



# HURON SHORES GENOGRAM

## Oscoda, Michigan

### THE MICHIGAN ARCHIVES

The Archives is located inside the Michigan Library and Historical Center:

702 W. Kalamazoo St.  
Lansing, MI 48915  
Email: Archives@Michigan.gov  
Phone: 517-335-2576  
<https://www.michigan.gov/mhc/archives>

The Archives of Michigan is open to the public on the following schedule:

Monday through Friday, 1 to 5 p.m.  
Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Sunday, closed.

The Archives of Michigan is closed on official state holidays and several other days throughout the year. Please visit [Holiday Closing Schedule](#) for complete information.

There is no fee or admission charge for entering the Archives of Michigan. Please stop at the museum admissions desk on your way in to let them know you are visiting the archives. The staff will be glad to direct you to the reading room.

Collections at the Archives of Michigan include probate files, naturalization records, tax rolls, cemetery transcripts, local histories, circuit court case files, prison registries and other helpful records. Providing access to the public is a core function of the Archives of Michigan.

### 2023 Barbara J. Brown Family History Seminar on June 23-24, 2023

Save the date! Drew Smith is the featured speaker at the 2023 Barbara J. Brown Family History Seminar on Friday, June 23 through Saturday, June 24, 2023. The Archives of Michigan and the Michigan Genealogical Council's annual seminar promotes family history awareness and teaches research skills. This year's seminar will be offered as a hybrid event (onsite and virtual).

Go to <https://www.michigan.gov/mhc/archives> for details

### HSGS Genealogical Meetings and Events

April

20 HSGS Business Meeting at R. J. Parks Library, Oscoda at 5:30. In person and virtual.

May

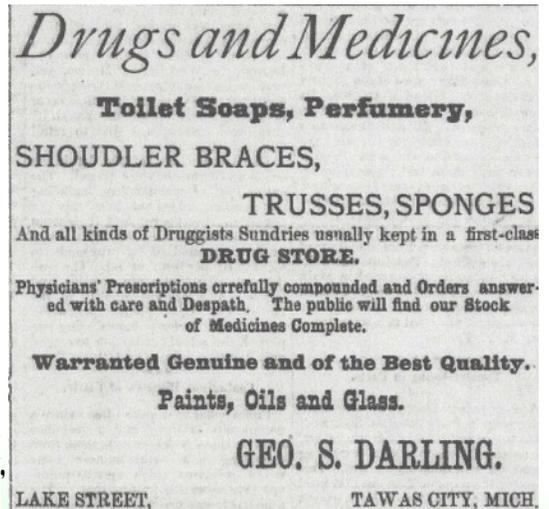
12 MGC Delegate Meeting

June

23-24 Barbara Brown Family History in Person and Virtual Seminar featuring Drew Smith at the Michigan Archives

July

20 HSGS Business Meeting at Parks Library, 6010 Skeel Ave, Oscoda at 5:30. In person and virtual.



Where would you shop in 1884?

See other options on page 3

## Try Searching with Wildcards

By Gaynol Fales

When searching on the internet, a “wildcard” is a character (\* and/or ?) used to replace an unknown character or group of characters in your search words. Wildcards are used when you aren't sure of a spelling, when you think the informant or transcriber could easily have gotten the name wrong, or when you know the name has several variations. Using wildcards expands a search's range of results while keeping them within specified parameters. Apostrophes (\*) are used when you are uncertain of a group of letters in a word. Question marks are used to replace just one letter.

It takes some practice to figure out which wildcard works in a particular search query. Unfortunately, it's not always clear where wildcard tips reside on a “genealogy giant” site. Ancestry will remind you about wildcards if your search comes up empty. Some sites may have it in their knowledge base, while others appear to offer no help at all.

Both wildcards can be extremely useful with names having several variations. Generic rules for these two wildcards are:

Although the function of \* and ? are the same, genealogy sites have some differences on how or whether they can be used. Following are tips for using four popular genealogy sites.

### Ancestry.com

1. All wildcard searches must contain at least 3 non-wild card letters.
2. Both first and last character can't be wild cards.

### FamilySearch.org

1. Wildcard searches need contain only 1 non-wild card letter.
2. Both first and last character CAN be wild cards.

### FindMyPast.com

1. Either wildcard will bring up suggested middle names as well as first. (Ancestry and FamilySearch tend less to do this.)
2. Use wildcards for keyword searches. If you know Annabelle Smith's occupation was something to do with guitars, you could try to narrow down all the Annabelle Smiths by using the occupational keyword guitar\*. Results could include guitar teacher, guitar instructor, guitar maker, guitarist, etc.

