

Clarion

BAY COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY VOL.16 NO.4 OCT.1994

EARLIER MEETINGS

Society officer elections held in June, with the "winners" assuming their positions in September, showed very little change. The officers are: President, D.F. Dolsen; Vice Pres., R.R. Luce; Recording Secretary, Erlene Chanel; Treasurer, Judy Bruzewsk; Librarian, Lottie Harrington; MGC Delegates are Hilda Taylor and Ruth Staudacher. Thanks to those who continue to serve.

During both the June and September meetings we discussed the 4th annual living history event, "River of Time." This is a growing panorama of reenactors of history, enhanced by some members who belong to the French-Canadian Heritage Society of Michigan. They met and participated at the "River of Time" to display their "Habitant Heritage." This event held on Sept. 24 & 25 attracted upwards of 40 thousand persons and 600 reenactors. One of those reenactors, a person from down state, commented that she had not missed a weekend reenactment during the summer. This one was the best!

The September meeting which inaugurated a new season of activity for the society welcomed all our members to share with us their successes and failures in the ancestor chase. We welcome comments and ideas regarding the society from all members both near and far.

The program for the October meeting provided suggestions and ideas which were intended to assist our newer members in their quest for genealogical support. Several anecdotes gave insight to the types of assistance members have experienced in their endeavors. Of particular interest was Hilda Taylor's mention of a book written by Hank Jones, Psychic Roots. She recommended this book as one that would be enjoyable for all to read.

NOVEMBER MEETING

Our next meeting will be held on the 1st of Nov. at the South End Bay County Library at 6:30 p.m. We will have a video on the holdings of the Library of Michigan with special emphasis on the genealogical aspect.

QUERIES

Letters to the Society regarding Queries have been very active since early Spring. Those received since June are printed here to share with Members their possible knowledge of the Surnames.

Info RE; YOUNG(s), John Youngs, Died 3 Oct 1903, Bay City. wife, Rose Youngs, (nee Perry), Died 22 Oct 1881, Merritt Twp. Seeking info on children, Eli, Bn 1859, Joseph, Ida, Lucy Ellen, William, Arthur, John and Ada. Some City Directory listings were provided, however any added info will be appreciated. Address; Kareen Borders, 5482 Cynthia Circle, Cypress CA. 90630.

Info RE: (Thru Bay Co. Historical Society) GIROUX, Edouard, Bn 1843, Quebec, Died 1918, Bur Gagetown, St. Agatha Cem. married Florence Proteau, 1868-69, (where ?) She Bn 1853-54. Buried St Agatha Cem Gagetown MI. Children; Joseph E. Bn Bay City MI. 1870. Henry, Bn 1874. Edouard Jr Bn 1876, Bay City. Benjamin William, Bn 1879, Bay City. Ida Bn 1885. Edouard and Florence appear in Census 1880, 1900 at Elmwood, Tuscola Co MI. Some City Directory info provided to correspondent. Any added info to Mrs V.C. Bailey, 5411 America Dr. Sarasota FL 34231.

Dianna SPEER asked of any knowledge of death of Daniel Chapel (Chapelle) by drowning under unknown circumstances, as reported in a newspaper "The Enterprise" in 1867. He was married to Theresa Trombley of the Trombley "Center House" history. (The Center House is being restored as a centerpiece of Bay City Veterans Park). (It is the core building of an annual re-creation called "River of Time") Any info to Dianna Speer, 2735 Rigel Dr. Colorado Springs, CO 80906.

Info RE: McLELLAN, BLONDIN families. McLellans came to Bay Co. about 1890 from Canada. Is McLellan Street, Bay City named after this family? Blondins had a farm in the Linwood area. Any info appreciated about these families to; Sandy McLellan, 1108 Lee St. Rock Springs WY 82901.

Rick Gangraw, 447 Kenneth Dr. Melbourne 32935, a new member, is searching the MOREAU, VALLEE, HALEY, CLAUS, PRATT families who were early Bay county residents, arriving from Canada. Any info to him will be appreciated.

Info RE: Charles Wellington PRIEST and wife Lydia. These persons may have died in Pinconning or Kawkawlin MI. Charles Bn Mar 1867, Ontario,Canada to Sylvester Priest and Almira Barden. He worked as a painter. Lydia, Bn ca 1872, Ontario,Canada to Francois Racette and Eliza St Pere. Charles and Lydia died after 1920. May be buried in Catholic Cemetery. Any info to: Jolene Kelly Pillars, 8210 N.Seven Mile, Mesick MI 49668-9392.

