Council. We are all able to access the Council's web site and its periodic newsletter.

You are encouraged to do so on a regular basis. In addition to providing current information on Council activities, the newsletter provides links to many web sites of genealogical interest including those of other Michigan Societies. A number of these societies allow non-members to attend their virtual programs. Their web site is <https://mimqc.org>.

**ALBERT ST. MARTIN PASSES AWAY**  
 [Tawas Herald, June 9, 1922]

Albert St. Martin, 85 years of age passed away at the home of his son, Alfred St. Martin, in this city last Tuesday afternoon at two o'clock. The cause of death was pronounced old age. Mr. St. Martin had been failing since Easter time and two weeks ago suffered a paralytic stroke and since that time was confined to his bed.



Photo courtesy of Judy Sheldon

having died in infancy and one daughter, Martha, and three sons, Andrew, Paul and Thomas passed away later in life, Thomas having died last summer in Grand Rapids and brought to East Tawas for burial.

Four daughters and four sons survive, viz: Peter of East Tawas, Mary LaBerge of East Tawas, Jennie Abair of Bay City, Annie Marontate of East

Funeral services were held on Friday morning of this week at 8:30 from St. Joseph's Catholic church and interment was made in the East Tawas Catholic cemetery.

Albert St. Martin was born Jan. 8, 1827, in Sorrel, Province of Quebec, Canada. He was united in marriage to Miss Annie Bellemore at Belleville, Ont., Can., about 72 years ago. In 1866 he came to Saginaw and in the spring or 1873 to East Tawas, where he has resided for 49 years. Fourteen children were born to Mr. and Mrs. St. Martin, two

Tawas, Ella Vigrass of Grand Rapids, Sinton, Alfred, and Albert St. Martin, all of East Tawas. Mrs. Vigrass had been with her father to last two weeks of his illness.

Relations from out of the city at the funeral were Mrs. Jennie Abair of Bay City, Mrs. Tom Vigrass of Grand Rapids, Mrs. Joseph Gay of Whittemore, a niece of deceased, and Charles St. Martin of Alabaster, a nephew.

**Michigan Library and Historical Center**

**Archives of Michigan**

We are back open!

Monday thru Friday from 1 to 5 pm      Saturday from 10 am to 4 pm  
 Reference Desk Hours By Email or Phone 8 am to 5 pm Monday through Friday

Phone: (517) 335-2576      Email: [archives@michigan.gov](mailto:archives@michigan.gov)

Visit our web site at: [www.michigan.gov/archivesofmi/](http://www.michigan.gov/archivesofmi/)  
<https://michiganology.org/>

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Phone: (517) 335-1477  
 Visit our website at: [www.michigan.gov/libraryofmichigan](http://www.michigan.gov/libraryofmichigan)

**Michigan History Museum**

Museum will be open  
 Mon-Thu for school field trips and tours of 10 or more  
 Fri/Sat from 10 am to 4 pm      Sunday from 1 pm to 5 pm

Visit our Web site at: <https://www.michigan.gov/museum/>  
 For more information call: 517) 335-2573

## THE ETERNAL TRIANGLE AGAIN

[The Tawas Herald, July 21, 1922]

On June 17, 1922, Mrs. Dorothea Gilman took her own life and those of her two children in a rooming house in Boston. The news flashed across the country and that evening, Mrs. Angeline Gilman of Detroit, formerly Miss Angeline Dilworth of Baldwin township, Iosco county, read the account in the evening paper.

Frank Gilman is the man who is said to have married both women. In 1919, he married Angeline in New York City, brought her back to Detroit and a short time afterward deserted her. In 1920 he persuaded Dorothea to run away from her home in Monroe, Mich., and marry him. He returned to Detroit last August and informed Angeline Gilman that he was married again, stating that her baby

was not so pretty as Dorothea's baby. She did not believe him, however, until she read the account of the tragic death of the second Mrs. Gilman.

Mrs. Angeline Gilman went before prosecuting attorney and swore out a warrant charging Gilman with bigamy, and he is now in custody at Monroe awaiting trial on the charge. Angeline endured many hardships after Gilman deserted her and finally found work in a Detroit factory to support herself and little son, Norton. She now says that she feels that Gilman must be made to pay not only for the suffering of herself but also for the other Mrs. Gilman which resulted so tragically.

## "WHEN MEN WERE "FLAPPERS"

Grandpa Wore Corsets and Was Surely Some Dude in The Days of His Golden Youth.

[The Tawas Herald, September 22, 1922]

"There is so much talk against the flapper these days, but history records that men were the flappers 50 years ago," remarks Gillatte (Wyo.) News. This assault on the dignity and good fame of the generation of grandfathers is bolstered up by certain evidence: "They greased their hair, wore corsets and otherwise made themselves look fine. Twenty years ago they wore, stiff-bosomed shirts, silk belts six inches wide in the middle and wore neckties that puffed out in front like the breast of a pouter pigeon."

Reading further in sartorial history, it will be found that at one period the shoulders of men's coats were heavily padded to make the veriest weakling appear an athlete. It may even be suspected that the sterner sex gave up wearing breeches because so many did not possess the proper shaped leg.