### MyHeritage.com

1. You may find articles and blogs from past years about using MyHeritage wildcards. Reality? MyHeritage no longer uses them, having been replaced with a variety of options associated with the entry fields. Make sure you consider these field options carefully to narrow down your choices.

Wildcards are a good tool to use when Soundex or phonetic variations come up empty-handed. Most important for good results: look carefully at the options associated with

each search field. Having some of those fields checked or unchecked will hamper wildcard search success, so take your time. Happy ancestor seeking!

•Asterisk (\*): Represent from 0 to 5 letters. Example: You know a Michigan resident appears in documents as Annabelle Smith but you've seen it spelled Anabel and Annabelle. You can see the problem letters are N, L and E. The asterisk covers these variations at the top of your search when you type an\*abe\*. Ancestry produces Smith results for Anabelle, Anabela, Annabell and Annabel Smith on the first page.

•Question mark (?): Represents one character. Pretend the above Michigan woman example's surname is often transcribed as Smith, Smyth and Smythe. You see the I and Y are interchanged, and that a final E is sometimes added. Typing sm?th? brings up Smythe, Smiths, Smyth, Smithl, Smithy. Leaving off that final ? brings up Smith and Smyth, etc.

**You may now renew your membership and pay for research on Pay Pal using your bank account or a credit card via our web site - [www.huronshoresgs.org](http://www.huronshoresgs.org)**

# THE TAWAS HERALD.

TAWAS CITY, MICH., JANUARY 24, 1884.

**JOHN HUSTON,**  
DEALER IN  
Groceries,  
**BOOTS & SHOES,**  
**FLOUR & FEED,**  
WHICH HE OFFERS TO SELL AT  
RETAIL OR WHOLESALE  
AT THE LOWEST  
**BOTTOM PRICES,**  
For Cash.

**FURNITURE!**  
**WM. B. KELLY,**  
TAWAS CITY. MICH.  
Is prepared to furnish Chamber and Parlor Furniture. All kinds of Tables, Chairs, Lounges and everything in the Furniture Line of Best Make and at **LOWEST PRICES**  
Pictures, Frames, and fancy goods, a large stock way down  
I ALSO KEEP ON HAND A FULL LINE OF  
**COFFINS; CASKETS AND UNDERTAKERS GOODS.**  
**THE WHITE SEWING MACHINE**  
The best machine manufactured; with automatic bobbin winder and full set of attachments at prices lower than any good machine can be furnished by travelling agents,

**W. A. DARLING,**  
Is now prepared to serve Oysters in every style at his  
**RESTAURANT**  
near the bridge on Mathew street.  
ALSO  
**CANNED GOODS**  
of every description. Pickled pigs feet, tongue, etc.  
**A**  
Choice Line  
OF  
**CONFECTIONERY**  
AND  
**NUTS.**  
**STATIONERY AND NEWS STAND.**  
Subscriptions received for periodicals and newspapers.  
A portion of your patronage is solicited.  
W. A. DARLING.

**WATSON & CRANDALL**  
**ARCHITECTS AND BUILDERS.**  
Building solicited and specifications and plans furnished on application.  
All work entrusted to our care executed with neatness and dispatch.  
TAWAS CITY, — — — MICHIGAN.

**SQUARE DEALING AND LOW PRICES.**  
**THE RELIABLE**  
**CLOTHING AND DRY GOODS HOUSE**  
Immense stock from the best manufacturers which is being sold at  
**CLOSE FIGURES!**  
I will sell my remaining Overcoats at  
**20 per ct. off Regular Prices.**  
**LUMBERMENS' SUPPLIES**  
*At Wholesale & Retail Down at the Lowest Notch.*  
An Elegant Line of Watches and Jewelry at reasonable prices.  
**A Fine Assortment of Cigars, Tobacco and Pipes.**  
When trading do not fail to call on  
**T. SIMON.**  
CORNER LAKE AND MATHEW STS. TAWAS CITY MICH.  
The only suitable public hall above the store.

**MOSES MINER,**  
"THE OLD RELIABLE"  
*Boot & Shoe Dealer,*  
Of Tawas City.  
Offers Large inducements to the surrounding country in  
**BOOTS, SHOES, RUBBERS, PACKS, SOCKS, ETC.**  
also Make Boots and Shoes of all kinds to  
**ORDER.**  
**Repairing Done on Short Notice.**  
*Also has horses and Rigs to Let at all Times.*

**BE CAREFUL WHERE YOU BUILD**

By Dan Steck

Thomas Wesley Sheldon was born 24 September, 1889 in Alabaster, the son of Richard Sheldon and Jane Ann Bradley. He is found in the 1910 US census working for the US Gypsum company as blacksmith helper in the plaster mill. Shortly after, he built a store and worked as a storekeeper. On 26 June, 1916, He married Mary Michalski, the daughter of Nichol Michalski and Marianna Meilock. In 1918, Thomas and their two year old daughter Grace Virginia became seriously ill during the influenza epidemic. Virginia recovered but Thomas passed on 16 October, 1918, reportedly from pneumonia.

On 2 May, 1919, a second daughter, Alta Margurite, was born to widow Mary. As reported in the 1920 US census, Mary supported her family by tending the store and is found living with her daughter and two Michalski sisters, Nancy and Theresa. Mary's bad luck continued to follow her as in December of 2020 when the store was robbed, see accompanying story below.

The Tawas Herald, December 17, 1920

Another hold-up was staged at Alabaster Monday evening, when a masked man entered the store of Mrs. Thos. Sheldon and, ordered Mrs. Sheldon's sister and a customer to hold up their hands, while he rifled the till, securing between \$35 and \$40. The robber then made his escape and though searching parties were organized at once, he was not located. It is thought that he walked to McIver and slept in the depot there all night. As a stranger was seen by the agent in the evening and in the morning the door was found locked and barred and the man had apparently climbed out through the window. Considerable feeling is rife at Alabaster and it would have fared ill with the misreant had he been caught, as Mrs. Sheldon is a widow who makes her living from her little store and could ill afford to lose the money that was taken.

Tawas Herald, January 12, 1923

**BE CAREFUL WHERE YOU BUILD**

A suit of interest to the older residents of this vicinity is the one being brought by the uniter States Gypsum Co. against Mr. and Mrs. Christensen. The object of the suit is to recover possession of the land on which the Christensen's store stands at Alabaster.

How Tom Sheldon, who built the store, happened to build it at that particular place no one seems to know. Sheldon had left the employ of the company shortly before building the store and it has been rumored that some ill-feeling may have prompted him to establish himself there. But whatever the reason, there stands the store and it stands in Section 23. Among Sheldon's papers found after his death was a quit-claim deed to property lying in Section 28. This deed was signed by Peter and James Kinney, who, our older residents may remember, ran a saw-mill on the old AuGres road between the state road and the bay, but how Christensen and his wife, who was formerly Mrs. Sheldon, now claim the property which the store occupies is another question. Attorney N. C. Hartingh, who represents the Gypsum Co., says as far as he can make out their only claim is through this deed covering land in an entirely different section.

The Gypsum Co. has offered the Christensens a lease for a number of years at a nominal rental, and permission to move the building at any time, but they have declined the offer on the ground that they have a claim to the ownership of the property. So the company has started legal proceedings to maintain its rights.

It seems safer, if you are going to build, be sure to build on your own land and not on your neighbor's land.

Continued on page 5

Be Careful Where You Build, Continued from page 4

Life improved for Mary as a week after the robbery, she married John Emil Christenson on 27 December, 1920. Emil was born on 20 September, 1893 in Chief Lake, Manistee Co., MI, the son of Adolph Christenson and Adolfina Pearson. The Christensons had three children; Evelyn Mary, (1923- 2005), John E, (1924-2008) and Robert, (1925 – 1926).

The couple continued to manage the store but all was not a bed of roses, as in 1923, the US Gypsum company brought suit (see accompanying articles), which was settled by the Michigan Supreme Court against them in 1924, Emil then became a farmer and they continued to live in Alabaster until late in life. Daughter Grace Virginia married Robert Simon 27 August 1949 in East Tawas and Evelyn Mary married Earl Kenneth Metz on 16 December 1950 also in East Tawas. Evelyn passed 26 November, 2005 in St. Joseph County, MI. The Christenson's son, John E passed on 8 January, 2008 in Boynton Beach, Florida.

