



OSCEOLA COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
**THE OSCEOLEAN**

Volume 33 Issue 2

August 2016

### 1<sup>st</sup> Annual “Cemetery Walk”

On September 11<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm, our society will be hosting the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual “Cemetery Walk” at the Woodland Cemetery at 500 West Church Street in Reed City. In case of heavy rain, our rain date will be September 18<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm. Tickets will be \$5 at the Cemetery. Our volunteers will provide some background information regarding some people who are buried in the Woodland Cemetery. Come and find out interesting facts about some of our local people that lived and died in our area.

If you are able to help, please let Debra know before the walk. Contact Debra via email [osceolagen@gmail.com](mailto:osceolagen@gmail.com)



*All proceeds go towards our operating expenses for our society.*

Reed City Area District Library has moved into their new location!



The Reed City Area District Library held it's opening at 829 South Chestnut Street, Reed City, on July 7, 2016. More than 130 people came and visited the new facilities.



### A note from our Co-presidents....

It has been a busy year for us. We are feverishly working on to raise money. One of our fund raisers that we are really excited about is the upcoming **cemetery walk**. We are hoping to make this an annual event, and with so many cemeteries in the county, we should not run out of material to work with in the future.

Again this year we will be having a Family History Workshop in October or November. The date has not been set yet, but check our website for details.

Enrollment for the workshop will be handled through the Reed City Community Education program. Their phone number is 231-832-5517 or email:

[CommunityEd@reedcity.k12.mi.us](mailto:CommunityEd@reedcity.k12.mi.us)

The Osceola County Genealogical Society and the Old Rugged Cross Historical Society have put together a 2017 calendar. This calendar is filled with past postcards of the Reed City and Osceola County area. Calendars are \$5 and will make great Christmas gifts for your family and friends. Calendars will be at local businesses, the Reed City Chamber of Commerce, or you can purchase one from one of our members. The profits will be split between the two societies no matter where it is purchased. Show us your support and purchase your calendar before the holidays.

We will be implementing a “research group” to help expedite requests we receive. If you would like to be part of the “research group” please let Debra know. We would like to set up a meeting and lay out the request process.

Hope to see you at one of our events...

*Debra and Betsy*

## ***Local Family History...***

In this issue we are featuring a local family history of one of our members, Janice (Cool) Peterson. Here is her story...

### **Bevins/Ketchum/Cool Family Story**

*By: Janice (Cool) Peterson*

It was Christmas Day, 1850, at the large farmhouse of Anson and Eunice Shepard who lived at Ogden, Monroe County, New York. It was the wedding day of their daughter Emeline Shepard who was marrying David Bevins. David came from a family of 15 children, making the wedding quite an affair.

David and Emeline had 6 children: Marion, Eugene, William, Myra, Emma and Flora.

David and Emeline lived in Monroe County, New York until moving to Cascade Township, Kent County, Michigan in 1865. In 1871, David and Emeline moved to LeRoy Township homesteading 80 acres on 200<sup>th</sup> Ave., ¾ miles north of LeRoy Road, near Beaver Creek.

In the final papers of the homestead, when it became David and Emeline's, there is a detailed description of what they had done. It reads 'built a house of hewn logs 18' X 26', two stories high, matched floors, three doors, seven windows, shingle roof, is a good comfortable house to live in, good well, log barn 18' X 24', set out forty fruit trees and they have lived in the said house and made it their exclusive home from the 9<sup>th</sup> day of March, 1872 to the present time and that they have since, of said settlement, plowed, fenced and cultivated about twenty acres of said land, and have made the following improvements thereon, to-wit: about two acres chopped.' The homestead record can be found at Ionia Land Records Office, Ionia, Michigan. Along with clearing land, planting and building, the men in the family worked at the logging camps.

On January 26, 1876, David Bevins died. His children said he died of pneumonia. Emeline died Nov. 21, 1906. They are buried in LeRoy Cemetery, LeRoy Township, Michigan.

