



TREE CLIMBER

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**Houghton Keweenaw County
Genealogical Society**



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What Are We Doing?

by Joan LaRoche

Yes, our newsletter is back. Since we are a rather new society, publication was delayed. Now with a new slate of officers for 2002, we hope to resume publication with this issue and then continue to publish on a quarterly basis. We have applied for an ISSN number. It will be posted above when we have it. So, to begin, I would like to list the officers for this year. They are: Avis West, President; Peggy Niedholdt, Vice-President; Joan LaRoche, Recording and Corresponding Secretary; Peter Manderfield, Treasurer; and Judy Jarve, Historian.

Genealogy Class

Our society has been active this year. One of the most exciting events was the kick off of our beginning class in genealogy. Avis West and Peg Neidholdt presented the idea for a class at our December 2001 meeting. From there it snowballed. We have Avis, Peg and Bobbie Bray to thank for gathering and organizing packets of information. Avis and Peg then mass-produced these packets. Now, as I write this, we have already presented our first class. Peg Neidholdt made an excellent class teacher. She writes about her experience on page 2 of this newsletter.

Finnish Genealogists Visit

Another newsworthy item comes from Jim Kurtti of the Finish American Heritage Center. Jim attended our February meeting to tell us of an upcoming summer visit to the Copper Country of a group of approximately, twenty Finnish genealogists. The dates for their scheduled visit are August 16, 2002 through the 20th. They will be attending Finn Fest in Minneapolis prior to these dates. Jim is looking for people and groups to help with these 20 guests. He is also looking for volunteers to provide housing. He distributed a tentative itinerary of events for this August visit. One of the events, scheduled for August 17th, is a Finnish American Genealogical Symposium at the Finnish American Heritage Center. It will be a daylong program covering topics of Finnish and Finnish-American genealogy research. This program will be open to the public and will be conducted in English. If you would like to help with this program or provide hospitality to these guests, please call Jim Kurtti at 487-7302 or email him at jkurtti@chartermi.net.

Visit to the Archives

We held our March meeting at Michigan Technological University (MTU) Archives. Erik Nordberg, MTU's archivist, gave a presentation on the holdings in the archives. They have extensive records from the Calumet and Hecla Mining Company as well as the Quincy Mining Company. Genealogists can examine on microfilm their extensive collection of local newspapers that go back as far as the 1880's. They also have local census records on microfilm. Something of interest for genealogists is that MTU plans to microfilm Forrest Hill Cemetery Records. Houghton's Portage township committee agreed to turn their cemetery records over to MTU for the winter months. Their records are on cards that are not in complete alphabetical order. Some society members volunteered to help alphabetize these cards. We thank Connie Julien, Susie Kraft and LaVerene Anderson for helping with this project. Soon these records will be available on microfilm for genealogists.

Where Do I Start?

by Peg Neidholdt

The first Beginning Genealogy Class sponsored by the Houghton Keweenaw Genealogical Society (HKCGS) was held on March 7, 2002. Despite the blustery Copper Country weather there were 35 people in attendance. Based on the comments from our participants, the goal of the evening was realized. Twenty-seven people responded to the class evaluation and all stated that the class enabled them to start their personal genealogies. Personally I found that I enjoyed being a teacher. Talking about genealogy is easy, especially since it is my passion. The beginner's packet was a success thanks to Avis West and Bobbie Bray's organization of materials. Avis and Bobbie also served as greeters for the class, registering the folks and passing out packets. It was also reassuring to see so many of my fellow HKCGS members in attendance. I especially want to thank my husband, Gene, who set up the room for our presentation. Also a special thank you to Hancock High School for the use of their multi-purpose room for the evening. Due to an overwhelming response to the first class a list for the second class has already started. We will be setting a date in the near future.

Restoration of the Schoolcraft Cemetery in Calumet

Our first two issues contained names of deceased buried in the Schoolcraft Cemetery. Keweenaw Kernewek, a local Cornish Group, restored this cemetery a few years ago. The following contains the remainder of names that appear at the right back of the cemetery.

JB? broken

Anna Paulina SEPPOLA, born 1876, died 1-8-1897, Elaura Pauline, born Sept.12, 1895, died 189?

Esther PATON, died 1888, 8 years, 7 months, 28 days old

TARIO, children of Jacob & Annie K.; Flora died ? 10, 1889 age 6 weeks; Fannie L, died Jan. 12, 1893 age 11 months; Isak died Aug. 20 1891, age 1 year, 2 months

William DOWNING, died Nov. 24, 1888, Age 51 years, 11 months, 1 day

Anne NANKERVIS, wife of James, died July 24, 1886
 Son Edward P. NANKERVIS, born March 4, 1882, died Oct. 22, 1887
 William L MARTIN, Born in Cornwall, born June 22, 1830, died Aug. 20 1880
 Lizzie Vivian, wife of William C KINSMAN, died July 21, 1889, age 30.
 Same stone Margaret Victoria, wife of William, Died Feb. 23, 1887, age 33 years. Also on
 the same stone, Baby KINSMAN, died Feb. 10, 1887, 14 days old
 Richard ROBERT, ? 1878, 61 years old.
 With above, Albert J, son of S&M ROBERT, died Jan. 20, 1890, 26 days old. Joseph, died
 1890 in August.
 Sarah B OLSON, June ? 1887 (Broken Stone)
 Samuel Hamilton WALLACE, died March 23, 1894, age 27 days
 Emma Helena MACDONALD, daughter of D. T. & Anna, died Aug 30, 1877, 2 months old
 Dorthea A HOLST, died Sept. 1, 1883, age 56 years
 Carl Johan NILSSON born April 12, 1870, died June 1888, 18 years old (Norwegian)
 Anna Helena SVENSON, born Oct. 20, 1847, died Dec 12, 1885.
 Anna NELSON, wife of Neils, Died Sept. 11, 1885, age 31 years, 3 months
 Elizabeth FOREMAN, died July 24, 1888, age 7 months, 7 days old
 Charles ISAACSON, died July 23, 1889, 2 years old
 Amanda WILMI, born June 24, 1857, died Jan 20 1885
 Mary Jane KEAST, wife of Paul, died May 30, 1885, age 38 years
 Paul KEAST, died March 12, 1887, age 40 years
 Broken stone, died June ? 1884
 Maria TIBERG, born April 1889, died OCT. 1899
 Richard S THOMAS, died March 5, 1881, age 3 years, 7 months;
 Dorinda THOMAS died Dec. 23, 1880, 4 years, 8 months, 27 days, Children of Richard &
 Mary THOMAS
 William COOMBE, husband of Fanny COOMBE, died Sept. 1883, Killed in mine blast at
 the Osceola Mine.
 Hulda J LARSON, daughter of Mali & Wm. H LARSON, born Jan 9, 1880, died Jan 5, 1881.
 Mary J LARSON, daughter, died Sept. 3, 1869, 1 year, 6 days
 John & Emily VIVIAN, Daughter, Clara B died Dec 16, 1879, 6 years, 4 months
 John O. MOLLARD died Jan 1, 1881, 26 years, 2 months, 26 days
 August Edward, born June 29, 1881, died ? July 29, 1881 and Same stone, Peter Alrick, born
 1879, died Dec 12, 188?
 J Andrew ELLEN broken stone
 George, son of Hattie JEFFREY, died Oct 18, 1891, 9 years, 25 days old
 Henrietta Christa minna EFFINGER, died April 24, 1881, 7 years, 4 months, 20 days

Genealogy Tip

If you are having trouble reading handwriting in the records that list your ancestors, Gail Smith gave me the URL of an excellent website that may be of help to you.

<http://amberskyline.com/treasuremaps/oldhand.html>

Where to do your Copper Country Genealogy Research

Family History Center
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
47691 Meadow
Houghton, Michigan 49931
Hours are :
Tuesday 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.
Thursday 6:30 P.M. to 9:30 P.M.
Saturday 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.
906/482-7110

Michigan Technological University Archives
J. R. Van Pelt Library, 3rd Floor
Houghton, Michigan 49931
Hours are:
8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.
Monday - Friday
906/487-2505

Finnish American Heritage Center
Located on the campus of
Finlandia University
601 Quincy St.
Hancock, Michigan 49930
Hours are:
9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.
Monday - Friday
906/487-7302