Airing of the facts brought up by this Wyoming editor has the better spirit of humility. It serves to remind also that the fashion of one age almost invariably appears grotesque to the next, and suggests that the present modes are but transitory, being destined to give way to something perhaps worse, perhaps better, but surely different.

## The David Rumsey Map Collection

The David Rumsey Map Collection <[www.davidrumsey.com](http://www.davidrumsey.com)> is a free online historical map collection at the Stanford University Library that has over 115,000 maps and related images online. The online map collection is a searchable database that allows you to make your own journeys helpful to your search for family history.

You can use the MapRank search tool by entering a place name in the 'Find a place window'. The results will automatically appear as a scrollable list of maps with thumbnail images in the right side window. The maps in the Source:

right side list are ranked by coverage, with the maps that have coverage closest to your search window listed at the top. Clicking on a map in the list will open it in the Luna Browser overlaid on a current Google map of the same area. You can filter your results with the 'When timeline', the 'What or Who keyword text' window and the 'Map scale' windows.

You also are given an opportunity to purchase a print of the map.

Article by Sunny Jane Morton, Family Tree Magazine, July/August 2022 and her video at

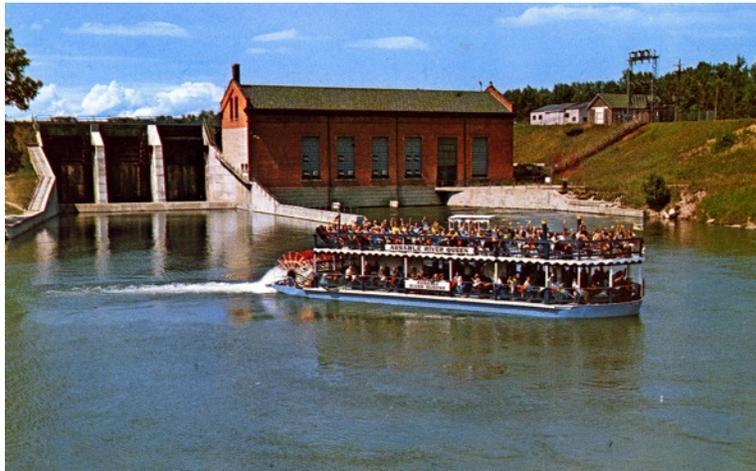
[www.familytreemagazine.com/websites/how-to-use-david-rumsey-map-collection-for-genealogy](http://www.familytreemagazine.com/websites/how-to-use-david-rumsey-map-collection-for-genealogy)

## THE AUSABLE RIVER QUEENS

Howard Brubaker entered the service in 1942/43 and fought in France with the 4<sup>th</sup> Division First Army. He was wounded and after a long hospitalization, he was discharged in 1945.

He first came to Oscoda later in 1945 because he loved to hunt and fish. He became a resort owner and charter boat fisherman on Lake Huron until the decline in perch fishing turned his attention to the AuSable River. He started guiding people on the river using a small boat that he kept under the bridge on M-65 near Five Channels Dam. From that grew a dream of using a larger boat to carry more people to enjoy the beautiful area downstream of the dam.

He first moved a 30 foot fishing boat from the big lake to Five Channels to see how it would work. Unfortunately, navigation was a problem because of the draw of that boat and interference from all the stumps and sand bars. However, people liked the service and he decided that using the principles of paddle wheel river boats he had seen on his vacation travels to build a more suitable craft which he believed would work better. Undeterred at being unable to get a loan, he proceeded the hard way on credit and personal finances with



River Queen I at Five Channels Dam

the help of friends.

The AuSable Queen I was started in Tawas with the help of Mel Brown, fishing boat livery owner, and Herb Cholger, mechanic and welder, who built the hull, decks and paddle wheel based on a design researched by Howard about Mississippi river boats,

It was then hauled on a lowboy with police escort to Cooke Dam road, then a muddy two track, and launched into Cooke Pond and christened with a bottle of Carlings Black Label beer.

After taking the boat up to Five Channels, an experience in navigational learning, the superstructure was completed by Elmer and Ernie Falkenhagen and placed in service in 1959. River Queen I drew only 1 foot of water when fully loaded with 140 people and was a success. Prior to starting to work on River Queen I, he was granted a lease on river front property at the Five Channels Dam to provide for operation with the entrepreneurial

foresight to request the option of having the first opportunity to obtain an additional lease in the event he was successful and was faced with competition on the river.

By 1966, when potential competition became a reality, River Queen II was designed and then constructed on the shore of Foote Pond



River Queen II

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## Brubaker Rites Today at Oscoda Sacred Heart

Tawas News Herald and Press, May 20, 1987

A memorial service is to be held here Wednesday (today), 10 a.m. at Sacred Heart Catholic Church for Howard B. Brubaker, 76, long-time businessman and past president of Oscoda-AuSable Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Brubaker underwent open heart surgery last October, suffered a stroke Christmas Eve and returned from Florida recently to Saginaw St. Mary's Hospital, where he died Saturday, May 16.