David and Emeline's daughter, Myra Alice Bevins, was born 06 Oct 1860 in Pittsford, Monroe County, New York, and died 28 May 1927 in LeRoy, Osceola County, Michigan. Myra Bevins married David Ketchum 23 Mar 1882 in the Methodist Episcopal Church, LeRoy, Michigan. Reverend O J Golden presiding. Attendants were William A. Pine, Tustin, Michigan and Emma N. Candly, LeRoy, Michigan.

David Ketchum was born 27 Aug 1858 in Martin, Allegan County, Michigan, and died 17 Mar 1944 in daughter's home, Mabel (Ketchum) Babbitt, Columbiaville, Lapeer County, Michigan.

Myra and David had 12 children: Eltah Fay Belle, Jessie Maude, Earl Ray, Pearl May, Roy Charles, Glen Dee, Verne Lee, Grace Faye, Hazel Edna, Mabel Fern, Harry Lennon, and Howard Shepard. Seven of them graduated from LeRoy Schools; 2 from colleges, Verne graduated from Michigan State College and Howard from Oregon State College; and Jessie and Pearl took the teachers exam and taught in the LeRoy area. Jessie was a school teacher when she married Clayton Cool, a carpenter who built barns.

Jessie was the only child who lived most of her life in the LeRoy area. David and children attended the Methodist Church. Myra couldn't go as often because there was always a baby at home. As a Methodist, David was active in church affairs. He was superintendent and always sang in the choir. Of all the village activities that David was involved in, he will probably be best remembered for his involvement and dedication to the LeRoy Methodist Church.

Myra enjoyed crocheting, sewing and playing the organ. She had a hat shop downtown LeRoy after the children were grown. August 23, 1875, at the age of 16, David moved to Rose Lake Township to work for Belah Moulton. Moulton moved to LeRoy from Martin, Michigan in December 1871. He was a farmer. Myra and David lived on a farm near Leroy. In 1885, David purchased 20 acres for \$600, located on W. Gilbert Street, west of LeRoy Schools, (2007, residence of Leland and Ester Lindquist). David and Myra lived here for 32 years until selling in 1917 to Sarah Verdier, for \$1,000 and a land contract. In 1919, Myra and David purchased 3 blocks from James and Alice Bevins, located 112 West Gilbert Street in the Village of LeRoy. David lived here for 21 years, until his death in 1944. In 1946, Doyle and Thelma Nelson purchased this property from the Ketchum estate. David gave up farming to become one of Osceola County's leading businessmen. David owned 2 stores on Bevins Street, and a creamery on east side of S. Kent St. in LeRoy. He sold this creamery to Conroy. He also owned a creamery just west of Tustin. He built the two story, cement block store, D.B. Ketchum Groceries, in LeRoy located on the northwest corner of Bevins Street and Gilbert Street, lots 17, 18, and 19.

He rented the second story to the town newspaper editor. This building and lots were sold in 1940 to Edward Hernes who used it as a bean station. Later the Nazarene Church bought the building. Now this building is the LeRoy Township/Village Hall (2004). David was manager of the Michigan State Telephone Company. He was also village president, LeRoy Township Librarian, village clerk, trustee at other times and Justice of the Peace.

David did not talk a lot and had a quiet sense of humor. In raising their children, he was very strict. They were never allowed to be "sassy" and when they were told to do something they knew they had better do it. What one parent said the other up held. Myra always said that "Nature provided a place for punishment". The children all had their chores to do and did them. Their daughter Pearl said that in all her life she never heard a "cuss word" from either of her parents and to tell a lie was out of the question. They expected the same from their children. The Ketchum's Christmas was a lot of fun. A good time was had by all, including friends and neighbors. Gifts were usually homemade. The children remember their childhood as happy.

Both Myra and David Ketchum are buried in the LeRoy Cemetery, LeRoy, Michigan along with some of their children. The funeral services were held at the Methodist Episcopal Church, LeRoy, Michigan, the same building where David and Myra were married.

