



The Four Corners

Society Projects

Special points of interest:

- President's Letter
- Do You Recognize This Person
- World War One Project
- Society News
- Newspaper Highlights
- Red Brick School
- Dating Tombstones

The society has taken on two projects. The first one was to read local cemeteries in the area. This entails walking through the cemetery and writing down everything written on the tombstones. The pictures below and on page 9 show members reading the Stockbridge Village Cemetery. The next cemetery to be read will be the North Stockbridge Cemetery. If you would like to help with this project, please contact the society at the address listed above, or by e-mail at: stockbridgeareaghs@hotmail.com.

The second project is the World War I book. We are looking for letters, diaries, pictures, etc. of veterans from the greater Stockbridge area. For further information on this project, see page 3.

We are still taking donations for the microfilm reader/printer. Donations are now tax deductible (see page 3 for story). We are also selling note cards and book bags, see page 10 for the order form.

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Yvette Hugan and Betty Turner reading their section of the cemetery.

MEMBERSHIP YEAR

Please remember that our membership year is from September 1 through August 31. If you join in August, your membership is good for the next year. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the society. See page 4 about membership renewal and rates.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By: Dutch Ramsdell

There are a couple of things I'd like to talk about this month. The first is about the importance of identifying photographs. We have received donations of photographs recently that are completely unidentified. Cindy Grostick, our secretary, recently came into possession of several dozen, presumably family photographs, most of which are unidentified. It is extremely frustrating to know that you have pictures of loved ones, of ancestors, and not being able to put names with faces. I would urge you to go through the photographs you have and make sure there are names and dates on the back of them. Your heirs will be eternally grateful. And, if you have older relatives, make sure they do the same. Go through the photographs with them. I'm doing it with my mother and father-in-law and finding it is a lot of fun. You might even find that older relatives who have trouble remembering things may remember who is in some of these old photographs, bringing back, hopefully, fond memories of them. I was lucky. My father, who died in 1975, took the time to write the names on the back of the old family photographs. Even then, there were a couple he couldn't identify.

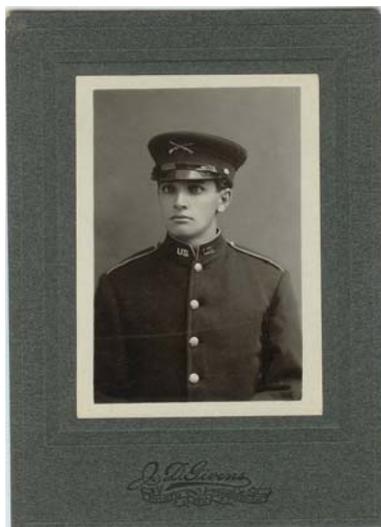
The other thing I wanted to talk about was transcribing cemeteries. We have started with the Stockbridge cemetery, Oak Lawn. Six of us (Betty Turner, Cindy Grostick, Yvette Huga, Evelyn Bowdish-Bachelor, Judy Gross and myself) have spent 30-35 hours so far and are maybe two-thirds done. But, we are finding it a very enjoyable thing to do. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the five members for their help. We have three of the six sections done and the other three sections under control. When we get done with Stockbridge, we will move on to North Stockbridge, then probably Bunker Hill Township. Bunker Hill has a lot of cemeteries so that township is going to take some time and we will need some help.

Wishing you and yours a safe and happy summer.

Do You Recognize This Person?

Each newsletter will have a picture of an unknown person from this area. If you recognize this person, please contact the society.

If you have a picture that you do not know the person and would like to advertise in our newsletter, please contact Cynthia Grostick.



SAGHS

Acting Officers

President	Richard Ramsdell
Vice President	Randy Gladstone
Secretary	Cynthia Grostick
Treasurer	Betty Turner
Trustees	Ruth Wellman
	Vacant

Acting Committee Chairperson

Genealogical	Yvette Huga
Historical	
Fundraising	
Newsletter	Cynthia Grostick
Historian	Bruce BeVier
Social	

World War I Project

SAGHS is currently working on a book of World War I soldiers from this area. We would like to include pictures, letters, diaries, etc. If you have any item(s) that you would like to include in this project, they will be scanned and then returned to you.