Tawas Herald, March 21, 1924  
 SUPREME COURT DECIDES IN FAVOR OF  
 GYPSUM COMPAY

The State Supreme Court recently decided the case of U. S. Gypsum vs. Christensens, in regard to the occupancy of the highway leading to the lake where the store built by Thomas Sheldon now stands, in Alabaster.

The court found, that the land was owned by the Company; that the township was entitled to the use of it as a public highway, but the township had no right to give away that use to private parties, and had no right to deprive the land owner of its use and ownership; also that the Kinney brothers, in the first place, were simply permitted to use it by the town board as an easement to saw out some lumber, but that act did not constitute an abandonment of the highway, and if the highway was abandoned the land would revert to the owner, and that the board could directly give it away. The court directed that judgement should be entered for

Mary Christenson died on 7 May 1955 in East Tawas and John Emil Christenson died on 9 October

BROUGHT IT ON THEMSELVES

According to Uncle Henry, Men Deliberately Surrendered First place to the Female Sex

“I see where they are going to take the words ‘obey’ and ‘serve’ out of the marriage service entirely,” commented Barney, the cigar-stand man. “Not that they’s meant anything for some time,” he added sarcastically. “Darned if I know what’s got into the women lately. Before long they’ll grab the pants, an’ we’ll be wearing Mother Hubbards an’ swapping recipes over the back fence. From now on I won’t take off anything at night but my hat, and I’m even goin’ to lock that up.

“It’s all our own fault,” Uncle Henry remarked philosophically. “We started the whole business when we gave up our velvets an’ satins an’ turned bright clothes over to the female of the species. It was goin’ against nature, Barney, an’ nature never forgives. Look around yourself an’ you’ll see that the male bird is always the one with the top-knot, the long tail an’ the brilliant plumage. Back in the days when we ordered our business suits from the steel mill an’ it took a herd of silkworms to turn out a simple walkin’ suit for us you didn’t hear anything about equal rights, did you? No sirree, women never peeped until we stepped out of our fiery hose an’ doublets an’ ostrich plumes an’ put on the hard-boiled hat an’ pin-check pants of modern civilization.” – Collier’s.

Tawas Herald, September 22, 1922

## Find A Grave and Billion Graves, is there a difference?

Yes there is!

Granted both post grave plots, rely on volunteers and offer the ability to add to the posting, that is where the similarities end. Billion Graves is an independently owned company, partnering with FamilySearch, My Heritage, FindMyPast and other genealogical companies. Find A Grave is owned by Ancestry.com.

Their mission statements also differ:

Billion Graves states it is to provide accurate gravestone data with both images and GPS locations and to follow the Genealogical Standard of Proof.

Find A Grave states it is to help people from all over the world work together to find, record and present final disposition information as a virtual cemetery experience.

Billion Graves records always have a photo and a GPS location for every record, not so for Find A Grave. The GPS feature can be a huge asset when trying to find a grave in a large cemetery of one with no map or section and row markers.

Both are free, but Billion Graves has a subscription upgrade offering the following: Family Plots, Nearby Graves, Global Family, Family Notify, Priority Support and Partner Discounts.

I searched for my family Rhaesa in both sites, with the following results: 4 hits in Billion Graves, but at the bottom were links to Find A Grave and other genealogical sites; 27 in Find A Grave with no other links.

Check both out, pick a favorite or volunteer to make one or both better!

<https://billiongraves.com/>

<https://www.findagrave.com/>

## HOUSEHOLD HINTS OF YESTERYEAR

To clean mud from clothing -- Use a corn cob to rub the mud from clothing, then brush well.

To dry boots -- Fill wet boots with dry oats and set aside for few hours. The oats will draw the moisture from the boots, swelling out, will keep the leather from shrinking and hardening as it would do if placed near the fire to dry.

To remove bad smells from clothing -- Articles of clothing or any other articles which have bad-smelling substances on them may be freed from the smell by wrapping them up tightly and burying them in the ground for a day or two.

To remove wrinkles -- Melt and stir together one ounce of white wax, two ounces of strained honey, and two ounces of the juice of lily bulbs; apply to the face every night, and it is said your wrinkles will disappear.