Jessie Maude Ketchum, daughter of Myra and David Ketchum, was born 31 Dec 1884 in LeRoy, Osceola County, Michigan and died 20 Mar 1958 in her daughter's home, Garnet Holmes, LeRoy (Ashton), Osceola County, Michigan.

Jessie Ketchum married Clayton Arthur Cool 04 Jul 1905 at the home of bride's parents, Jessie and David Ketchum, LeRoy, Osceola County, Michigan. Pearl Ketchum was bridesmaid and Verne Moulton was best man. Reverend Cookson performed the ceremony. July 4, 1954, they celebrated their 49<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary at their home and later enjoyed a picnic dinner at Rose Lake County Park.

Clayton was born 15 Sep 1880 in Otisville, Genesee County, Michigan and died 22 Jul 1955 in Reed City Hospital, Reed City, Osceola County, Michigan of natural causes. Jessica and Clayton are buried in the LeRoy Township Cemetery, LeRoy, Osceola County, Michigan.

Jessie took the teachers exam and taught school for 1 year at Robinson School (1904), Cedar Township and 1 year at Hall (Tate) School, 16 Mi. Road, LeRoy, Michigan. She boarded with John and Susan Cool while teaching at Hall School where she met Clayton, son of John Marshall Cool. Clayton was not living at home but lived in a cabin west of his parents. She graduated 1905, LeRoy High School, LeRoy, Michigan.

Jessie and Clayton had 13 children: Ida Evelyn, Lloyd Cameron, Marian Gladys, Bernard "Bill" Travis, Garnet Lucille, Kenneth Clayton, Richard Lyndon, Clifford LeRoy, Curtis Winston, Lilly Vivien, Clayton "Ike" Arthur, and Melvin "Mike" Stanley.

Johnson School (210 Ave and 16 Mi. Rd, NW corner) and LeRoy High School.

Each spring the family made maple syrup. The sap was collected each day by a horse drawn sled with a container. In the woods there was a large metal container on a stone wall. The kids kept a fire going 24 hours a day. Clayton enjoyed playing the concertina, fishing and being a philosopher. In 1921 he kept a diary.

He was a self-employed carpenter and raised honey bees. Jessie and Clayton raised vegetables, raspberries and flowers to sell at farm markets.

On the farm in Plymouth, Michigan the family raised cattle, potatoes, corn and tomatoes. Clayton had to have something for all the kids to do as soon as they got home from school. The kids worked until dark. After dark they would milk the cows and do the chores.



If you would like your family featured in our spring newsletter, please let Debra know. It must be in electronic format or scannable text and also include a photo. Have the information to Debra by February 2017.

## *Calendar of Events*

Please note that meetings will take place on the second Monday of the month.

November through March meetings are at 1 pm (location varies)

April through October meetings are at 7 pm (location varies)

Throughout the year there may be special Saturday events so watch our website for the latest calendar of events.

### **Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup> 1 pm at Woodland Cemetery**

#### **“1<sup>st</sup> Annual Cemetery Walk”**

Our society will be hosting its 1st annual cemetery walk. This walk will be at the Woodland Cemetery at 550 West Church Street. Tickets will be \$5 at the cemetery.

Rain date will be the September 18<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm.

### **Monday, September 12<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm Old Rugged Cross Museum**

#### **“Project Planning for Winter”**

We will be planning our projects for this winter.

We will also be discussing the results of the 1<sup>st</sup> annual cemetery walk.

### **Monday, October 10<sup>th</sup> 7 pm Old Rugged Cross Museum**

#### **“Family History Books”**

Preparing your family history book for future decedents.

### **Monday, November 14<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm TBD**

#### **“TBD”**

See Website for details as time gets closer

### **No meeting in December**

### **Monday, January 9<sup>th</sup> at at 1 pm TBD**

#### **“TBD”**

See Website for details as time gets closer

### **Monday, Feburary 13<sup>th</sup> at at 1 pm TBD**

#### **“TBD”**

See Website for details as time gets closer

If you would like to see any topic covered at one of our meetings please let us know at September or October meeting.

