



OSCEOLA COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
THE OSCEOLEAN

Volume 33 Issue 1

April 2016



Reed City will be moving into their new Library!

The first library in Reed City was located in the "front" room of the home at 133 West Slosson. This was during the 1890's and early 1900's. From about 1910 until the end of World War I, the Library was operated by Mrs. Berry and her daughter, Chrissie (Mrs. Reuben Boyer) in their home, 209 S. Chestnut Street. After World War I the library was moved to the basement of the Community Building, at 101 E.

Slosson. It is interesting to know that during the depression years of 1932-34, the Methodist minister and his wife, the Rev. and Mrs. Clapp, set up a reading room in a building at 129 W. Upton. In the mid-1950's a group of concerned citizens felt that the Library needed improvement. In 1953 they approached the City Council about the possibility of remodeling the second floor of the City Hall, 201 W. Upton, for a library. In 1957 the same citizens asked that the Library Board be under the jurisdiction of the City. An Ordinance was enacted and put into effect October 6, 1958 and on the 14th a Board was appointed and approved consisting of Mrs. Mary Dickerson, Mrs. Seere Messner, Mr. James Durrett, Mr. Clarence Sahlin and Mrs. Lucile Savidge. In July 1973 the Library was moved into the front lower level area of the newly remodeled city building complex at 410 W. Upton. Now in 2016 the Library will again move to a new location. The move is expected to take place in mid-June and will be located at 829 South Chestnut Street in Reed City. Please stop in and visit the new library this summer. With continued increased usage of the Library it is evident that it plays a very important part in the life of the city.

Excerpt from One hundred going on two hundred

A note from our presidents.....

The past six months have been very successful for our Society. In the fall, we decided that we needed to do something to make our presence better known in the community and to raise some much needed funds for projects that we want to do for our archives. At one fall meeting, we "brained-stormed" about what we wanted and could do. These are the ideas that we chose and have completed or are going to do in the near future.

In November, Geri Kienitz Johnston chaired a program, inviting all of the genealogists in our four county area to be held at The Depot. The presenter was Nancy Burmeister from Big Rapids who used slides and handouts to describe immigration patterns from Europe to Michigan, where the newcomers settled in our state, and why they settled here. There were over 50 people in attendance, and Geri had prepared a delicious buffet of snacks.

Debra and Sandi hosted a table at the Evergreen Festival craft show the day after Thanksgiving, which was held at the Reed City High School. Children could be occupied with crafts while their mothers were "shopping". This was well attended and appreciated by the moms. This was not intended to be a fund raiser, but to get our name before the public.

We had a table at the Annual Business Expo with a door prize, and several members took turns greeting people and explaining about what our Society is doing.

In February, Reed City Area Schools Community Education sponsored two genealogy classes. The first class was presented by Betsy on beginning genealogy explaining some of the basic points, including how to use various forms, where to find local information, etc. The second class was taught by Debra using the computers to find various sites. The classes were well received, and we learned what most people want to learn at classes. Also, we learned that weather is a factor, so we are planning for a repeat of these classes on two Saturdays in October and possibly a third class at the Museum highlighting the records that are only available at the Osceola County Courthouse and at our archives.

Two projects are planned for next year.

Continued on page 3...

Local Family History...

In this issue we are featuring a local family history of one of our members, Sandi Ellison. Here is her story...

Barber Family Story

As a child in the late 1950's early 1960's I can remember going to Cheboygan with my cousin, Carol, and our grandparents Roy and Anna Thorne. We travelled there to visit Roy's mother, Lois Thorne, born Lois Barber, and Roy's brother, Wilfred, that also lived in Cheboygan.

At that time we only knew her as "Granner". Her husband was Milton Thorne. "Granddad" had passed away in 1951.

The family consisted of two sons, Roy and Wilfred, and an adopted daughter Marion. Marion had been adopted when Milton and Lois had returned, for a time, to St. Joseph Island, where Milton had grown up. I never knew anything of Marion's adoptive history, or as to her age or adoption details.