To kill insects such as bed bugs, moths, etc. -- Hot alum water is the best thing known to destroy insects. Boil alum in water until it is dissolved; then apply the hot solution with a brush to closets, bedsteads, cracks, or wherever insects may be destroyed by its use. There is no danger of poisoning, and its persistent use will rid you of the pests; half a pound of alum to a pail.

**STATUS OF HSGS INDEXES**

	1/2022	1/20223
Total number of files (Indexes, Catalogs, Admin)	2,272	2,212
HSGS index files Searchable with Boolean search engine	1,940	1,880
Files to be edited before placement on web site	175 est	174 est

**. Was Your Ancestor Really Married?  
Some Laws associated with English Marriages  
Colin R Chapman**

If a man's wife died and he married her sister before a 1907 Marriage Act, say to help bring up her nieces and nephews, that second marriage was void and any children they had were bastards. Likewise, if the husband of a couple died and his widow subsequently married his brother, and they then had children, they also were bastards. An Act in 1921 permitted, for the first time ever, a man to legally marry his deceased brother's widow or a woman to marry her deceased sister's widower, enabling them to have legitimate children. A further Act in 1931 removed more in-laws from the prohibited relations permitting a man to undergo a valid marriage with his deceased wife's niece or aunt, or with his deceased nephew's or uncle's widow.

The age for a valid marriage was raised to 16 for both boys and girls in 1929, although parental consent was required if they were under 21 (18 from 1970). Many more marriage

Acts were subsequently enacted, and very many more in earlier centuries, but space has precluded them from being described here.

Source: Really Useful Bulletin, Family History Federation, October 2022

**Are you related to a famous person?**

Check out [www.Geni.com](http://www.Geni.com) or [www.Wikitree.com](http://www.Wikitree.com)

In [Geni.com](http://Geni.com) scroll down to the bottom of the page and look for World Family Tree, then click on the famous person. There will be an option to see if you are related.

In [Wikitree.com](http://Wikitree.com) under My Tree, look for Featured Connections, next to a name is a little box that will open in a new window with the lineage, and then have fun! If all else fails, Google how to find your relationship to a famous person in one of these sites. Help is out there!

**Huron Shores Genealogical Society  
2022 Annual Financial Report**

Balance January 1, 2022	<b>\$4,325.43</b>
<b>Income</b>	
Research	\$120.00
Book, CD Sales	\$64.14
Membership Dues	\$370.00
Donations	\$430.00
Grants	\$0.00
Interest	\$2.11
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$986.25</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
<b>Program</b>	
Collection Management	
Postage, copies	
Computer	
Hardware & software	\$1,519.13
Supplies	\$0.00
Workshops	\$0.00
Honorariums	\$0.00
Books, Cds, etc	\$0.00
<b>Administration</b>	
Supplies	\$19.99
Postage and copies	\$28.71
Dues - MGC, NGS	\$65.00
Oscoda Cham of Com	\$60.00
Donations	\$0.00
Mich incorporation	\$20.00
Storage rent	\$100.00
Bank and Pay Pal fees	\$26.42
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$1,849.25</b>
<b>Balance December 31, 2022</b>	<b>\$3,462.43</b>

Huron Shores Genealogical Society  
6010 Skeel Ave  
Oscoda, MI 48750

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 - Lauri Finerty
- Vice President - Amanda Alvarez
- Secretary - Linda Glomski
- Treasurer - Daniel Stock
- Database Manager - Judy Sheldon
- Directors - Gaynol Fales and Stephanie Olson

**Our Regular Meetings**

Our regular business meetings are held quarterly at the Parks Library in Oscoda at 5:30 pm on the third Thursday of the month.

Our next meetings are:

**April 20, 2023**

**- In Person and Virtual meeting**

July 20, 2023

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

[huronshoresgs@yahoo.com](mailto:huronshoresgs@yahoo.com) to arrange for an appointment with an experienced genealogical assistant.

**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.**

If you, as a new or renewing member, would be willing and able to hold an office, work on a committee, or help with indexing materials, HSGS would appreciate your help very much. You may indicate your area of expertise and/or interest on the following form. We will be happy to contact you about your interest in helping. Thank you!

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

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

Make checks payable to: Huron Shores Genealogical Society or pay via PayPal on our website.

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    or    No\_\_\_\_\_

If yes, list the software you use:

Send this completed form and and your check if appropriate to:

Huron Shores Genealogical Society

% Robert J. Parks Library, 6010 Skeel Ave, Oscoda, MI 48750-1577