

OSCEOLA COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

# THE OSCEOLEAN

Volume 31 Issue 1

April 2014



The Osceola County Genealogical Society would not be here if it wasn't for our wonderful members. Currently our society has 42 members and we have added four new members in the last year.

New members are Tim Johnson, Pam Garofalo, Nancy Filley, Carol Moyes. One of our long time members, Theresa Harvey has moved to the Grand Rapids area. Theresa has held positions in our society over the past several years and her presence will be missed at our meetings. However Bette Jo Brown has stepped up to fill in Theresa's position as Co-Vice President.

## A note from our presidents....

We have been busy over the winter. The first three Saturdays in January a computer class was open for area residents show basic computer navigation. It taught basic computer skills, an introduction into the internet and navigating around the internet for family history information.

We have also lined up work for getting the valuable 1884 and 1894 state census completed. Several volunteers have stepped up and things are really moving along.

Our indexed list of the Civil War veterans is almost complete and will hopefully be posted to our website Summer of 2014.

We are looking for articles to be published in future newsletters. If you would like to write a one paragraph article about one of your local ancestors please email it to:

[osceolagen@gmail.com](mailto:osceolagen@gmail.com) or mail a typed copy and send it to the Old Rugged Cross Museum at PO Box 52 4918 North Park Street, Reed City, MI 49677. Attn: Genealogy newsletter editor

If you have ideas for future topics for our meetings or have suggestions for our society you can contact Betsy at 231-832-9525 or by email at:

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

Thank you, Betsy and Debra  
Hope to see you at the meetings!!

## *Genealogy and the World Wide Web...*

Each newsletter I will try to bring some interesting family history research website (s) that may you may have an interest in looking into further. In this newsletter I will introduce you to "FIND-A-GRAVE". Find-a-grave is a free online search website for cemeteries. You can start your search by selecting country. This may be here in the united States or abroad such as Germany, England or even France. You can browse the website for free but in order for you to be a contributor, you must have a login and password.

<http://www.findagrave.com/index.html>

A quick start is to go to the homepage and select on the right side of the screen "search for a cemetery" This will bring up the "Cemetery search page" Select your country (and state if searching in the US). Filter down your selections until you get to cemetery you want to be looking for you ancestor.

Some of the graves will have photos of the headstones, some will have the inscriptions from the headstone and some will have photos of the person. You can also leave virtual flowers and memorials on your ancestors grave.

Happy searching...



## VA AND ANCESTRY.COM MAKE BURIAL RECORDS ACCESSIBLE

Ancestry.com has combined digitized and indexed National Cemetery Administration (NCA) burial ledgers with those at the National Archives and Records Administration. This new collection is called "U.S. Burial Registers, Military Posts and National Cemeteries, 1862-1960".

The records contain name, rank, company/regiment, age, death date and grave number for many Civil War soldiers. These digital files reproduced 113,097 individual records.

The collection is posted on the [Ancestry.com](http://Ancestry.com) website. Members of the general public can access the databases if they are regular subscribers or at a public library that subscribes to its service. This offers an ideal avenue for genealogical research.

More than 3.7 million Americans are buried in VA's 131 national cemeteries (72 date from the Civil War) on some 20,000 acres. This project is part of NCA's 150th anniversary commemoration of the Civil War.

*Taken from May 2013 VFW magazine, page 8 used from Luce-Mackinac Genealogical Society newsletter.*

## Researching Canadian ancestors?

### Censuses of Canada – 1842

Now Available Online. Library and Archives Canada has announced that Canadians can now access the Census of Canada West, 1842 as well as the Census of Canada East, 1842 online. In 1841 Upper Canada was renamed Canada West, where as Lower Canada became Canada East. These two jurisdictions are now known as the provinces of Ontario and Quebec.

Each census contains the names of heads of family, their occupation and the number of residents for each family.

Users can search these new databases by the names of heads of family, as well as by geographical information such as district and sub-district names.

The Census of Canada West, 1842 is available at

<http://tinyurl.com/o65mct> while the Census of Canada East, 1842 may be found at

<http://tinyurl.com/pfxeofj>.

*(Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter, 18 Jul 2013)*

*From the Northville Genealogical Society newsletter fall issue.*

## More Digitized Newspapers Appear Online

Chronicling America, the free newspaper site from the Library of Congress, reported this summer that over 600,000 pages from over 1,100 newspapers were added to its database. Among the new additions are papers from Michigan, Iowa and West Virginia. More papers were added from Hawaii, Indiana, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Carolina, Tennessee and Texas.

### The Michigan papers include:

The Cass County Republican, Dowagiac, 1858-1880

Constantine Republican, Constantine, 1836-1838

The Grand Haven News, Grand Haven, 1858-1866

Grand River Times, Grand Haven, 1851-1857

Northern Tribune, Cheboygan, 1875-1885

Weekly Expositor, Brockway Centre, 1882-1892

Ypsilanti Sentinel, Ypsilanti, 1843-1848

Various dates within the time periods.

