



TREE CLIMBER

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**Houghton Keweenaw County
Genealogical Society**



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What Are We Doing?

By Joan LaRoche

Beginning Genealogy Class Continues

On May 7, 2002, Peg Neidholdt taught another beginning genealogist class at the First Baptist Church in Calumet. Twelve people attended. Peg also informs us that the National Park Service has asked her to present this class on the fourth Thursday in October. This time the presentation will be a part of the Park Service's monthly historic presentations. The Park Service will also cover costs of class materials.

In the News

Recently, our local newspaper, the Houghton, Michigan, Daily Mining Gazette, published a profile of the society and a few of its members. The article appeared in the Living Section of the April 20/21, 2002 issue. The main focus was an extensive profile of Peg Neidholdt and her exploits in family genealogy for the past 27 years. Pete Manderfeld and Joan LaRoche also contributed their genealogy experiences to Gazette reporter, Olivia Bartlett. We all enjoyed the favorable story.

The Value of Census Records

At our April meeting Avis West presented an overview of United States Census records. Because this is a lot of information, I have collated my notes and will include articles on census records over the next three issues of this newsletter.

Welcome New Members

As our membership increases we would like to take the opportunity to welcome new members to our genealogy society. Here are the names of recent new members of HKCS.

Betty Antilla attended our last two meetings. She is researching the following surnames: GARRETT, WRIGHT, BENNETT, WAYBRIGHT (WEYBRECHT), ZICKAFOOSE, HELMICK, NEWBROUGH, ANTILLA, MURPHY, AND MCWRIGHT. If you wish to

contact Betty, her address is: 57562 Caledonia St., Calumet MI 49913; email is bantilla@hotmail.com.

Bob Wareham has also attended our last two meetings. The surnames that Bob is researching are: WAREHAM, KING, PASCOE, AND ROBBINS in the US and Cornwall, England. You can contact Bob at 57562 Caledonia St., Calumet, MI 49913; email is bwareham@hotmail.com.

Marshall Wickstrom joined HKCGS in April. You can contact Marshall at 212 Hecla St., Laurium, MI 49913; email MWICK@UP.Net.

Houghton County Birth Records

The records below were transcribed from a Family History Library microfilm # 1008256. These records extend from 1867 – 1880. If you want the entire birth record of any one surname that appears below, for a fee of two dollars, we will provide you with the information. Mail your request to HKCGS (our address appears on this newsletter masthead). Write attention Avis West on your envelope and include a self-addressed stamped envelope. We will continue to publish these birth records until we have finished the microfilm.

Name			Birthdate		*Page
Cavan	Isabella				1
Sturm	Otto				2
Krellivitz	?atha		Nov 10	1867	1
O'Grady	James		Feb 21	1867	1
Hubbell	Clark	Paine	Aug 2	1867	1
Kirton	Harriet	E.	Aug 2	1867	1
Lafen	Rock		May 21	1867	1
Robbins	Nelson		Aug 23	1867	1
Butler	Kate	W?	Nov 8	1867	1
Blandy	John	G.	Oct 22	1867	1
Adams	Lilla	E.	Sep 5	1867	1
Romer	Frances		Sep 8	1867	1
Foley	Mary		Jan 20	1867	1
Hungerford	Benjamin	H.	Sept 4	1867	2
Wallace	Lewis	Henry	July 1	1867	2
Major	Ella		Nov 13	1867	2
Sieger	Frank		Nov 28	1867	2
Gottstein	John		Apr 8	1867	2
Ruhl	Andrew		Dec 12	1867	2

Name			Birthdate		*Page
Keidel	Adelia		Sep 29 1867		2
Edwards	Emma	C.	July 4 1867		2
Gietzen	Mina		July 8 1867		2
Wilcox	Addie	C.	July 6 1867		2
Young	Joseph		Jun 15 1867		3
Barbleigh	Eva		Oct 25 1867		3
Taylor	Lorena	C.	Oct 21 1867		3
Fleming	Julia		Oct 3 1867		3
Liewenstal	Aaron		May 25 1867		3
Flammer	Matilda		Jun 1 1867		3
Brule	Willie	E.	Sept 3 1867		3
McCaithy	Julia		Aug 25 1867		3
Sullivan	Catherine		Dec 6 1867		3
Sullivan	John		Dec 28 1867		3
Holland	Mary	Ann	Dec 5 1867		3
Marks	William		Feb 7 1867		3
Harrington	Jeremiah		Nov 4 1867		4

* Refers to the page number in the microfilm record

Genealogy tip

Peg says, "If you can't find your ancestor on any United States immigration record, then try Canada."

United States Census Records: A Valuable Tool for The Beginning Genealogist

Census records may be the very best place to look when you begin your genealogy search. These records can provide a lot of information. However, one draw back is that this information may not always be accurate. Therefore use census records only as a guide to gain clues to obtain accurate information sources.

At the time of the American Revolution the four major cities in the United States were Boston, New York, Philadelphia and Charleston, South Carolina. At that time there were less than 10,000 people in each of these cities. For the sake of comparison, the 2000 census of Houghton revealed a population of 7, 010. The first US Census was taken in 1790 and consisted of seven questions. At that time, the population was 3,231,000. However, no slaves or Indians were counted.

The United States Census has been taken every 10 years since 1790. These original records are stored in the National Archives. They remain private for 72 years and, after that time, are released to the public. Census records are available to the public on microfilm. One may view these films at public archive libraries or at branches of Mormon Family History Libraries. Some census records are also on CD-ROM as well as available on the Internet. Not all records survived through the years. Parts of the 1790 census burned during the war of 1812. Most of the 1890 census was also destroyed by fire. Alternate sources are used as a replacement. For 1790, tax records may be helpful, and for 1890, if your ancestor was a civil war veteran, pension rolls are a good substitute.

From 1830 to 1880 more than one copy of census records was required. These copies were hand copied from the original hand written record. Most likely this resulted in transcription errors. Most of these copies were destroyed, but a few still exist at a local or state level.

What about census takers or enumerators? They were everyday people: old, young, teachers, and maybe farmers. The only requirement was that they be able to read and write. Some were very conscientious and others were just interested in a paycheck. Some were poorly trained. There may have been language barriers to overcome when the enumerators met with a family. The result of all these variables made some census records full of inaccurate information.

Genealogy Definitions

half dime: considered to be the first coin minted in the United States in 1792.

meeting seeds: the seed of dill carried to the long church services to be eaten by children. Supposedly the seeds dulled the senses and therefore kept restless children quieter.

Reference: A – Zax, A Comprehensive Dictionary for Genealogists & Historians, by Barbara Jean Evans, 3rd edition, Hearthside Press, 1995.