

# Clarion

## BAY COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY VOLUME 17 NO.4 SEPT.1995

### SEPTEMBER MEETING

The Sept. meeting will be held at the South End Library on Tues. Sept. the 5th at 6:30 p.m. The first half hour is an informal discussion period among the members with the formal meeting starting about 7 p.m.

Bring summer findings to report to the group. We will also hear of the progress of the Death Record project as well as our Executive Board's 1996 recommended budget which is included in the current Clarion. We will be discussing our possible involvement with the River of Time. The Executive Board has gone on record as being in support of our involvement.

### JUNE MEETING

The nominating committee presented its slate of officers for the 1995-96 year in June. The people nominated were unanimously elected. They are as follows: Don Dolsen, Pres., Bob Luce, V.P., Linda Theaker, Sec., Judy Bruzewski, Treas. We thank these people for accepting these positions. We also extend a thank you to Earlene Chanel for several years of service to the organization as secretary.

### SOCIETY BUSINESS

The executive board's summer meeting took place at the home of our president, Don Dolsen, on 13 Aug. 1995. The society budget for 1996 was discussed and prepared for presentation to the group at the September meeting. A comparison with the 1995 budget is shown as follows:

	<u>1995</u>	<u>1996</u>
Printing.....	\$100.00	\$125.00
Stamps.....	75.00	100.00
Postcards.....	40.00	40.00
Dues/Publications (MGC, DSGR, FGS & Heritage Quest) ..	62.60	82.60
Books.....	50.00	50.00
Savings.....	10.00	10.00
Honoraria.....	50.00	50.00
Community Organizations (Hist.Soc. & Friends of Library)		<u>100.00</u>
Total	\$427.00	\$537.60
	\$387.60	557.60

The figures on the previous page are board recommendations as stated earlier. They will be discussed in September and a final vote will be taken at the October meeting.

The River of Time Committee has offered us a space for a table or two near the entrance of the Trombley House during this year's activities. President Dolsen will provide us with significant information and will be asking for volunteers to work at the table if the Society decides to participate. Come with ideas to share!!

The following letter was received in June from the Bay County Library System.

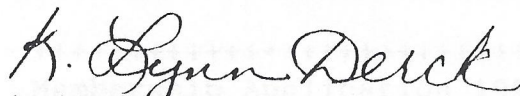
Bay County Genealogical Society  
P.O. Box 27  
Essexville, MI 48732

Dear Society Members:

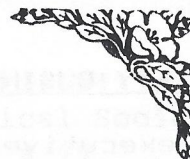
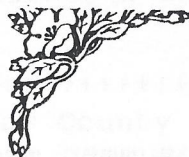
The Bay County Library System would like to acknowledge and thank you for the books, A New Genealogical Atlas Of Ireland by Brian Mitchell and Clans And Families Of Ireland by John Grenham, given to the library in memory of Elzer (Ted) Bernard and Virgil Sharp.

A memorial plate has been placed inside the front cover of each book (see enclosure). A memorial entry will also be placed in our Memorial Books located at all Bay County Library System branches.

Sincerely,



K. Lynn Derck  
Assistant Director



*Presented By*

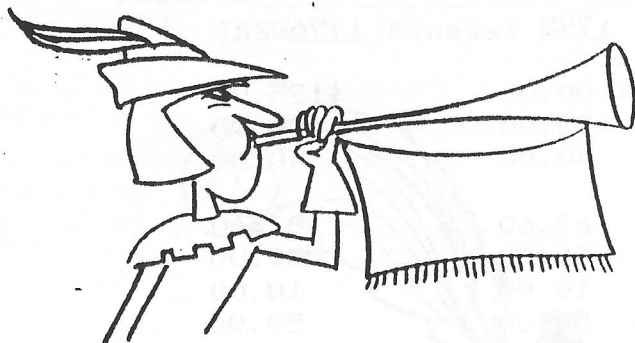
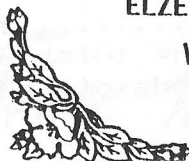
Bay County Genealogical Society

*In Memory  
of*

Society Members

ELZER (TED) BERNARD

VIRGIL SHARP



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

16 Sept. French Canadian Heritage Society of Michigan 10 am-4pm meeting and fall potluck at Mt.Clemens Library. Anita Compeau of the Franco-Ontariens will speak on the use of the Belle River Library. This is a small but fact filled library about 20 miles north of Windsor, Ontario on the shore of Lake St.Clair. They have very early French Canadian information. They are also hoping to get a speaker from the Leddy Library.