Many small farming communities are included in the Stockbridge area: Gregory, Unadilla, Plainfield, Millville, Pinckney, Parkers Corners, Waterloo, Munith, Lyndon Center, Stockbridge, Hell, Bunker Hill, Fitchburg, Dansville, White Oak, and Pleasant Lake.

On the right is a letter published in the Brief-Sun from Sergeant Leslie Richmond. It was taken from The Brief-Sun's October 10, 1918 edition. Just before this letter was Sergeant Richmond's obituary. Sergeant Richmond was killed August 29, 1918, just 4 days after writing the letter printed here.

We hope at some point to remember all our veterans from this area.

If you can help please contact our society.

France, August 25, 1918

Dear Mother and all:

Have seen a large amount of France again since the last letter and wish I had the ability to describe the breadth of the place we are in at the present time. Will not say anything however except that outside of two or three spots in Alsace it is the prettiest place I have been in in this country.

I expect that my last letter was more or less a wreck when it reached you, for I said some things that I have since learned were not allowed, but at the time we all thought we could say them.

Harvest is nearly over. Wish you could see them at work. It would make you glad your home was in the States. Once in a great while we see an ox team drawing a binder, but nearly always they use a very crude cradle or even an old scythe with a straight handle and a very wide thin blade.

All the young men are in the army and the old men and women try to do the work. The women all seem to be old. I don't know where the young ones are unless they are in Paris. I saw thousands of them there.

Don't think I am going to tell you all about Paris for I couldn't if I would for my trip there was short but sweet — a ride through on the train, with perhaps an hour stop on a sidetrack, but what I did see, if I ever get the chance, I sure will see that town. Even at that, if I had the choice of a trip there or a chance to walk into a house on Elizabeth Street, me for the latter.

This afternoon I had to choose between a swim in a fine river and going to church. As we had church last Sunday, and yesterday marched miles over dusty roads, I thought that cleanliness came before Godliness this once but as my mind was in the right place, I think it did as much good.

Has Ellsworth called yet? He promised to see you when he got home. Would like to have a good talk with him myself.

Well I have my six months service stripe and when I get back where I can fuss all up will have a picture taken to send you. By the way, I am wearing three on my other arm now.

The weather sure is fine and we are thankful for it as we have mother earth for a bed and the sky for a cover. If there is any way possible I am going fishing tomorrow, as I saw some nice ones today.

With love to all and a big kiss for you, your son,
Leslie Richmond



Taken at the Oak Lawn Cemetery
Stockbridge, MI

Pedigree Charts & Family Group Sheets Reminder

The Genealogy Committee has begun the entering of pedigree charts and family group sheets of our members. Only six members have responded thus far. That's only approximately 15 percent of all members. So please take a little time to fill these out and get them in.

Please don't forget to include family group sheets as well as your pedigree chart! These family group sheets are valuable to anyone looking for sources for their own family research. So please include these sources also on your sheets!

You can bring your sheets to the meeting, or mail them to SAGHS, attention Yvette Hugan.

Thank you for your time in advance.

Membership Renewal Due September 1

Membership renewals for the coming year will be due by September 1, 2003. We are just about to complete our first year of operation as a new society and have learned so many great things to benefit others, but at a cost. The printing of our newsletters, creating the website, and providing good speakers for our meetings has prompted the board to increase the membership dues to \$15 for individual, \$20 for families, and \$25 for corporation. We on the board of directors hope that you will continue to support our efforts to create a genealogical/historical society to learn about and preserve the past of the greater Stockbridge area.

Committee Chairperson(s)/Officers Needed

SAGHS needs a committee chairperson for the following committees: fundraising, historical, and social. Fundraising committee would be in charge of the society's fundraising efforts. Historical would be in charge of preserving the history of our area, and social would be in charge of helping to make sure there are cookies, coffee, etc. at our meetings. All these committees report to the board.

