



OSCEOLA COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

# THE OSCEOLEAN

VOLUME 29 ISSUE 2 SEPTEMBER 2012



## Computer Update at the Museum

A few years ago we were given a computer to use at the Old Rugged Cross Museum. This computer sat for quite sometime before being used. During our June meeting, the Civil War veteran project was discussed and it was brought up as to why we were not using the computer to help complete this task. Debra Miller-Tossey checked out the computer and found that we can use the computer, scanner and printer to help complete not only the Civil War veteran task, but other tasks as well. We have a renewed interest in completing this task. We had a few volunteers help with this project and they are not local. One is in Saginaw, Mi and one volunteer is in California.

These volunteers are helping in further research and transcribing handwritten information from our earlier research we have done. Now the electronic typed information about the Civil war veteran can be scanned into a PDF (portable document format) file. The electronic information can then be managed better to create indexes or list the single veteran. The PDF file about the Civil War Veteran can also be emailed by request. If you would like to volunteer please email us at:

[osceolagen@gmail.com](mailto:osceolagen@gmail.com)

## A NOTE FROM OUR PRESIDENT...

Welcome back to genealogy!!! Because of the hot weather, most of us probably did not do our usual cemetery prowling, but may have continued research in air conditioned libraries and archives (or just sat in the AC and thought about what research we should be doing) .

Following through on our decision at the June meeting to seriously work on our Civil War Veterans project and the 1884 and 1894 State census records, we plan a schedule for working on those at our September meeting. Debra Miller-Tossey will show us how she is putting these onto the computer. We will also share our summer research results. We will decide if we want to do a special trip for our October meeting—some ideas will be offered at our September 11th meeting.

On November 13th at 6:00 pm at Pere Marquette Catering in Reed City, we will have a dinner meeting. Geri (Kienitz) Johnson will give us a short guideline on preparing for our trip to LDS Library in Salt Lake City Utah, salted for October 2013. We will also have a guest speaker, Chad Booher, who will be speaking about the Civil War. Please invite as many guests as you would like, and we will also be inviting the Mecosta and Wexford county genealogy groups as well to this dinner meeting. Be sure to invite anyone that you know that is interested in the Civil War.



## A NOTE FROM OUR PRESIDENT... CONTINUED...

There is no meeting planned for December. However our meeting time for January 8th, February 12th and March 12th at the Osceola county courthouse. These are working meetings and the goal is to continue working on transcribing the 1884 and 1894 State Census. We would like to arrange to have 1-3 people work on the census books between 10 am and noon, and then have another 1-3 people work from 1pm-3pm. Osceola County is one of the few counties that still has the 1884 and 1894 State Census books. Reminders will be sent out by email or a phone call.

We need to get these records transcribed before that opportunity is taken away from us. Please help us in our endeavor so we can close this project out.

If you would like to donate a few hours of your time contact us via email. Our email address can be found within this newsletter.

If you have ideas for future topics for our meetings or have suggestions for our society you can contact me at 231-832-9525

Thank you,

*Betsy Randall*

Hope to see you at the meetings!!



## Pennsylvania Research...

From the Michigan Genealogical Council  
Newsletter Spring 2012

Researching the Keystone State is now a little easier thanks to recent additions to both Ancestry and FamilySearch. New records at Ancestry include **Pennsylvania, Births, Church and Town Records, 1593-1708** and **Pennsylvania, Naturalizations, 1794 -1908**. Visit FamilySearch for **Pennsylvania County Marriages, 1885-1950**. Submitted by Linda Last, Northville Genealogical Society

ALSO:

**Search Thousands More Family Histories on FamilySearch.org**

FamilySearch has moved its online books collection from the Brigham Young Family History Archive site to a beta site. [Editor's Note: To access the beta site, go to <https://www.familysearch.org/>, click on "Books" near the top, then click on "Family History Books."

Digital book operations manager Dennis Meldrum says approximately 17,700 books were moved, and a backlog of 13,300 books—which wouldn't fit onto the BYU site—were added.

