



# TREE CLIMBER

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## **What Are We Doing?**

By Joan LaRoche

### **Great Place for a Genealogy Meeting**

No formal meeting was held in June. Instead, members assembled at the Calumet Hebrew Cemetery, located off of Tamarack Waterworks Road. This small cemetery, established in 1901, is no longer used and is in need of refurbishing. We were able to scrub old tombstones with soap and water and photograph the five stones that remain. Avis West and Peg Niedholdt have extensively researched the background of this cemetery. They plan to publish their findings soon.

### **July is Time to Picnic**

Our annual picnic was held at Chassell's Waterfront Park. A small group enjoyed this get together. After picnicking we toured the Chassell Historical Society museum. Their current display depicts a tribute to local veterans who fought in wars of the United States.

### **New Society Web Page**

We have a new homepage on the Internet. You can visit our site at [www.hkcs.org](http://www.hkcs.org).

### **Welcome New Members**

We continue to increase our membership rolls. Here are the names of the recent new members.

Audra Maywhoor has ties to the Keweenaw, even though she resides in Indiana. Audra's address is 8209-2C Bridgeway Lane, Ft. Wayne, IN 46816-2350.

Even though Ronald E. Erickson lives in Colorado, he says he is still a "Yooper" at heart. Ron is researching these surnames: MARTIN, SAMPSON, TARDIFF, BONIN (BONEN), ERICKSON, and OPLAND. To contact Ron, write him at 1201 Atoka Dr, Colorado Springs, CO 80915-2927; email is [ronee@cs.quik.com](mailto:ronee@cs.quik.com). Ron's phone number is (719) 574-0693.

Colleen Lawrence lives in Linden, Michigan. She is looking for information on her great-grandfather, William LAWRENCE, who may have lived in Calumet, Michigan when he first came to America. Colleen's address is: 4093 Silver Lk. Rd., Linden, MI 48451; phone (810) 593-0531.

We also welcome Dotty Kinnun who is a summer resident of the Keweenaw. Dotty is researching KINNUNEN (her father-in-law dropped the "EN" from their name). Other surnames are KERANEN, ANTTILA & AHO (originally VANHA-AHO). Dotty's present address is: 43237 Bootjack Rd., Lake Linden, MI 49945; phone (906) 296-1640; email [kinnun@chartermi.net](mailto:kinnun@chartermi.net). Her winter address is: 116 Willey Street, Ojai, CA 93023; phone (805) 649-9732.

### Genealogy Definitions

**agistment:** 1) feeding of cattle in a common pasture for a stipulated price; 2) an embankment, earth heaped up, e.g. a dam, a dike; 3) an agreement to provide food or pasture for an animal for an agreed fee.

**borough:** a term used most frequently in the northeastern portion of the United States to indicate a form of self-government similar to that of incorporated towns or villages in other states

Reference: A – Zax, A comprehensive Dictionary for Genealogists & Historians, by Barbara Jean Evans, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, Hearthside Press, 1995.

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### Why You Can't Find Your Relatives on An United States Census

- ❑ Maybe your relative was moving.
- ❑ Maybe your relative was visiting other relatives at the time a census was taken.
- ❑ Maybe over the years there was a boundary change of county lines. Check the border counties.
- ❑ There is a variant spelling of your relative's surname.
- ❑ Census takers may not have understood the surname due to a language barrier.
- ❑ If you can't find your relative in a census index, check the actual census.
- ❑ Maybe the enumerator did not talk to a head of household at census time. Possibly a child or neighbor provided the information.
- ❑ A relationship of an individual in the house is not always stated clearly. For example, sons listed as boarders
- ❑ The ditto marks that appear on the census are not always accurate.
- ❑ The enumerator did not always ask questions correctly.

### Genealogy Tip

Gail Smith has found an interesting web site for those of you that want to do oral histories but don't know exactly what to ask. The site is called Biography Outline, by Ted Pak; the URL is <http://www.tedpack.org/bioguide.html>.

## Census Clues

The chart below may help provide you with the necessary clue that you need to find an ancestor.

Census Year	Time of Year Taken	Key Questions Asked
1790, 1800, 1810, 1820	August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Name of head of family</li> <li>• Number of free white males</li> <li>• Number of free white females</li> <li>• Place of residence</li> </ul>
1830, 1840	June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Questions similar to first four censuses</li> </ul>
1850, 1860	June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Age only</li> <li>• Birth State or Country</li> <li>• Year married, if married within census year</li> </ul>
1870	June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Age only</li> <li>• Birth State or Country</li> <li>• Month born, if born within census year</li> </ul>
1880	June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Age only</li> <li>• Birth State or Country</li> <li>• Month born, if born within census year</li> <li>• Birthplace of parents of each person</li> </ul>
1890	June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Records of this census destroyed by fire</li> </ul>
1900	June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Month and year of birth</li> <li>• Number of years married</li> <li>• Birth State or Country</li> <li>• Number of children</li> <li>• Number of children still living</li> <li>• Year of immigration to US</li> </ul>
1910	April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Age only</li> <li>• Birth State or Country</li> <li>• Number of years married</li> <li>• Number of children</li> <li>• Number of children still living</li> <li>• If a survivor of the Civil War</li> <li>• Year of immigration to US</li> </ul>
1920	January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Age only</li> <li>• Birth state or Country</li> <li>• Immigration information</li> </ul>
1930	April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If individual fought in a war and which one</li> <li>• Age at time of first marriage</li> </ul>

### Soundex Indexing System of Census Records

The soundex system is a coding system for surnames in census records. Surnames, starting with the 1880 census records, are indexed according to the way they sound rather than the way they are spelled. The index for a surname is a code that consists of a letter and three numbers. The letter is the first letter of the surname. The numbers represent the first three consonants of the surname with the exception of the letter H. This means that the letters A, E, I, O, U, W, Y, and H are disregarded. Below is the coding guide chart.

This number	Represents these letters
1	B, P, F, V
2	C, S, K, G, J, Q, X, Z
3	D, T
4	L
5	M, N
6	R

There are additional Soundex Coding Rules

- If the surname has double letters, treat it as one letter.
- If the surname has different letters side-by-side that has the same soundex number, treat them as one letter.
- When the surname has a prefix, such as Van, Con, De, Di, La or Le, code with and without the prefix. **Mc** and **Mac** are not considered prefixes.
- If a vowel (A, E, I, O, U) separates two consonants that have the same soundex code, the consonant to the right of the vowel is coded.
- If “H” or “W” separate two consonants that have the same soundex code, the consonant to the right of the vowel is not coded.
- If less than three numbers, use 0 (zero).

Soundex indexing exists for the censuses from 1880 to 1920. It is organized by state. If the household did not have a child less than ten years of age in it, the surname is not part of the soundex. A portion of the 1930 census is on the Soundex system. It only includes the southern states.

If you have access to the internet, you can use a web site called Surname Soundex Converter. Here you can convert any surname to a Soundex code free of charge. The URL is: <http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Hills/3916/soundex.html>.

Reference: National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC.