



# HURON SHORES GENOGRAM

## Oscoda, Michigan

### OUR FALL PROGRAM

#### A Day with Bill Parsons, local historian

The Huron Shores Genealogical Society is happy to announce a great program on Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup> at the Robert J. Parks Library in Oscoda. The program will be from 10:00 am until 1:30 pm with a lunch break, so pack a lunch.

We are pleased to have local historian Bill Parsons as our speaker for the day. In the morning, he will discuss side stories that arise when you are researching others – (the rest of the story). Then in the afternoon, the topic will be the Pack family – (the original owners) of the Pack House Inn.

Come and enjoy a pleasant Saturday with lots of learning and discussions about local history, genealogy, and our town, Oscoda. This is a free program so there will be no charge, refreshments will be provided.

### HS GS Genealogical Meetings and Events

#### October

- 20 HS GS Business Meeting, Robert Parks Library, Oscoda, 5:30 pm
- 28 Our Fall Program - A Day with Bill Parsons, Robert Parks Library, Oscoda, 10:00 am

#### November

- 4 MGC Fall Family History Event, Speaker Michael Strauss

#### January

- 19 HS GS Business Meeting, Robert Parks Library, Oscoda, 5:30 pm



### AN ONSITE OR VIRTUAL MGC FALL FAMILY HISTORY EVENT

November 4

Michael Strauss will be the featured speaker

Michael is employed as a Research Manager and Senior Genealogist for Ancestry ProGenealogists. He is a native of Pennsylvania and a veteran of the United States Coast Guard. He is a published author and national genealogical lecturer, instructor, and faculty member at the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy (SLIG), Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburgh (GRIP), and the Institute of Genealogical and Historical Research (IGHR), where he coordinates the military history courses. Michael has been involved in Civil War and Mexican-American War reenacting for more than twenty-five years.

*For more information go to:*

<https://mimqc.org/event/mqc-fall-family-history-seminar-with-michael-strauss/>

## 6 Tips to Help You Decide Whether You Need a Professional Genealogist

By Gaynol Fales

This is Part 1 of a three-part discussion of (1) whether you need to hire a research agent, (2) how to prepare for hiring one, and (3) what to keep in mind when you do.

A genealogy helper is a professional or non-professional person, paid or gratis, whom you engage to access or analyze records you can't (or think you can't) understand or access yourself. If you're seeking non-published Vatican papal records, then, yes, you need an agent, but that may not be the case for many common genealogy roadblocks.

1. *"I've done some research but I don't have a clue what I'm doing or if it's right."* Local genealogical societies and groups can be your best friend here. Attend to see if the group seems friendly and knowledgeable. If they are, attend again and tell them what you're interested in and what your hopes are. Be committed to paying the usually small annual membership fee. These fellow members may not only be the least expensive help you pay for but they may be related to you and have the info you're looking for.

2. *"I think I'm a Mayflower (etc.) descendant but I have to hire someone to help find out."* Save your money for the application fees. Lineage societies have websites that normally list local chapters you can contact for guidance on how to progress in your research. Most of these societies have a vast number of members who've researched back to the root ancestors; much of the older work is not only already done but published. Your job is to link your most recent ancestors to those

founders. Start with the website, find your local helpers.

3. *"I can't access a private online tree that can solve my problem."* Neither can an agent unless he/she contacts the tree's manager and convinces them to share their tree. A well-written, sincere inquiry direct message to that member asking for verification of specific information may get a helpful answer.

4. *"I can't afford a subscription or to go to the source's physical site."* That doesn't mean an agent can, or won't themselves hire someone to do that and pass that expense on to you. There are several options for free help, but my first go-to is the Facebook group [Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness](#) (group ID: raogkUSA). This volunteer group researches answers to dozens of questions a day, providing copies of or links to sources and more. You can learn a lot of methodology by reading the posts. It's easy to join but make sure to read the dos and don'ts about posting and resolutions. It's a friendly group and it endeavors to stay that way.

5. *"I can't read the handwriting. /I don't understand the foreign language."* If you're faced with a typed document a few paragraphs long, there are a few free avenues. [Translate.Google.com](#) and [Chat.OpenAI.com](#) can provide translations, albeit imperfect ones. Dozens of languages are covered in FamilySearch.org's "Genealogical Word Lists" or the "Languages and Translations" section of CyndisList.com.

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## 6 Tips to Help You Decide, continued from page 2

Sometimes it's not a foreign language but old handwriting or script. If that's the case, contact the Facebook group [Deciphering Genealogy Script](#) (group ID" 672462506205064).