# Background of Osceola County and Townships

## 1 April-1840 - Set off by State as Unwattin County

- 1843 - Changed by State to Osceola (attached to Ottawa County)
- 1855 - (attached to Mason County)
- 1857 - (attached to Newaygo County)
- 1858 - (attached to Mecosta County as Green Township)
- 1869 - Organized as Osceola (including East half of Lake County until 1871)

## Townships

- Jan 1861 - Richmond - (entire County - attached to Mecosta County)
- Mar 1867 - Lincoln - (includes 12 northern Twp. - attached to Mecosta County)
- 1867 - Middle Branch - (from Lincoln - attached to Mecosta County)
- Apr 1868 - Hersey - (from Richmond - attached to Mecosta County)
- 1868 - Sherman - (from Lincoln - attached to Mecosta County)
- Apr 1869 - Osceola - (from Lincoln)
- Oct 1869 - Sylvan - (from Osceola)
- Apr 1870 - Orient - (from Richmond)
- Apr 1870 - LeRoy - (from Lincoln)
- Jan 1870 - Highland - (from Sherman)
- Jan 1870 - Hartwick - (from Middle Branch)
- Apr 1870 - Evart - (from Richmond)
- Apr 1871 - Burdell - (from LeRoy)
- Apr 1871 - Rose Lake - (from Harwick)
- Apr 1871 - Cedar - (from Osceola)
- Jan 1877 - Marion - (from Middle Branch)

*Source: Portrait and Biographical Album of Osceola County, Chapman Brothers 1884.*

## ***Tidbit of Information on a Cemetery in the LeRoy Area...***

### **ROSE LAKE TOWNSHIP CEMETERY**

The Rose Lake Cemetery was once known as the Hinkley Burying Ground, and was deeded by its owner Alanson McIntyre on 20 July 1892 to the Evergreen Cemetery Corporation. The cemetery was originally platted by McIntyre.

On 30 August 1934 the Corporation turned the cemetery over to Rose Lake Township. The deed was signed by President W. L. Johnson and Secretary William Porteous.

The Rose Lake Township Cemetery is located on 16 Mile Road between 150<sup>th</sup> and 160<sup>th</sup> Avenues.

*Source: The Chronicles of LeRoy*  
Thank you Tim Johnson

### Did You Know?

In the 1944 general election, besides Franklin Roosevelt and Harry Truman, the Rev. George Bennard was a candidate for election.

He ran for State Treasurer on the Prohibition ticket.

### Naturalization Indexes can be found at [www.seekingmichigan.org](http://www.seekingmichigan.org)

Through the hard work of dedicated volunteers, many of our naturalization records are indexed. These records are primarily organized by county because they were created at the county level. There are additional counties that have not been indexed or whose indexes are too large to put online. [Click to our Guide to Immigration and Naturalization records](#) for a complete list.

The indexes are PDF files (Adobe Acrobat Reader required). If you find a relative, you can order a copy of these records through our [online store](#).

Last but not least, misspellings and name variations often occur in old records. Please be aware of this when searching.

<http://seekingmichigan.org/about/indexes>

## List of Osceola County Sheriffs

*Information provided by: Don and Dorothy Grein*

Iviah Manes 1869-1970  
Joseph W. Ash 1871-1872  
Moses B. Houghton 1873-1876  
Joshua W. Matthews 1877-1880  
Moses B. Houghton 1881-1882  
Alonzo M. Shank 1883-1886  
Arthur B. Slossen 1887-1890  
James H. McLean 1891-1892  
Reese H. Jones 1893-1896  
Frank McIntyre 1887-1900  
Frank Edgett 1901-1904  
Wilbur C. Kidder 1905-1908  
John C. Houghton 1909-1912  
Wilbur F. Sprague 1913-1916  
Archie Smock 1917-1918  
William H. Echlin 1919-1922  
Leeman W. Robinson 1923-1926  
Lewis Aubrey Brooks 1927-1928  
Arthur Lindell 1929-1930  
Harvey E. McCord 1931-1934  
Glen Preston 1935-1936  
Royal E. Gingrich 1937-1944  
Fay E. Wooster 1945-1952  
Robert Huff 1953-1953  
Donald G. Grein 1953-1976  
Arthur M. Spears 1977-1980  
David B. Needham 1981-1995  
Thomas Detloff 1995-2000  
Jim Crawford 2001-present