Elections of officers for the next year will be held during September's meeting. If you wish to serve as an officer, please contact either Yvette Hugan or Bruce Bevier at

stockbridgeareaghs@hotmail.com.

Web Sites

Websites:

Biography Helper	www.genealogy.com/bio/index.html
MI Family History Network	http://www.mifamilyhistory.org/
American Memory Project	http://memory.loc.gov/
National World War II Memorial	http://www.wwiimemorial.com/
Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum	http://www.mightyeighth.org/Patriotism.cfm
NARA World War II Casualty List	http://www.archives.gov/research_room/arc/wwii/army_aaf_honor_list/table_of_contents.html

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 17	SAGHS , Stockbridge United Methodist Church, Speaker: Dave Johnson, State of Michigan Archives
June 22	Genealogy & The Internet , Library of Michigan, Cost is \$10.00. For more information, please call (517) 373-1300.
June 30	Log Cabin Day & Education Day , Waterloo Historical Society.
July 15	SAGHS , Picnic at the Stockbridge Park, bring a dish to pass and something to grill
July 27	Quilt & Fiber Show , Waterloo Historical Society.
August 2	Using Vital Records for Genealogical Research
August 10	Military Records and Resources , Library of Michigan, Cost is \$10.00. For more information, please call (517) 373-1300.
August 19	SAGHS , Stockbridge United Methodist Church, Speaker: Marcia McCreary on Writing Successful Queries
August 24	Antique Tractor Show , Waterloo Historical Society.
September 16	SAGHS , Stockbridge United Methodist Church, Annual Meeting
October 4	Genealogy & The Internet , Library of Michigan, Cost is \$10.00
October 12	French Canadian Resources , Library of Michigan, Cost is \$10.00. For more information, please call (517) 373-1300.
October 13	Pioneer Days , Waterloo Historical Society.

Commencement Exercises—100 Years Ago June 11, 1903

The commencement exercises of the Stockbridge High School will be held at the town hall, Wednesday evening, June 17.

Program

Music Orchestra
 Invocation Rev. J.H. McCune
 Music Quartette
 Salutatory Charles H. Stocking
 History Nat Hines
 Solo, "The Song the Anvil Sings"
 Will T. Kennedy
 Class Poem Elnathan J. Skidmore
 Oration "The Mind that Wins"
 Grace Louisa Cooper
 Solo Mrs. Olin Stephens
 Prophecy Leo Casper Kennedy
 Oration, "Night Brings out the Star"
 Runa Grace Hall
 Solo, "Life's Lullaby" Mina Bement
 Class Will Rob Coleman Brown
 Valedictory Ruth E. May
 Music Orchestra
 Presentation of Diplomas A.A. Hall
 Music Quartette
 Benediction Rev. J.J. Cooper

The usual fee of 10 cents will be charged.



Members of the Class of 1902-1903

The class this year consists of eight members, as follows: Charles Stocking, Elnathan Skidmore, Nat Hynes, Rob C. Brown, Lee Kennedy, Grace Hall, Grace Cooper, and Ruth May.

This was taken from an article in the June 18, 1903 edition of The Brief-Sun.



Article from newspaper continued

LOCAL AND PERSONAL

JUNE 11, 1903

- Mr. and Mrs. B. Stoll have gone to Ann Arbor to live.
- Miss Katie Koons visited her sister in Albion last week.
- John Hines is at Mt. Clements taking baths for rheumatism.
- Dr. G.A. Rowe was on the sick list the fore part of this week.
- Mrs. J. Backus entertained her brother and family of Detroit Sunday.
- Frank Beeman is stringing wire for the new Fitchburg telephone line.
- Mrs. Francis Terry returned to her home in Lockport, N.Y., last Friday.
- Willie Riker of Jackson, visited Bert Beeman the fore part of this week.
- Holmes & Dancer have closed their store at Mason and shipped the goods away.
- Mr. and Mrs. D.C. McLaren of Chelsea, visited at H.P. Everett's last Saturday.
- Mrs. A. Allen and daughter., Mrs. O. Allen, of Jackson, visited relatives here ever Sunday.
- A.G. Miller left Tuesday to attend encampment and re-union of his regiment at Muskegon.
- Mrs. Mabel Bunting of Ypsilanti is spending this week with Miss Minnie Beeman.
- W. Thompson of Albion visited his sister, Mrs. Douglass, the latter part of last week.
- Mrs. C.E. DePuy and children spent the latter part of last week with friends at Detroit.
- Cards are out announcing the marriage of Roy Mapes and Miss Hattie Knight at the home of C.L. Brownell Wednesday, June 17.