Henry Barber, "Granner's", father was born in St. Lawrence County, New York. He enlisted in the Civil War at Jamestown and was in NY Co B 3rd E Excelsior Brigade and 72nd Regiment NY infantry. He was mustered out at Chautauqua County, NY. where he met and married Marion Francis Wight. After having three children; Clarence, Lizzie and Katie, the family migrated to Michigan in the late 1870's. They first had bought property in Evart, then sold the land to buy land in Richmond Township. In the 1880 Federal census, they had had another child, Clyde H. and Henry's occupation was listed as farmer.

In the 1880's two more children were born, Lois M. (my Great-grandmother) in 1881, and her sister Bessie May in 1887. They also lost their son, Clyde H, who died 30 August 1883. No cause of death listed. By the early 1890's Henry was making plans to move again. His wife, Marion, was ill and passed away 29 June 1892, when they were in Wolverine in Cheboygan County.

Henry had previously bought cemetery plots in Woodland Cemetery in Reed City, so Marion was brought from Cheboygan to be buried. The Henry Barber family was now gone from Reed City, leaving only Marion F. Barber, and son Clyde buried in the Cemetery.

When my husband, Dexter, and I bought our hunting land in Cedar township, we had no idea of the family history that took place in Reed City. It was only then that my mother, Marion Thorne, told us of my Great-grandmother's birth here. After looking up information, I also found that Marion F. Barber, my Great-great Grandmother, was buried in Woodland Cemetery. I find it amazing at times where family history will take you.



Milton & Lois in 1898

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 July 2016.

Presidents notes continued...

We will be working with the Old Rugged Cross Historical Society creating a 14-month calendar illustrated with pictures of historic sites in the community. The profits from this venture will be shared by the two groups. The second fund raiser selected by the genealogy group is a "cemetery walk" to be held in September. More on this later.

The genealogists are continuing to index scrapbooks at the Museum, trying complete the "Civil War Veterans of Osceola County", project, and designing a new brochure for our group. The Co-Presidents would like thank all the members for volunteering for the committees and their willingness to help. In March we decided that one member will do a 5-10 minute program during our regular meeting.

Personal notes:

Announcing the death of Peggy Rutherford, formerly of Tustin, who was one of our early, very knowledgeable members, who helped us "get started."

Sympathy to Judy Hulliberger on the recent death of her mother - Judy had been a faithful care-giver for over 16 years!

Announcing the death of Noreen Stevens of Evert, who was not really a member, but was Aloha Hodges' "right hand man" at the Evert archives and did a lot of work using the ScanPro, doing special projects (such as records of the Osceola County Home), and doing lots of research.

Best Websites for Finding Historical Maps...

Looking for a pre-1700 map of the Americas as the Europeans found it? Yearning to survey the plot of land your ancestors tilled in Cobb County, Georgia? Historic maps can point you in the direction of your ancestors, but navigating your way to an original map can be a costly and time-consuming trek. In addition, many antique maps are not readily available for public viewing. Before you venture down that road, navigate your way to the treasury of digitized maps available online.

There are hundreds of thousands of maps available free in high-resolution digital format that you can download right to your computer without ever leaving home. These websites offer some of the largest map collections available on the Internet today. Keep in mind that even though a collection may emphasize another country, it may also contain that map depicting your ancestors little corner of the world.

Here is a list of websites:

Library of Congress American Memory Map Collections. (more than 12,000 maps)

<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/gmdhtml/>

British Library (more than 30,000 maps)

<http://www.bl.uk/onlinegallery/onlineex/mapsviews/index.html>

Hargrett Rare Book & Manuscript Library (more than 1,100 maps)

<http://www.libs.uga.edu/darchive/hargrett/maps/maps.html>

National Library of Australia (more than 300,000 maps)

<http://sbdspromo.nla.gov.au/sbdp-ui/island/map>

Visual Collections includes the David Rumsey Collection.