Michel Dipert(Howell) has shared with us a great amount of info about the DUMAR,HOWELL families or combinations of the names in Bay City and Essexville MI. She is searching for any added info about these names, or would share the pedigree sheets she has compiled. Contact her; Michel Dipert (Howell), 3501 So. Lawrence Rd. Suttons Bay, MI 49682.

BAY COUNTY RESEARCH CENTERS

The Bay County Historical Society is a good source for local and area information. The reference library is open to the public on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 1-5 p.m. They have a complete set of hard copy city and county directories for Bay and Saginaw which is a prime source going back to 1867 in Bay City. The library in the Historical Museum houses a set of Chips and Ships, an early publication of the dedicated members of this Genealogical Society, which is a wealth of marriage records, 1857-1877; Bay County census, 1860; readings of sixteen small township cemeteries; early Bay County deaths, 1867-1871; and other valuable source records. Our many thanks for their efforts. The query editor has, in a volunteer status at this library, been able in some cases to respond to queries. Anyone wishing information from this library may send questions to: Bay County Historical Society, 321 Washington Ave., Bay City, MI, 48708.

The library of our genealogical society which is kept at the residence of Lottie Harrington, one of our members, is also a fine source of several records including a complete reading of the Bay City Oak Ridge Cemetery, another project of hardworking society members. A letter to the society box #27, Essexville, MI, 48732 or a phone call to 892-3662 is all that is necessary to discover if the information for which you are searching is available there.

The Bay City Branch Library on Center Avenue is the other important repository of genealogical documents in our area. Included in their genealogical collection are the Federal census tapes for all Michigan counties, some of the Michigan Agricultural census tapes and Bay County histories with biographical sketches of many early Bay County residents. They have Chips and Ships and a great deal of other material. Questions regarding that collection may be sent to that library at 708 Center Avenue, Bay City, MI, 48708. You may call them at 893-9566.

SOCIETY BUSINESS

The executive board of the society met 14 Aug. 1994 at the home of President Don Dolsen. The society budget was considered and approved .

Printing.....	\$100.00	Stamps.....	\$75.00
Dues/Publications.	62.00	Postcards.....	40.00
Savings account...	50.00	Books.....	50.00
Honoraria.....	50.00	Total.....	427.00

These figures show a rise compared to 93-94 in printing, stamps and postcards due to increased membership and an anticipated increase in postage. All other budget items remained at previous levels. An expenditure for a new supply of individual membership cards will occur as prices for the cards are obtained.

The society membership has grown to a total of 68 persons, 40 local, 13 outstate Michigan residents and 15 people from other states. We hope to serve each of you well. Dues are collected on a calendar year basis and 1995 dues are payable at the present time. They are \$8.00 single or \$10.00 for a family membership. A membership application is included in this issue of the Clarion. All members, new or renewing, are asked to complete an application to enable the society to update the current member list. See back page.

The following information relating to collecting signatures/autographs was shared by Ruth Staudacher from an article she read in the October issue of Country Living magazine. Most autographs fall into one of the three following categories; Cut or clipped signatures are the least valuable autographs. This practice has largely been

discontinued because they provide no historically relevant information. Signed documents such as typed letters, deeds, checks, contracts, etc., are more valuable than clipped signatures but there is a possibility that they may have been signed by a secretary. Autograph letters are documents that were written entirely by the signers, be they letters, memos, or manuscripts, and are highly desirable. Longer documents are more valuable than brief notes, especially if the writer has touched upon matters of importance. Although a handwritten letter in which Ernest Hemingway reflects on his experiences as an ambulance driver in Spain would be worth more than \$2000 to a collector of Hemingway memorabilia; the author's clipped signature would bring less than one-fourth that amount.

Further information in regard this topic can be gained by reading the above cited article.

Included in the same article is the material found on the right dealing with the preservation of documents.



Preservation

The two greatest threats to documents are sunlight (which over time can bleach the color from ink) and the acid inherent in the wood that is used to make paper. Low-quality paper with a high-pulp content, such as newsprint, can actually self-destruct. In addition, newspaper clippings should never be allowed to come in contact with other important documents typed or written on higher-quality paper, such as stationery, for the acid in the newsprint can attack and damage the higher-quality paper. Other important guidelines include the following:

- Always unfold documents; lay each sheet between two pieces of acid-free paper while it gradually flattens.
- Remove any paper clips, staples, straight pins, strings, or rubber bands that may be attached.
- Store each sheet in an individual acetate sleeve (available from office-supply and hobby stores).
- Store all material in a room in which the relative humidity never exceeds 70 percent.
- Never display framed material in direct sunlight.
- Use ultraviolet-resistant glass when framing documents.
- Never frame an extremely valuable document, for even indirect light will cause it to fade eventually.
- Use only acid-free framing materials.
- Never permit a framed document to remain in contact with the framing glass. Use a mat board to allow air to circulate between the glass and the paper.
- Never trim a document to fit a frame or mat board.
- Never write on a document.
- Never attempt to erase any writing on a document.
- Never use tape, staples, or paper clips (including plastic clips) on valuable documents. ■

Save the Railroad Retirement Board Pension Papers

The Federation of Genealogical Societies, in cooperation with the Michigan Genealogical Council, is spear-heading an initiative to have the National Archives and Records Administration change the retention schedule for the Railroad Retirement Board Pension Papers. Currently, the majority of these records are destroyed thirty-five years after the payment of the last claim. [See the article, "Your Records, Your Choice" in the Summer 1994 issue of the *FGS Forum* for more details.] On July 29, 1994, the Acting Archivist of the United States, Dr. Trudy Peterson, contacted Federation President Curt Witcher and expressed a willingness to discuss the retention of these records. It was mutually agreed that the FGS conference in Richmond, Virginia, October 12-15, 1994 would be a good setting in which to open dialog about these important documents. The Federation of Genealogical Societies is asking that you, as a member of the genealogical community, pen a letter of support for retaining the Railroad Retirement Board's records on a permanent basis.

The letters of support should be addressed as shown below and mailed to the Federation of Genealogical Societies' office in Salt Lake City, UT.

Dr. Trudy Peterson, Acting Archivist
National Archives and Records Administration
c/o Curt B. Witcher, President
Federation of Genealogical Societies
P. O. Box 3385
Salt Lake City, UT 84110-3385

It would be most beneficial if letters of support would include some mention of the following:

- ◆ Identify yourself as a genealogist (or local history researcher where applicable) and remind the Acting Archivist that genealogists and local history researchers represent the largest constituent group of the National Archives and its regional branches.
- ◆ Indicate that the Railroad Retirement Board Pension Papers represent an important record group for you as a family (and/or local) historian, and that you are interested in seeing this unique record preserved for both contemporary researchers and future generations of scholars and historians.
- ◆ Thank Dr. Peterson for her willingness to engage in a meaningful dialog regarding the preservation and permanent retention of the Railroad Retirement Board Pension Papers, and encourage her and her staff to move with dispatch toward resolution of this issue.

Thank you for your time and attention in this matter. Together, we *can* make a difference!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

29 Oct...The Huguenot Society of Michigan presents "Proving Your Huguenot Ancestors," at the Bloomfield Twp. Library. Info may be obtained from J. Bockemuehl, 4800 N. Harsdale, Bloomfield Hills, MI, 48302-2411.

5 Nov...The Western Wayne Co. Gen. Soc. Wkshp., with topics; National Archives, Border Crossings and Land Records. Contact Anne C. Kruszka, 717448 Brookview, Livonia, 48152-3487.

The following letter may be of interest people doing Bay/Saginaw genealogies.

I have some old photograph's from probably the late 1800's, early 1900's. They were my great grandmother's. They are photograph's of her friends. I would like to place an advertisement if anyone would like these photos who are tracing these families. If I don't find anyone who may be related to these families I would like to donate them to Bay City for their history.

I have found photographs from the late 1800's, early 1900's. They were photographs of my great grandmothers-Clara Daoust Kerns friends. If anyone is searching these lines, let me know and I'll gladly send the photographs. Here are the photos:

- 2 photographs of Carrie Hammel - Saginaw, MI
- 3 photographs of Babe Demo - Bay City, MI
- 1 photograph of Babe Demo, George Horrell, Emily Demo and Bud Pitely?-Bay City
- 1 photograph of George Pittsley - Bay City
- 1 photograph of Lottie Greve - Saginaw
- 1 photograph of 6 sisters from Tawas -Cora, Bessie, Hortense, Anesia and 2 others Last name is LaBarge
- 1 photograph of 5 young sisters - names Lena, Evah, Daisy, Naomi & Zora-no last name

Most of these photographs are professional. If any of these people are your ancestors, please write me:

Kathy Koehler Day
500 Pine Siskin Dr.
Buda, TX 78610

Researching the names: KERNS (Scotch/Irish), WILSON(Irish), BAUM, MILLER,
LAUGET,HOUSER(German),DAOUST, JEAN, PELLETIER (French) in the Saginaw/Bay City area.

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