6. "I can't untangle my DNA spider web." There's no guarantee anyone can solve your problem, DNA expert or not. People are too often led by advertisements to think DNA analysis is easy and get frustrated when they find that digging deep into DNA issues is not only a science but an art. Still, the average person can learn how to interpret DNA results. Hiring an expert may be easier but not only is it likely to be expensive, if it involves endogamy or line-

collapse, even an expert may not be able to solve your mystery.

The blog [DNA-Explained.com](#) and the websites [YourDNAGuide.com](#) and [RobertsLibrary.org](#) are beginner-friendly with internationally acclaimed experts. The 2014 book *DNA and Social Networking* by Debbie Kennett and Chris Pomery helps you enter today's online DNA communities with knowledge and confidence.

If hiring a professional seems the right thing to do, read Part 2 of this series in our next issue on how to prepare for hiring a professional. I guarantee it will give you quicker results.

## ENDOGRAMY AND DNA RESEARCH

As related in the July/August Issue of Family Tree magazine by Diahn Southard

Endogamy is the process of marriage within the same group of people over and over again. Jewish, Acadian and Island populations are examples of endogamous groups. An additional sample may small insular towns where residents have lived together for many generations.

Applying DNA to such groups presents two problems:

1. Endogamy complicates the genetic relationships results in the sharing of more DNA with a relative than you normally would. For example, third cousins normally share about 75 cMs, however, if you have endogamous roots that same cousin might share 250 cMs, which would put them in a second cousin range. This can be overcome by using the count of shared segments of DNA longer than 15 cMs to estimate the relationship.

2. When sorting DNA matches by family groups, testing companies normally use techniques based on separated families. This does not work for endogamous groups. Again, the largest and longest shared segments needs to be used to find the best matches.

If you want to learn more about using DNA in endogamy research, join Diahn's "Endogamy & DNA" class

<[www.yourdnaguide.com/theacademy](http://www.yourdnaguide.com/theacademy)>.

The cost of the class is considerable but may be worth it if you have a strong possibility of being in an endogamous group. One way to test for this is by using the Leeds's Method for determining DNA family groups

<[www.DanaLeeds.com/the-leeds-method](http://www.DanaLeeds.com/the-leeds-method)>.

## GEORGE C. WALKER - 1860 - 1926

By Dan Stock

The first mention of George C Walker in Au Sable is in the Michigan Gazetteer of 1883 as a barber and a constable. However, his residence is given as East Saginaw on the record of his marriage to Arabella Edwood on October 12, 1885 in Owosso. Arabella's residence was also given as East Saginaw and as having been born in Canada circa 1858, the daughter of William R. Edwoods and Mary Jane Fusaud.

By 1905, in addition to being a barber and bill poster, George was working as the Manager of the Wigwam Opera House.

George Walker's birth on April 10, 1860 in Spring Praire, Franklin County, Virginia was reported by S F Walker, Agent as being the son of July Walker, an enslaved person. No father's name was given.

As reported in the 1900 census, the Walkers had three children, George Herbert Walker, born January 23, 1886 in AuSable, Ralph E Walker, born September, 1890 in AuSable, and Olive Walker, born June, 1893 also in AuSable.



1906 Iosco Baseball Team, George Herbert Walker is on the left end of the second row.

Herbert is noted in the Oscoda Press account of the "1906 Homecoming Week on the Sable" as being a notable ball player for the Iosco Baseball Team (see photo). By 1910, Herbert had moved to Cleveland, Ohio. In May 24, 1915, he married Cleo F Davis in Cleveland, Ohio. This marriage did not last. On June 28, 1922, he married Hazel E Mountain,

daughter of Charles Mountain and Alice Bronson also in Cleveland. George Herbert passed away on September 10, 1954 and is buried in Lake View Cemetery in Cleveland. Hazel died on May 16, 1980 in Cleveland and is also buried in the Lake View Cemetery.

Ralph, who had taken ill in early 1909 and had been taken to the

University of Michigan Medical Center in Ann Arbor, passed away there on September 20, 1909 at the age of 19 as reported in his obituary in the September 27 issue of the Saginaw News which also indicated that he was interred in Bay City.

Olive married Albert W Davis in Saginaw on July 16, 1920, her residence is given as being Cleveland. Albert and Olive had three children, twin daughters, Lucille Arabella (Betty) and Ruth Harriet, born on March 30, 1921 in Alma, Michigan and a son, Albert Wilson Davis, born on November 20, 1922, also in Alma. On January 20, 1942, Lucille married Willie George Caldwell in Lucas County, Ohio, both were residents of Detroit Michigan. Olive passed away on January 17, 1964 in Detroit. Ruth married Nimrod R Carney on February 27, 1942 in Detroit. She passed on July 22, 2007 in Detroit. Albert first married Virginia Sherer on November 20, 1941. He then married Gertrude Slaughter on May 21, 1952 in Wayne County, Michigan.