20-23 Sept. Federation of Genealogical Societies Conf., "From Sea to Shining Sea," Seattle, Washington. "FGC/SGC Conference, P.O.Box 3385, Salt Lake City, UT 84110-3385

23-24 Sept. River of Time...programs and Trombley House hours are: Sat. 9 am to 5:30 pm and Sun. 9 am to 4 pm. Opening Ceremony Sat. 9 am. Closing Colors Sun. 4 pm.

12-15 Oct. New England Regional Genealogical Conference, Sheraton Hotel and Conference Center, Burlington, Vt. sponsored by a consortium of genealogical societies in New England

7 Nov. Election Day Please remember to support the library millage. Below is a message related to the need from the director of libraries of Bay County.\*

9-11 Nov. Mich. Genealogical Council 1995 Seminar, Treetops Sylvan Resort, 3962 Wilkinson Road, Gaylord, MI "They didn't ALL go West!"

The Stanstead Journal, Quebec's oldest weekly newspaper, has been generously allowing the placement of genealogical queries free of charge. The only stipulation has been that the queries have a connection to the area served by the paper. Although the paper does have a wide distribution, the main readership lives in the Eastern Townships of Quebec and Orleans County, VT. At present, the years from 1845 to 1915 have been transcribed and indexed in five volumes by the Friends of the Archives Volunteer group of the paper. This group will do some research work with the proceeds used for the archives. To send in a query, write the paper at Box 491, Derby Line, VT 05830-0491 or Box 30, Stanstead, QC JOB 3E0

Shamrock Graphics will discuss ideas for your personal family video. They can make suggestions to get you started. Call them at 684-3937 for their demonstration tape that will show examples of what can be done for you.



Primary Sources are defined as contemporary and/or government records made at the time of the event by the parties involved. These records are deemed acceptable sources in proving relationship from one generation to another.

1. Birth Records
  2. Marriage Records
  3. Death Records
  4. Census Records
  5. Probate records
  6. Land Records & Plats
  7. Tax Records
  8. Military Records
  9. Church Records
  10. Cemetery Records
  11. Mortuary Records
  12. Burial/Transport
  13. Court Records
- Michigan official records began in 1867. Available at Wayne County Clerk's Office, City County Building, Detroit, MI. 48226 County Clerk's Office or Michigan Department of Public Health, P.O. Box 30035, Lansing, MI. 48909.
- Burton Historical Collection of the Detroit Public Library, 5201 Woodward, Detroit, MI. DRGS members may use our society's census microfilm for 1850-1910 of Wayne, Macomb, Monroe, & St. Clair Counties.
- Wills/estates (testate-with will; intestate - without will). Guardianships, Lists of heirs and relationship, Name changes, and sometimes transfer of real estate. Records begin at the formation of the county and are found in the Probate Court where the event occurred.
- Purchase and sale of property often shows residency and marital relationship. Available from the county where the land was owned. Records may be maintained by the Register of Deeds. Taxes were paid on property owned on a yearly basis. Records are available from the time of the county's formation. Records may be located in the Register of Deed's and/or Treasurer's office.
- Available from the National Archives & Records Service, 8th & Pennsylvania Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C., 20408 or Michigan History Division, 717 W. Allegan, Lansing, MI. 48918. Indexes of Michigan Civil War soldiers are available at most major Michigan libraries.
- Often contain birth, death, marriage and funeral information of their membership.
- Actual records of church, city or township sextons.
- Actual records of funeral home may include death date, burial date, location of interment, obituaries & miscellany.
- Permits found in village, city and township halls or county health departments. Information varies from death date to personal comments.
- Civil, criminal, divorce and naturalization records begin from formation of the county and may be located in circuit court or superior court where the event occurred.

Secondary Sources are any sources in print that do not come from a contemporary or government record. These records may not be acceptable as proof.

- 1, Bible Records Dated and/or undated. Include a photocopy of the page showing the publisher, date of publication and the actual pages showing names, dates and events. Identify current owners of the Bible when known.
- 2, Obituaries Dated and identified, when known, name of newspaper & location. Newspapers can be ordered on microfilm from some libraries.
- 3, Newspaper Clippings Dated & identified, when known name of newspaper & location. Clippings may include anniversaries, biographical sketches, awards, marriage notices, reminiscences, etc.
- 4, County Histories/ Portrait & Published Biographical Histories Burton Historical Collection, Detroit Public Library, 5201 Woodward Ave. Detroit, MI.
- 5, City/Co. Directories The Library of Michigan has an extensive state-wide collection. Also, Burton Hist. Collection.
- 6, Family Hist./Gene. When submitting this type of material, include a copy of the title page, photocopies showing direct ancestral descent and state location of the book.
- 7, Personal Papers Unpublished written data include letters, diaries, journals, reunion records and manuscripts. Please include dates when known.
- 8, Tombstone Inscrip. Submit photographs or transcriptions of the stone.
- 9, Atlas/Landowners Local libraries and Historical Societies may be able to help in locating these. Burton Hist. Collection, Detroit Public Library, Detroit.

## ★ FROM THE DIRECTOR

I am encouraged and pleased as I've talked with people in our community about the library improvement plan. People understand the problems and want their library to be better. They know that over the years at Bay City and Sage branches book shelves have crowded out study tables and no more room exists for necessary computers. Many parents at Bay City Branch are astonished that the only storytelling room available for children is created when staff moves heavy book shelves and tables - which they must do several times each week. Tight quarters also mean there is no quiet area available for patrons who come to the library hoping to read materials in peaceful surroundings; the hubub of a busy circulation desk is always upon them. These are simple examples of difficulties created by the need to offer modern library service in old buildings.

Mostly what I hear from the public is how much you love your library, how helpful and friendly the staff is, and the wish for more books. It is always easy to be proud of our staff. Our talented and dedicated employees work hard to bring you the very best service possible. Current budget constraints present them with great challenges. The library's book budget this year is less than it was in 1986, and the demand for materials and services continues to grow! The Library Board plans a millage request to address not only building space needs but operating budget requirements as well.

Please continue to tell us what improvements you want at the library. Your ideas are important and will be incorporated into our planning process. **THANK YOU!**

Sincerely,

Linda Heemstra, Director



QUERIES

CARNEY, Edward J., parents: Michael and Mary CARNEY  
b. Bay City, MI m. Catherine (Katie) CUNNINGHAM,  
father: Edward CUNNINGHAM b. 22 Feb. 1865 Bay City, MI  
dau. Mary (Molly) CARNEY b. 21 Mar. 1883 Please send info  
on this family to Peggy M. DuBois, 2921 N.W. Elmwood Dr.,  
Corvallis, OR 97330

MERRILL, Andrew J. and Elizabeth also CREAUVY, Mary (many  
spellings of surname) and John of Portsmouth ca 1870...any  
info send to Vicki S. Johnston, 303 Susan St., Roseburg, OR  
97470

HEBERT, Theophile m. Delima Dorey DORE, they came from  
Canada in 1871 and lived for a time in Kawkawlin. Her  
parents were Gabriel DORE and Adelaide BASSINAULT. Some of  
the DORE children are: Henry, Andre Delima, Adolphus,  
Xavier and Napoleon. Some of the HEBERT children are:  
Delia, Telisphone, Mary and Josephine. Info on any of these  
people can be sent to Pamela L. Olsen, 1304 McCausland Ave.,  
St. Cloud, MO 63117-1935.

MUNGER, Henry dairy farmer in Munger ca 100 yrs ago. Son  
Milo D. MUNGER b. 1 Dec. 1900 in Reese. Wants info (incl  
pictures) on Munger, MI. Send to Karen Baird, 729 Richard  
Dr., Holly, MI 48442.

STEVENS, William m. Mary STABLER (STAVLER), lived in Bay  
City, Garfield and Crump. Son b. 12 Jul. 1880 d. 26 Jul.  
1908 bur. Garfield Rd. Cemetery. Dau., Clara Florence,  
b. 14 Sep. 1883, m. James B. MCCOLLUM 15 Apr. 1901. He died  
24 Mar. 1912, both buried in Garfield Rd. Cemetery. Please  
send any info to Linda Porter, 1070 Georgetown Ave.,  
Turlock, CA 95382-0836.

NORIGON/NORGAN of Bangor Twp, Bay County. Listed in census  
there 1870-1900. He was from Penn. and she from Canada.  
Any info please send to: Allen J. Petersen, 809-20st So.,  
Fargo, N.D., 58103

The following was provided by a member of our society. The second page will follow in the next issue.

## U.S. Public Lands Survey.

To avoid perpetuating land ownership problems of the early colonies, the Continental Congress in 1785 established the "U.S. Public Lands Survey." This system is referred to as the *rectangular system* or *government system* of land measurement. The rectangular system was applied to all of the remaining land that the federal government possessed. This land, the *public domain*, is held in trust for the people by the federal government. Some 75% of all U.S. land was once part of the public domain; about 30% of it still is.