That means you can now search upwards of 31,000 family history books at FamilySearch.org. Another 4,500 will be added this week, with 25,000 more to come during 2012.

You can keyword-search the entire text of the books and download an entire book (instead of one page at a time, as was the case on the BYU site). "We are working to improve the download experience over the coming weeks," Meldrum says.

*Family Tree Magazine's Genealogy Insider e-Newsletter, 2 Feb 2012 from the Northville Genealogical Society newsletter.*

**State of Michigan Archives of  
Michigan  
UPDATE**

The Archives is placing Michigan state census records online. Researchers will be able to access them at <http://seekingmichigan.org>

The census records cover select Michigan counties and span from 1845 to 1894.

Archives of Michigan

Michigan Department of Natural Resources

Michigan Historical Center

P.O. Box 30740

Lansing, Michigan 48909

(517) 373-1408

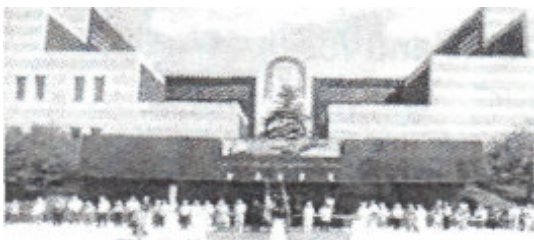
E-mail: [archives@michigan.gov](mailto:archives@michigan.gov)

Website: <http://seekingmichigan.org>

**Osceola County still has the 1884 and 1894 State census records at the courthouse. We have copied and indexed the 1884 records for Burdell, Cedar, LeRoy and Lincoln townships and are working on Hersey and Richmond townships for the 1884 and 1894 census.**

**If you would like to help us index these records contact Betsy or email us at:**

[osceolagen@gmail.com](mailto:osceolagen@gmail.com)



**Michigan Historical Center  
Days Closed in 2012**

May 28, 2012 (Monday) Memorial Day

July 4, 2012 (Wednesday) Independence Day

Sept. 3, 2012 (Monday) Labor Day

Nov 12, 2012 (Monday) Veteran's Day

Nov. 22 & 23, 2012 (Thursday, Friday) Thanksgiving

Dec. 24 & 25, 2012 (Monday, Tuesday) Christmas

Dec. 31, Jan. 1, 2012, 2013 (Mon., Tues.)  
New Year's

**Library of Michigan**

**10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday - Friday**

**Visit our Web site at**

[www.michigan.gov/libraryofmichigan](http://www.michigan.gov/libraryofmichigan)

**For information call: (517) 373-1580 or  
e-mail [librarian@michigan.gov](mailto:librarian@michigan.gov)**

**Archives of Michigan**

Reference Desk Hours:

1 p.m.-5 p.m., Monday - Friday

Visit our Web site at

[www.michigan.gov/archivesofmi](http://www.michigan.gov/archivesofmi)

For information call: (517) 373-1481

Or e-mail: [archives@michigan.gov](mailto:archives@michigan.gov)

**Michigan Historical Museum**

9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday

10a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday

1 p.m.-5 p.m. Sunday

Visit our Web site at

<http://michigan.gov/michiganhistory>

For more information call: (517) 373-3559



### Future Calendar:

#### Tuesday, September 11th, 7:00 - Old Rugged Cross Museum

Working meeting on the Civil War Veteran project and the 1884 and 1894 State Census.

Debra Miller-Tossey will show how you can help using the computer to help complete the Civil War project. Ideas to be discussed for a research trip within the state of Michigan

#### October 9th Meeting

Possible trip to an area that will be discussed from our September meeting.

#### Tuesday November 13th at 6pm –Pere Marquette Catering in Reed City

Geri Johnson will speak about the planned trip to the LDS Library (October 2013) and Chad Booher will speak about the Civil War. Mecosta and Wexford county Genealogy groups are invited to this special dinner meeting.