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## The "WIGWAM" By Dan Stock

### The first "Wigwam"

The first reference to a Wigwam in Oscoda/Au Sable is found in the Alcona County Review of October 22, 1880. "This huge hall was begun Monday at one o'clock, and by the following Wednesday night it was completed, save putting up the seats and a small patch of shingling. The building was 50 x 100 feet in size with a platform 30 x 100 feet along one side. The work was done by a small army of men, under the supervision of the building committee. The fact that the wigwam was begun in the face of the short length of time left for the building of it, is due to the energy and push of E. F. Holmes." The big rush was to accomodate presentations by Republican politicians, Congressman Mark Brewer, Congressman Roswell G. Horr, Hon. H. M. Loud and Mark Gibson to over 1,000 attendees every session over a two day period. The location of this structure was not given

### The "Wigwam" Roller Rink

A next early reference to the Wigwam, was in the April 3, 1884 edition of the Tawas Herald, "The roller skating rink still prospers at AuSable." Roller skating was becoming a craze at that time. AuSable was ahead of the Tawas as rinks did not open there until the fall of 1884. The Wigwam was also identified by name in the December 25 1884 issue of the Herald, "Go and enjoy a merry Christmas at the AuSable roller skating rink this afternoon at 3 o'clock. George Tuthill the champion skater of Chicago will give an exhibition of fancy skating at the Wigman" (sic). It was still being used for skating in late 1885, when "the race for the boy championship of Iosco County and a pair of nickle plated club skates, was won at the Wigwam, Tuesday night, by Charlie Bontyette."

This structure was located on lot 15 of Block 1 of the Loud, Gay Co. addition on the 1884 Sanborn map. This lot was on the east side of River St between Church and Chevalier streets.

The Wigwam played a roll during the 1884 mill strike. The strike was well covered in the press of the

time and also in Neil Thornton's "Pay on Saturday or No Sawdust ...." and Judy Sheldon's article in the September, 2012 issue of the "Genogram"

The role the Wigwam played in the event was as a host to the troops that were called in to prevent harm to the residents and property. Although there seemed to be no imminent danger, the mill were owners taking extra precautions in preventing their mamouth institutions from being harmed by any malcontent and asked the sheriff to demand state troops, which he did. The Alpena Guards and the Bay City company were ordered to come to Oscoda/Au Sable., reinforced by Pinkerton detectives from Chicago, who came here at the instigation of the mill owners. The troops were housed at the Wigwam, where they stayed until until the



From the 1890 Sanborn Map for Au Sable  
The roller Skating Rink is in red.

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## Your Greats Might Have Taken Lessons From Frankie by Judy Sheldon

Frances Ella Simpson, born April 15, 1854 in Grafton, Worcester, Massachusetts to Henry George Simpson and Hannah Buffam. The only birth record I could find for her states her birth as April 23, 1851 under the name Mary Ella Simpson. She had at least two siblings: Frances M, 1849-1851 and George Henry, 1853-1854.

Henry George was a cabinet maker/carpenter, born in 1825 in New Hampshire. I was not able to find a death record for him, but it is assumed he dies about 1879 per Hannah's obituary. He worked for the Flint and Pere Marquette Railroad as of 1873.

Hannah was born April 15, 1827 in Burk, Vermont, lived in Richmond, New Hampshire and married Henry September 26, 1848 in Battleboro, Vermont. She and Henry lived in Grafton, Worcester, Massachusetts until they moved west to Michigan. Her siblings also moved to Michigan and Canada. Hannah died in Saginaw, Michigan, November 24, 1904.

Following the family through Michigan:

1860 they are in Adrian, Michigan

1870 Hannah and Frankie are in Adrian, Michigan.

Hannah has a "wid" notation in the census and Frankie is a college student.

Frankie is a student or listed in the school's catalog at Adrian College in the School of Music from 1870 to 1907. Some of these

listings would be as an alumnus. She was studying piano, pipe organ and composition.

1880 Frankie and her mother have moved to East Tawas where she taught music. She is in the 1880 Federal Census and she has an entry in the History of the Lake Huron Shore, 1883, page 158, as a music teacher for piano and organ. What brought Frankie to East Tawas? Maybe her father worked here for a time and she liked the town. We will never know.

1892 Frankie married Charles P. Sherman in Detroit, Michigan.

1900 Frankie and her mother are in Saginaw, Michigan. No Mr. Sherman!

1903 She divorced Charles Sherman for desertion.

1910 Frankie died young. She had pneumonia in January 1910 and passed away January 5, 1910 at her home, 1332 South Warren Ave, Saginaw, Michigan. She is buried in Forest Lawn Cemetery, Saginaw, Michigan.