Born December 26, 1910 at Muskegon, he was employed by the Buick Motor Division at Flint before entering the U. S. Army during World War II. After returning from military service, he decided to make his home in the northern part of the state and has since resided in Oscoda.

He entered business here in 1945 as owner-operator of a resort, then expanded his business when he began using small boats on the AuSable River to guide visiting sports fishermen. That led to his establishment of a perch fishing party boat at the mouth of the AuSable River.

It was during this time that the idea for a canoe race was discussed at Oscoda and Brubaker, one of the originators, along with Percy Jocks, set out on an expedition to test the feasibility of such a race. The two Oscoda men paddled a canoe from Grayling to Oscoda in 1946 and their enthusiasm for the idea led to establishment of the AuSable River Marathon, long recognized as a world-class event in this sport.

When perch began to show signs of depletion in Lake Huron affecting the fishing party boat business, Brubaker recalled an earlier idea he had for a new enterprise which originated while enroute to Florida for a winter vacation. While traveling



Howard Brubaker  
Photo: Neil Thorton

through Georgia he spotted a stern-wheel paddle boat plying one of the rivers and became intrigued with the notion of establishing a similar excursion boat on the AuSable River.

Brubaker set his plan into motion, retaining Herbert Cholger of Tawas City to put his welded sheets of metal for a stern-wheel paddle boat. Through arrangements with Consumers Power Co. for docking, Brubaker headquartered his first AuSable River Queen below Five Channels Dam and it became an instant hit with vacationers to the region. He later constructed a second AuSable River Queen, locking that boat at Foote Dam, and both have become regional tourist attractions.

As past president and an active member of the chamber of commerce, Brubaker was a "shaker and doer" in promoting area tourism and in the mid-1960s when the old stairway leading to Largo Springs had deteriorated to a point where it was hazardous to visit this scenic point of interest, he headed up volunteers who completely rebuilt that steep access route.

After selling his AuSable River Queen business, Brubaker became a real estate salesman and later operated a fishing dock business in AuSable Township.

He was a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and was a charter member of the Oscoda Lions Club.

Married to Nan Perry on October 4, 1952, at Saginaw, she survives him along with a sister, Priscilla Belt of Oregon.

The Rev. Father Isadore Milkuski is to officiate at this morning's memorial service, with arrangements by Dreisler's Funeral Home, Saginaw.

The River Queens, continued from page 6

again with the help of Herb Cholger. The larger and heavier Queen II drew 18 inches when loaded with 180 people. Both vessels were like corks on the water that easily passed over dead head stumps and sand bars. However, the shallow draft made steering very tricky in wind and current. This time the Queen was christened using champagne by World Adventure Series Travel log lectures, George Pierrot and his wife. The television exposure Pierrot provided helped to increase the river boat tourism business. Also Ron Gamble, owner of the Blue heron Resort in Harrisville, who also had a Detroit area radio program provided support for the River Queen enterprise. The river provided an opportunity for visitors to the area to enjoy the beautiful scenery along the river as well

as learn about the history and statistics in addition to see wildlife with ice cream treats for the children for spotting it. An additional upgrade in service was the acquisition of a liquor license. Entertainment was also provide by accordion playing Willie Demott, aka Chief White Cloud, in an Indian headdress.

For the entire life of the enterprise, wife Nancy played a supporting role through ticket and souvenir sales for both boats, taking care of staffing and supplies as well as serving as bookkeeper.

Although Howard eventually sold the business, the AuSable Queen II continues to operate on the shore near Foote Dam until this day.

Sources:

- AuSable River Queens, The Howard Brubaker Story, AuSable/Oscoda Historical Society, 1993
- The AuSable River Queens, AuSable/Oscoda Historical Society, 1993
- Howard Brubaker Obituary, Tawas News Herald and Press, May 20, 1987

**“TELL ME MORE ABOUT YOU, MOM OR DAD**  
**from New Line Genealogy, LLC. 11715 Cripps Rd. Herron, MI 49744-9727**

I just wanted to share a project that Betsy and I have been working on together. We just published and released a book through Amazon. It is very recent. We don't even have OUR copies yet!

There are actually two versions of the book so far, a mom version and a dad version. *“Tell Me More about You, Mom (or Dad): 365 Daily Guided Journal Prompts to Record and Preserve the Life Stories of Your Loved Ones”*

Each is a daily guided journal that makes collecting all those details about MOM's (or DAD's) LIFE from childhood, to career, to relationships, to the silly, quirky bits fun and simple.

Here is the link for the book about Mom: <https://amzn.to/38I82dK>

There is also a version for Dad: <https://amzn.to/38HoDOT>

It has been a fun collaboration for me and Betsy. Obviously, the list is genealogy based and modeled after the sorts of questions I need answered to write a family history. Betsy was an editor in a former life and she has been key in pulling it all together. The cover art is hers as well.

Matthew McCormack

**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 21, 2022 - 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](mailto: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 - GaynoI 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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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