If there is something you want to see presented at our meetings email us or call Betsy at 231-832-9525

Don't forget to check out our website [WWW.OCGS.INFO](http://WWW.OCGS.INFO) for up-to-date events



## Research in Salt Lake City, Utah

We are still planning a trip to Salt Lake City, Utah to the Family History Library in the Fall of 2013. Geri (Kienitz) Johnson will be organizing this trip. Geri will be tentatively speaking at our October 9th meeting about the upcoming trip. We will be notifying other genealogy societies in the surrounding area to see if others are interesting in traveling to the Family History Library. Please let others know about this trip. Stay tuned to our website and future newsletters for further information.



**STAY TUNED!!**

## U.S. Census 101: Q & A

In preparation for the release of the 1940 U.S. Census, how much do you really know about this important genealogical resource?

Q: Why is the census year on the top of the decade?

A: Our Constitution was ratified in 1787 and specified that the first census would be taken within three years, which it was, in 1790, and then every 10 years since.

Q: Why can't we access the more recent censuses?

A: By law, census records on an individual are not made public for 72 years. This had to do with the average lifespan of an individual at the time.

Q: What were some of the physical conditions for taking the census?

A: Enumerators had to furnish their own transportation (horse/ buggy), and in the earliest years, their own paper (unlined of course). There were no plastic bags to keep paper dry; enumerators had only their leather satchels. They had to mix their own ink and use a stylus or quill to write with. Considering the porosity of the early paper, the difficulty in keeping the paper dry, the physical hardship of getting on and off your horse (or out of your buggy) 100 times a day, the lack of penmanship training by these hired folks, and the crude writing instruments that they used, we should never whine about how bad the census is, but rejoice that it is as good as it is!

Q: What were the census takers paid?

A: Very little considering the difficulty of the job. Notices were tacked on the wall in post offices offering the census taking jobs and the rate of pay was per name or household. This might explain why a few families "way up the hollow" were deliberately missed and why some extra families might have been tucked in here and there. But for the most part, census enumerators swore an oath to do a proper job for their government.

Q: What really personal information will the census tell me about my ancestors?

A: More than you likely want to know: Was he Deaf? Blind? Able to write? Able to read? Homeless? Disabled? Dumb? Insane? Able to speak English? A Pauper? A Convict? A Prisoner? Divorced? Suffering from a disease?

Q: What happened to the 1890 Census?

A: In 1921, there was a fire on the upper floor of a building in Washington, D.C., at which the 1890 census was stored in the basement. The water from fighting the fire ran down into the basement, soaking the 1890 census. Finally, by act of Congress in 1933, it was destroyed (except for a few fragments). Today, we would have had the technology to save it, but not in the 1920s.

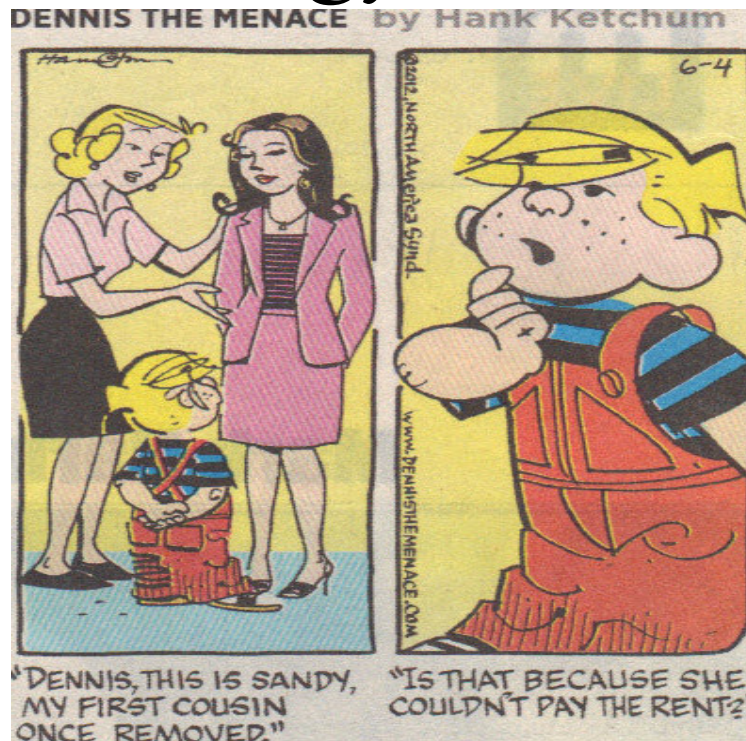
Q: Why such "crazy" spelling of names in the census?