The Public Lands Survey was used to subdivide Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, and Alaska, as well as all of the states north of the Ohio River and west of the Mississippi except for Texas. Texas has a system similar to that of the U.S. Public Lands Survey but it was affected by Spanish settlement before the annexation of Texas into the U.S.

Experiments in how to survey the land and how to dispose of it to private parties took place in Ohio. The result was that much of Ohio was not laid out in the rectangular U.S. Public Lands Survey. The rectangular system uses north-south lines called *principal meridians* and east-west lines called *base lines* to form the rectangles which characterize the system. In Ohio, the Ohio River -- hardly a straight line -- was the base line for southeastern Ohio; the Scioto River for parts of central Ohio; and the Great Miami River for southwestern Ohio. A number of other exceptions also came into being because the earliest Ohio (and southern Indiana) entrants applied a variety of survey methods from their English or French heritage.

## Meridians and Base Lines.

The government system of survey is based on a series of meridians and base lines located astronomically by surveyors.

A meridian is an imaginary line that runs north and south on the surface of the earth. If extended, it reaches from pole to pole. East-west measurements are calculated by angular measurements in degrees, minutes and seconds east or west of the Greenwich meridian which runs through the British Royal Observatory in Greenwich, England (the angle measured from the center of the earth between the meridian through Greenwich and the meridian through any other point is called that point's *longitude* by both surveyors and navigators).

A base line is an imaginary line that runs east and west on the surface of the earth. If extended, a base line extends around the earth a fixed distance north or south of the equator (the angle measured from the center of the earth between the equator and any base line is called that line's *latitude* or *parallel of latitude* by surveyors and navigators).

## Principal Meridians.

Any system of surveying had to start from a known point on the ground. The point must be readily identifiable and permanently marked -- usually with a heavy stone monument. From this point surveyors ran a line called a *principal meridian* due north and south and gave the line an identifying title -- either a number or a name. Examples are the 1798 First Principal Meridian, the border between Ohio and Indiana that extends from where the Great Miami River enters the Ohio River north to the Michigan border; the 1805 Third Principal Meridian located in central Illinois 89°, 28' and 15" west of Greenwich extending from the mouth of the Ohio River to the northern border of Illinois; and the 1851 Mt. Diablo Meridian east of San Francisco Bay which extends from the Pacific Ocean to the Oregon border and is the principal meridian for northern California and all of Nevada. There are in all 35 principal meridians in the continental U.S. including Alaska.

## Base Lines.

After surveyors established the principal meridian in a particular area, they chose a precisely-defined point along the principal meridian -- the *initial point* -- and ran a line through the initial point at a right angle. This due east-west line is called the *base line* for the area. There are 32 base lines in the various public lands states.<sup>4</sup> Some examples of these base lines are:

- The base line for the Second Principal Meridian in Indiana and the Third Principal Meridian in Illinois is at 38°, 28' and 20" north and extends to the Mississippi.
- The Sixth Principal Meridian base line defines the Kansas-Nebraska border and extends west to Utah.
- In our area, the Mt. Diablo base line extends from the Golden Gate across California and Nevada to the Utah border.

<sup>4</sup> "Land Measurement Manual," pages 2-7.

FIRST CLASS MAIL

Julia Mazurowski  
420 Fitzhugh  
Bay City MI 48708



Bay County Genealogical Society  
P. O. Box 27  
Essexville, Mich. 48732

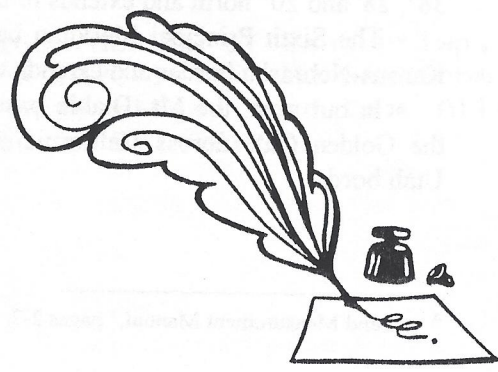
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Membership Application 1996 Bay County Genealogical Society  
Post Office Box # 27  
Essexville MI 48732-0027

ANNUAL Membership Fee Single \$8.00 Family \$10.00

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

( ) NEW ( ) Renewal Check payable to above address



*Time to join again!*