## 2018 National Genealogical Society Conference to be Held in Grand Rapids

National Genealogical Society (NGS) President, Jordan Jones, announced the 2018 NGS Family History Conference will be held at DeVos Place in Grand Rapids, Michigan, 2-5 May 2018.

Details about the NGS 2018 Family History Conference will be available in the fall of 2017. The four-day conference will include more than 175 lectures and work-shops delivered by nationally recognized experts. Registration for the conference will begin 1 December 2017.

Whether you are an experienced genealogist or just beginning your family history, save the dates 2-5 May 2018 because you won't want to miss this exciting conference, the first national genealogical conference held in Michigan. NGS is pleased to have the local support of the Western Michigan Genealogical Society, which was founded in 1954 and is the second oldest genealogical society in Michigan.

For more information in the future visit the NGS website at <http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/>

## ***Family History Workshop being offered in the Fall!!***

Another workshop will be offered in October, during Family History Month, and arranged by Reed City Community Education. See our Website or the fall newsletter for details as the time gets closer.

<http://www.ocgs.info/>



## **Osceola County Genealogical Society Pricing**

As you know all societies receive donations and fees from researching in order to pay operating expenses and all of our members are volunteers. We receive requests to look up obituaries and find out other family information that we may have archived at the Old Rugged Cross Museum. Our pricing structure is as follows:

Obituaries with exact date of death is \$3, without exact date is \$5. The first half hour for other research is free and after that half hour the charge is \$10 per hour plus shipping and handling, unless emailed to the requestor. (average postage for mailing is \$5 per package)

## **Genealogy humor...**

My family coat of arms ties at the back....is that normal?

## **Thank you!**

**Bette Jo Brown had t-shirts made for our Society. The shirts are a 50/50 cotton/poly blend with many colors to choose from. The shirts can be ordered at [kelscloset.imprintableapparel.com](http://kelscloset.imprintableapparel.com) or call 231-832-9751**

**Thank You Bette Jo for your work!**



## **Welcome to Our New Member!**

We would like to welcome a new member to our Society. William Shust of Naperville, Illinois. William's family surnames are BERGER, WEKENMAN, BLANK, HOLLABAUGH, ROBBINS, MUND & BIEFUSS.

**Welcome William!**

**NOTICE:** The membership dues will increase to \$15 per year in January 2017. Family or lifetime memberships will no longer be available. We now have a PayPal account set up for payment. See our website for payment options.

Osceola County Genealogical Society  
P.O. Box 52  
4918 Park Street  
Reed City, MI 49677  
Website: [www.ocgs.info](http://www.ocgs.info)  
Email: [osceolagen@gmail.com](mailto:osceolagen@gmail.com)

Membership Application/Renewal form:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

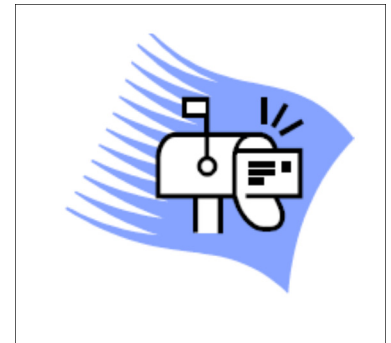
Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_



Make checks payable to:

*Osceola County Genealogical Society*

*Marilyn Hoogerhyde, Treasurer*

*23717 Four Mile Road*

*Reed City, MI 49677*

**Effective January 1, 2017 membership rate  
will be \$15 per individual, annually.**

We will no longer offer lifetime or family  
memberships.

**Renew your membership today and tell your friends to join us!**