<http://www.davidrumsey.com/collections/cartography.html>

Source: Lisa Louise Cooke-Genealogy Gems

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 11th 1pm at Old Rugged Cross Museum

“Visit to Osceola County Courthouse”

We will meet at the Museum for a short business meeting, then Betsy will lead our group to the different offices of the Osceola County courthouse.

Come see what records are waiting at the courthouse offices.

Some people who choose not to go to the courthouse are welcome to stay at the Museum and work on their own research or other projects.

Sunday May 1st at the Old Rugged Cross Museum at 2:00 pm

“Open House for the Museum”

The museum will open for the season and there will be a program with Anna Howard Shaw (different from our 2015 Christmas Party).

Monday May 9th at the Chase Township Cemetery at 6:00 pm

“Cemetery Tour”

In preparation of our upcoming cemetery walk, we will be touring the Chase Township cemetery. Several people who are buried in this cemetery, moved to Reed City in their later years.

Directions to the Cemetery. Take US10 west from Reed City (US 131 expressway) 3 miles to Hawkins Road. Turn South on Hawkins Road and travel 1 mile and the Cemetery is on the Southeast corner of the intersection.

Monday June 13th at a local Cemetery, details to follow

“Cemetery Tour”

Getting to know area cemeteries, continues. Meet at the Museum parking lot to carpool at 6:00 pm.

We normally do not have meeting in July and August, but much interest has been shown to tour other local cemeteries in the area

Monday September 12th at the Old Rugged Cross Museum at 7:00 pm

“Winter projects”

We will be meeting to discuss what we should do for our Winter projects. If you have other ideas of what you would like to do, bring that idea to the meeting and share with all.

Searching the Web? Try Linkpendium

Using Linkpendium's search engines genealogists can search up to 2,648,502 pages of free genealogical data with a single query! Over 10,404,475 Web Links can be searched by surname or locality. AND, it's all free. Biographies, family histories, photographs, local histories, and even some vital records are indexed.

This all-volunteer website was created by Brian and Karen Leverich, who were also the founders of Rootsweb.

<http://www.linkpendium.com/> is an amazing resource that all researchers should explore.

Source: West Michigan Genealogical Society Winter 2015



Midwest Genealogy Center 1.5 Million New Railroad Pension Records

A free index to over 1.5 million pension records from the U.S. Railroad Retirement Board is now online for the first time ever through the Genealogy Quick Look from the Midwest Genealogy Center (MGC) in Independence, Missouri.

This is the first time an online database has been searchable by name or date. Everyone can access the Genealogy Quick Look. The Genealogy Quick Look is a new online service from MGC that allows users to search the indexes of various genealogical resources.

Indexes include the large volume of pension records which are housed at National Archives and Record Administration's Atlanta offices, as well as some materials held by MGC. A complete list is available on the Genealogy Quick Look website. While it does not provide direct access to the original pension records, Genealogy Quick Look can provide researchers with important information to locate a pension record held by NARA. It then directs users to the NARA website to make their requests.

In addition to the national railroad pension records which span the United States and range from 1936 through the early 2000s, Genealogy Quick Look provides an online name index to obituary, birth and marriage records from the various Kansas City newspapers and also a number of books. Outside of the railroad pension records, all of these materials are available in print, microfilm or microfiche at MGC. Staff can provide digital copies of articles free of charge. For additional information about the Midwest Genealogy Center visit the website at <http://quicklook.midwestgenealogycenter.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/>

SEEKING MICHIGAN RECORDS UPDATED!

Seeking Michigan <http://seekingmichigan.org/discover/death-records-1921-1952> has just released Death records up to 1952!

Also available are the NATURALIZATION RECORDS.

Naturalization, the legal procedure of an immigrant becoming a citizen, can offer the family history researcher critical clues and key information on an ancestor's life in the native country. Depending on the time period, these records can reveal the immigrant's exact place of birth, date and port of arrival in the United States, and detailed information on a spouse and children. With the changes in the U.S. federal naturalization laws, however, records created before 1906 will not be as genealogically significant as those filed after. Remember, too, that not all immigrants chose to become U.S. citizens.

<http://seekingmichigan.org/about/guides/immigration-naturalization-records>

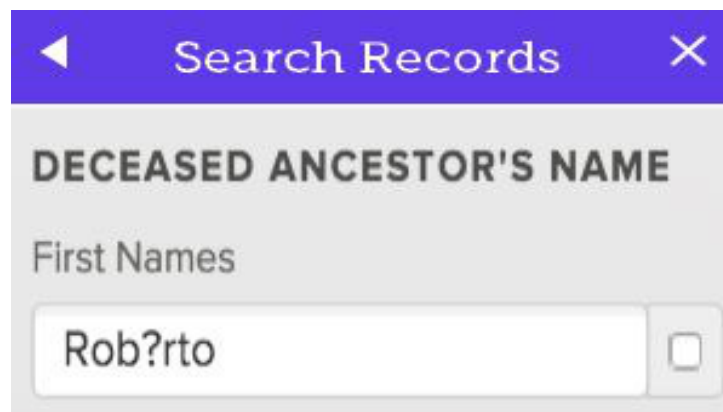
Click on the hyperlink to go to the website directly.

Internet Searching tip

Wildcard Searching...

The names of people and places have been recorded differently throughout history. Searching with 'Wildcard characters' is one way to check for multiple spellings in a single search.

1. Wildcard characters allow you to replace letters in the name of a person or place.
2. A question mark (?) replaces **a single character**, and an asterisk (*) replaces **multiple characters**.
3. For example, searching for **Sm?th** will find records containing Smith, Smeth, or even Smythe. Searching for **Joh*** will find records containing John, Johnson, or Johnathon.
4. Try searching for one of your own ancestors' records by replacing letters in their name with wildcard characters.
5. See Example...



The screenshot shows a mobile application interface for searching records. At the top, there is a purple header bar with a white back arrow on the left, the text 'Search Records' in white, and a white close 'X' icon on the right. Below the header, the text 'DECEASED ANCESTOR'S NAME' is displayed in a bold, dark grey font. Underneath, the label 'First Names' is shown in a lighter grey font. A search input field contains the text 'Rob?rto', where the question mark is a wildcard character. To the right of the input field is a small square button with a white outline.

Source: www.Familysearch.org

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 will 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 \$5.00 per package)



Delegates to the Michigan Genealogical council

For the past several years, Ted Rinness has been our delegate to the Michigan Genealogical Council and has decided that he is unable to continue this duty. Thank you Ted for all your years of service!

Thank you!

We would like to thank Sonia Peters and her husband, Jerry, for making a table top “Osceola County Genealogical Society” sign.

We will take this sign when we travel to the Reed City Business Expo and other locations to give our group more exposure!



Welcome new Genealogy member to our Society!!!

We would like to welcome new members to our group. Welcome Sandra Mallekoote of Grand Rapids, MI, Beverly Chansey of Luther, John Frybort of Goshen, Indiana and This brings our membership to 43 members in total. **Welcome everyone!!!!**

NOTICE: The membership dues will be raised January 2017. It will be \$15 per year, with no family or lifetime membership available. We also have a PAY Pal account setup, so you can pay that way. See our website for information about PAY Pal

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

Membership Application or renewal form:

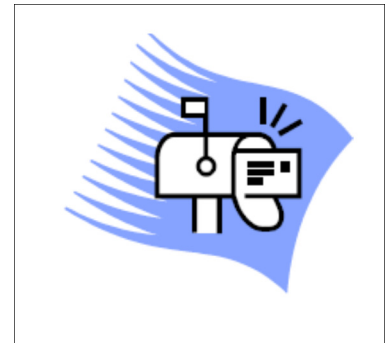
Name: _____

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 2016:

\$10 - Individual

**Beginning January 1, 2017 only 1 rate
will be offered at \$15 annually**

Lifetime membership no longer offered

Renew today and tell your friends to join us!