

# Houghton Keweenaw County Genealogical Society

P. O. Box 72

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To our members, past, present & future

Another year is almost gone and it has been a busy one. As we move into 2017 you will see a change in the dues. Because of that change we would like to give you the opportunity to either join or renew your membership early. This is the first increase since we formed in 1999. We are increasing the dues to \$15. per year for an individual and \$20. for a family membership. Any membership received before January of 2017 will be honored at the current rate of \$10. & \$15. We are also working on setting up PayPal on our web page to make it easier to renew membership or purchase a publication. Hopefully it will be up and running by the end of the year.

Early in the year we completed a book on the history of the 1895 Osceola #3 Mine fire where 30 men lost their lives. It includes the story of what happened at the mine as well as the families the miners left behind. Due to the lack of the 1890 census this was a difficult time period to work in but it was a very rewarding project.

In February we started volunteering at the Keweenaw National Historical Park to help clean & rehouse the Hanchette and Lawton law firm records. This law firm was located on Quincy St. in Hancock. The records run from the late 1860's to early 1900 with the majority of the records being from the 1890's. To date volunteers have spent over 600 hours on the project with the bulk of that time involved in cleaning the records. It was a very dirty job and the cleaning was just completed at the end of September. These records had been stored in the basement of the law office for one hundred plus years and were covered in all matter of dirt, dust, soot and mold. We now have them rehoused and are working on a container list for the Park. I wish to thank the people who volunteered and are continuing to do so. The volunteers include Doug Terrell, Ruth Gleckler, Rae Louise Matson, Diana Bartono, Anita Campbell, Betty Toutant, Mary Pekkala, Joan LaRoch, John Lawton, Betty Antilla, Bob Wareham and myself.

Our work on the Hecla Cemetery, located just outside of Laurium in Osceola Township, continues. Tony Landini has been busy keeping the pathways open to make it easier to move through the cemetery, which we greatly appreciate. We still have a lot to do so we can continue to locate stones. Most of the headstones are hidden under ground cover or leaves which makes them a challenge to find. A list of the stones found to date appears on our web page under the Hecla section.

Throughout the year we have given several beginning genealogy talks at various locations in the area. We also gave two presentations on the Osceola Mine fire.

The newspaper indexing project continues. We did change the format though. We have started putting the data on line for access to our members in place of publishing a CD although the first two CD remain available. Our out of town members have been very instrumental in doing the data entry while local people have worked on the data extraction. These people include Ruth Gleckler, Joanna Larsen, Carol Koty, Margot Wells, Carmen Collins, Robbi Shew & Mary Sveta. Without their help we would not be as far as we are today.

Thank you for your time and attention. We look forward to hearing from you.

Avis West  
President