Frankie spent her life teaching music and could conceivably have taught one of your Greats in the time she lived in East Tawas, 1880-about 1892.

Sources: Federal Censuses, City Directories, Adrian College catalog, Obituaries, Birth, Marriage, and Death records, Iosco County histories.

### George C. Walker, continued from page 4

He died on March 13, 1989 in Farmington Hills, Oakland County, MI.

The Walkers moved away from Au Sable after the 1911 fire when the Wigwam Opera House burned down and he is found in the 1913 R. L. Polk & Co Bay City Directory once again plying his trade as a

barber. He lived there until his death on December 26, 1926 in Bay City and is buried in the Green Ridge Cemetery. Arabella moved to Cleveland soon after and is found living with Herbert, Hazel and granddaughter Lucille in the 1930 census. She passed away on September 28, 1944 in Cleveland, OH.

Sources:

Amazon.com, FamilySearch.org, "Homecoming on the Sable," Michigan Gazeteer, 1883, 1891, 1905 Censuses, and City Directories

**Announcing a better way to find your Civil War ancestor!**  
Submitted by Judy Sheldon

A new free web site, [BetterSoldiersAndSailors.com](http://BetterSoldiersAndSailors.com), provides a dramatic improvement over the popular "Soldiers and Sailors" site offered by the National Park Service (NPS). The old NPS system has a weak search engine and it fails to address many limitations of the data itself. The resulting failed searches and unorganized search results lead researchers to many false conclusions.

The new site uses the same databases as the NPS system (soldiers, sailors, regiments, and prisoners) but overcomes those limitations, searches additional databases at the same time, and actually helps you to get copies of the soldiers' military records.

For the full announcement with more details about the advantages of this free web site, see [https://gopherrecords.com/bss\\_announcement/](https://gopherrecords.com/bss_announcement/)

[BetterSoldiersAndSailors.com](http://BetterSoldiersAndSailors.com) is designed, hosted, and supported by Gopher Records.

Please share with your friends and other Civil War researchers!

**OSCODA COW GIVES 986.2 POUNDS OF MILK,  
33.014 POUNDS OF FAT IN WEEK**

Daily Telegram, Adrian, Michigan, December 27, 1927

OSCODA, Mich., Dec. 27 – Eco-sylv Belle Pietje, a pure bred four year old Holstein cow owned by Carl E. Schmidt, local farmer, is attracting nation wide attention by a most remarkable production of milk and butter fat.

Under constant watch of four supervisors the cow has produced 686.2 pounds of milk containing 33.014 pounds of fat in seven consecutive days with the test still in progress.

This fat production is equivalent to 41.267 pounds of butter.

**The "Wigwam", Continued from page 5**

strike was over, while the Pinkerton Chicago force stayed at the National Hotel.

The Alpena Guards and the Bay City Company had good roomy quarters in the Wigwam. On one side of the rink a double row of bunks for the Bay City Company had been erected. There were no bunks for the Alpena Guards, so they had to use the floor as bedsteads, the hardness of which was tempered by blankets. The troops got their meals at the National and Winchester hotels. During their stay, the troops seemed to have enjoyed themselves, staying in the Wigwam most of the time, although a few would slip out of the back door and stroll up town on occasion. When not on duty, some would read, some would write or they would just take it easy in their bunks.

Over the duration of the strike, no material damage was done, the strikers remained sober and conducted themselves in a gentlemanly manner. John C. Gram was the first to accept the demands made by the strikers which were finally acceded to by all the mill owners. The soldiers returned to their respective homes inside of ten days.

The "Wigwam" was Au Sable's major meeting and entertainment hall although not used as such continuously over the years as it was identified as being the former roller skating rink, being a bailed hay storage facility on the 1890 Sanborn map. However, it was back to being a dance hall on the 1901 Sanborn map.

To be continued in the next issue of the Genogram

**Huron Shores Genealogical Society**  
**6010 Skeel Ave**  
**Oscoda, MI 48750**

### Our Regular Meetings

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

Our next meeting is scheduled for:

**October 19, 2023**

**- An in Person and Virtual meeting**

The following meeting will be on:

January 18, 2024

HS GS 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 research 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 - Lauri Finerty

Vice President - Amanda Alvarez

Secretary - Linda Glomski

Treasurer - Daniel Stock

Database Manager - Judy Sheldon

Directors - Gaynol Fales

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.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NEW \_\_\_\_

RENEWAL \_\_\_\_

\$10 per year

\$15 per year with mailed newsletter

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

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 \_\_\_\_    HS GS would appreciate your help very much. Thank you!

If yes, we will contact you about your interest in helping.

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