*Posted on GenVines by Janell on August 1, 2013 — Shared by email from Tom Koselka and Roger Moffat*

## Mapping your ancestors or where is the family farm?

By Judy Sheldon Huron Shores Genealogical Society

Maps can be found in the local, university and state libraries, state archives, county offices, books and online. They take many forms and serve various purposes. Together they can give the family home a new look!

**Plat, Survey or Land maps** show land ownership, are updated regularly and help locate land using the legal description. Some are indexed by landowner. Small land holdings and lots in towns usually don't show the owner's name.

**Political maps** show political boundaries, cities and towns, physical features like rivers and lakes, and hopefully include an index. Old maps may show places that have disappeared or been abandoned.

**Sanborn maps** or other fire insurance maps are made by insurance companies of towns that they write insurance policies for. They show the buildings, their construction type, some houses. They can show how an area grew and record buildings destroyed over time.

**Topographic maps** are geographic maps, showing the lay of the land. All geographic features are shown, the elevation of the area, and some of the human element such as cemeteries, churches, etc. If you have stories of where the farm was by description of the hills, creeks, etc. it is possible to locate the place on one of these maps.

**Atlases and Road maps** are useful for locating present day places. Comparing these with historical maps can help locate the home of an ancestor.

**Timeline maps** show the change of borders to countries, states, counties, city wards. This is very important in locating a family record in court houses, church parishes, and census records. It can often explain such things as where a person says they were born changes from one record to the next.

**Google Earth** and any of the other 3 dimensional maps give a real time image of the area. Some have historical overlays. Looking at this type of map gives an often confusing, topographical maps meaning. Below are Internet links to some map resources.

### **Tracing Descendants website:**

Map your ancestors, track their migration and learn about boundary changes. Migration and the rising population expansion changed boundary lines, a township or town did not always reside in the same state or county. Townships may have changed their names and boundaries too.

### **US Geologic Survey website:**

Using Maps in Genealogy

<http://egsc.usgs.gov/isb/pubs/factsheets/fs09902.html>



# *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.

## **Monday April 14<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm Old Rugged Cross Musuem-Reed City**

### **“Preserving your family history”**

Share your ideas of how you are preserving your family history, stories and photos. Bring in your albums or folders and share your ideas.

## **Monday May 12<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm LDS Church 1325 Woodward Ave in Big Rapids**

### **“Using the LDS church for family history research”**

Volunteers at the LDS Church will show us what information is available for us to use from the Family History Library, based in Salt Lake City UT. Car pool from the Old Rugged Cross museum meet at 6:20 pm.

## **Monday June 9<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm Ferris State University Big Rapids**

### **“Using Ancestry.com for your family research”**

Stacy Anderson of Ferris State University, will show us tips and tricks for using Ancestry.com for researching your family history. This is available for free and open to the public to use anytime. Car pool from the Old Rugged Cross museum in Reed City meet at 5:30. We will go to a local restaurant for dinner before our meeting.

## **July and August – No meetings**

## **Monday September 8<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm-Location-TBD**

We will have a guest speaker. Details are still being arranged. See the website as the time gets closer for details.

## **Monday October 13<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm-Old Rugged Cross Museum**

### **“Preparing for Open Research Day”**

Since last year was such a success, we thought we could do it again this year.

## **Saturday October 18<sup>th</sup> 10am - 2pm-Old Rugged Cross Museum**

Since October is Family History Month, our society will be conducting an Open RESEARCH DAY. If you or anyone you is interested in researching any family in the Osceola County area, please plan on attending this event. Researchers and society members will be on hand to assist you in your research for FREE! Donations are always accepted.

## **News from the Archives of Michigan & Abrams Foundation Historical Collection**

As first announced at the Abrams Seminar, there will be two exciting new additions to the Seeking Michigan web site. First, an index to Michigan death records from 1921-1952, with actual images from 1921 -1937. With the 75-year restriction on access to Michigan death records, Archives staff will roll out another year each January. As researchers familiar with FamilySearch may already know, the index is already available online at that web site, but Seeking Michigan will offer both the index and images. We are thrilled about this agreement with the Michigan Department of Community Health and are excited to get started on this project. This 1921-1952 database is a high priority and will be available online very soon.

The second SeekingMichigan announcement is a game changer for Michigan genealogy research. The Archives has reached an agreement with FamilySearch to digitize and index all of our naturalization records. The index at FamilySearch will point to SeekingMichigan, where the images can be found. Easily our most popular record set, our naturalization records are an understandably vast collection. Archives staff estimates that this database will dwarf any existing collection already online at Seeking Michigan. The timetable with this exciting project is much more fluid than the death records collection, as many of these naturalization records still need to be scanned and indexed. The Archives will look forward to working with Familysearch and the Michigan Genealogical community to get these important records indexed and placed online at SeekingMichigan for free.