A: The census takers' words-on-paper were only as good as what they heard or more likely, what they thought they heard, spoken to them. Never be close-minded about the spelling of your ancestor's name on a census.

Excerpted from an article previously published in *Family Chronicle*, Jul/Aug 2011, entitled "Learning About the Census," by Donna Potter Phillips. Taken from the *Northville Genealogical Society* newsletter



# Genealogy Humor



## Civil War veteran project...Update

Osceola county had 1,200 Civil War veterans. Some of them settled down here in the county because of the land that was given to them as "payment" for their service during the Civil War. The OCGS has been working on documenting each Civil War vet for the last couple of years. We are making headway but still has a way to go. With a renewed effort some volunteers have stepped up and making an effort to complete this project. We are at different stages in this effort.

We have some people doing the actual research on the vet, such as birth, death and marriage information, and we have other people converting the hard copy information that has already been gathered and converting them to electronic format. As the electronic format becomes available, the index will be available on our website.

This has been a long process and hopefully with some renewed interest we can finally complete this process so everyone can access the information.

## The Old Rugged Cross Celebration success!

In our last newsletter we explained the planning by the Old Rugged Cross Historical Society for the centennial celebration on August 11th and 12th of this year. All summer we have had visitors at the museum interested in this event and the new display. We had a large turnout at the open house at the museum on Saturday (August 11th), and one of the largest audiences (about 300) ever at the Saturday night gospel music program at Rambandt park. The Sunday program at the United Methodist Church of Reed City featured members of Reverend Bennard's family (great nieces and nephews) and there was another large attendance. The committee thanks everyone who helped and participated to make this event such a huge success.

**Thank you everyone!!!**

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**If anyone has an old player piano, Carol Posey has some music rolls that she would like to find a new home for.**

**If you have, or know someone that has a player piano and would like to provide them a good home contact Carol Posey at 231-734-2219**

OSCEOLA COUNTY  
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 52  
4918 Park Street  
Reed City, Mi 49677

**Membership Application**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_

STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to:

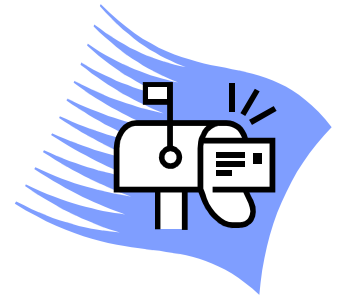
*Osceola County Genealogical Society*

*Marilyn Hoogerhyde, Treasurer*

*23717 Four Mile Rd*

*Reed City, Mi 49677*

Surnames you may be searching :



**LEVEL OF GENEALOGY EXPERIENCE:**

(CIRCLE ONE)

BEGINNER

INTERMEIDATE

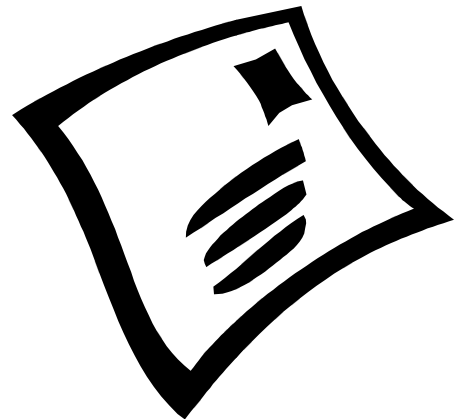
ADVANCED

NEW: \_\_\_\_\_ RENEWAL \_\_\_\_\_

\$10-INDIVIDUAL \_\_\_\_\_

\$15-FAMILY \_\_\_\_\_

\$150-LIFETIME \_\_\_\_\_



Renew today and tell your friends!