On June 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> the museum is having a yard sale from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM each day. This will be held at 4636 North Park Street in Reed City, Mi. All the proceeds will go to benefit The Old Rugged Cross Historical Society Museum. If you have anything you want to donate, feel free to bring it on those days.

**We are also collecting old electronics for recycling. This can include cables for computers, small appliances, TV's, and other electronics items.**

## Civil War slang words

What if you could talk to someone who lived during the Civil War? You would probably have a hard time understanding some of what they would

say. The list below has some words and phrases used during the Civil War. Some of these words are still used today.



Whipped: beaten, tired  
Fresh Fish: raw recruits  
Sunday Soldiers: kid glove, parlor boys  
Goobers: peanuts  
Jonah: someone thought to bring bad luck  
Toeing the Mark: obeying orders  
Played Out: tired  
Screamers, Fire and Fall Back: diarrhea  
Been Through the Mill: endured a lot  
Hard Knocks: beaten up  
Jailbird: criminal  
Bluff: cheat  
Hard Case: tough  
Nokum Still: liquor  
Shine, Bark Juice, Tar Water: Liquor  
Grab a Root: potato  
Scarce as Hens Teeth: rare  
Uppity: conceited  
Fit as a Fiddle: good shape  
Blow Hard: braggert  
Possum: buddy  
Bully: hurrah! or cheer for  
Hornets: bullets  
Skedaddle: run  
Saw Bones: surgeon  
Snung as a Bug: cozy  
Green Horn, Bugger, Skunk: officers  
HunkeyDorey: OK  
Top Rail: the best  
Horse Sense: common sense  
Fit to be Tied: angry  
Pepper Box: multi-barrel pistol  
Grayback: Confederate soldier, lice  
Green back: union paper currency  
Bluebelly: union soldier  
Bread Basket: stomach  
Sardine Box: primer cap box  
Sheet Iron Crackers: hardtack  
Chief Cook and Bottle Washer: boss, person in charge  
Chicken Guts: gold braid on an officers uniform  
Giving the Vermin Parole: throwing away lice infested clothing  
Bull Pits: under arrest, confinement area  
Iron Clad Possum: armadillo dinner  
Company Q: sick call

Hospital Rats: faking illness  
Buttermilk: infantry term for cavalry  
Webb feet: cavalry term for infantry  
Mules: meat  
Sparking: kissing  
Horizontal Recreation: sex  
Arkansas Toothpick: large knife  
Dog Tent: two man tent  
Blow hard: big shot  
Hard Case: tough  
Toeing the Mark: doing the job  
Tight or Wallpapered: drunk  
Flapjacks: pancakes  
Gun Boats: shoes  
Beehive: knapsack  
Bummer: loafer, forager, safe in the rear  
Cashiered: dishonorable dismissal  
Mudsill: southern term for a northerner  
Little Coot: confederate slang for yankee  
Hayfoot-Strawfoot: teaching recruits left from right  
French Leave: absent without leave  
Mustered Out: killed in action  
Hop, Step, Jump: two wheel ambulance  
Fast Trick: woman with low morals  
Pie Eaters: Men from rural areas  
Paleface: recruit  
Somebodys Darling: dead soldier  
Secesh: northern term for southerners  
Robbers Row: suttlers area  
Mealy Mouthed: liar  
Smart Aleck: know it all attitude  
Rio: coffee  
Shakes: malaria  
Salt Horse: pickled beef  
Long Sweetening: molasses  
Pumpkins Rinds: rank insignia on an officers shoulder straps  
Horn Swaggled: cheated

Source: Gettysburg National Military Park National Park

Osceola County Genealogical Society  
P.O. Box 52  
4918 Park Street  
Reed City, Mi 49677

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Membership Application or renewal form:

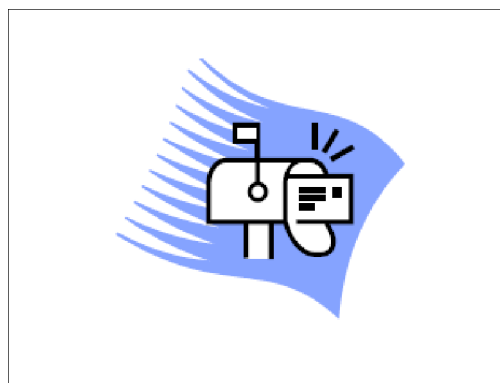
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

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

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



Make Checks payable to:

*Osceola County Genealogical Society*

*Marilyn Hoogerhyde, Treasurer*

*23717 Four Mile Road*

*Reed City, MI 49677*

Membership Costs for one year:

\$10 - Individual

\$15 – Family

\$150 - Lifetime

Renew today and tell your friends to join us!