- Born to Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Sharp of Iosco, on Monday, June 8, a 10-pound son. Mrs. Sharp will be remembered as Miss Clara Noyes.
- L.F. Morgan recently received an invitation to attend the 23d annual re-union of his regiment, the 75th N.Y., Volunteers, held Saturday, June 13, at Auburn, N.Y.

Taken from June 18, 1903

North Stockbridge

- J.H. Hayner and wife visited their parents last Sunday.
- Mrs. Lizzie Moon visited Mrs. VanBuren last Thursday.
- Miss Bonnie Lowe is expected from Ypsilanti for a short vacation.
- Mr. Backus and son of Ingham called on Mr. Lowe's people last Sunday.
- Mrs. Ella Townsend attend the L.A.S. at Mrs. Anna Gauss last Wednesday.
- Herman Haviland and company attended the children's day exercises at Millville last Sunday evening.

Leroy

- Mr. Bensch has his large new barn painted and it is a great improvement to his place.
- Harry Sillsby closed a very successful term of school in the Nelson district last Friday.
- A surprise party was given Miss Maud Hoyt last Friday evening by the young people, about 30 being present. A grand time was enjoyed by all.

White Oak

- Edgar Gillam is here from Hale Lake repairing his engine.
- Will Clark and wife visited friends at Fleming Sunday.
- Mrs. James Clements is visiting her brother, William Godley and other friends.
- Fobes Jewell and family of Iosco, and Chas. King of Marion, visited at D.H. Burgess' Sunday.
- Rev. Daly of Plainfield, gave the memorial address at the White Oak Grange hall at 2:30 last Sunday. He gave a fine talk. Wish more might have heard it.
- The next L.A.S. will be held with Mrs. Carl Walker June 24. All come that can and have a good time.

Local and Personal

- Mr. and Mrs. Frank Gee of Leslie, are parents of an 8-pound son, born June 11.
- Born to Mr. and Mrs. Fred Asquith on Friday, June 12, an 8-pound daughter.
- Floyd Berry is home from Jackson attending the B.Y.P.U. convention.
- Mrs. M. Westfall left last evening for a visit with her mother at Detroit.
- Miss Ida DuBois of Gregory is spending a few days with friends here.
- Tommy Bott, Harry Giliver and Eugene Cooper called at Emery Worden's Sunday.
- Miss Kate Koons is attending the wedding of Miss Alice McIntosh at Dexter today.

Stockbridge's Red Brick School By Evelyn Bowdish-Bachelor



This photo was donated to the society by our member, Kerner King. Our thanks to Mr. King for this donation.

In 1885 the one room brick school house, which was built in 1844 and measured 24 by 30 feet, was found to be inadequate for the number of children in Stockbridge. So, it was voted to build a larger building, not to exceed a cost of \$4,000. The district borrowed the money for ten years to be repaid at \$400.00 a year.

This was the beginning of the red brick school pictured above. It was located on Wood Street and faced toward the east. The building was very primitive by today's standards considering there were no inside rest rooms and the building was heated by coal burning furnaces.

In the following years, wings were added to the main structure. The school accommodated all grades from beginners through the 12th grade. This building became crowded and two small buildings were moved in and the younger children were placed in them.

In 1895, Stockbridge High School had its first graduation class.

This beautiful red brick school was used until it was replaced in 1929 and the new High School (now the Middle School) was built.

Ref: Stockbridge Area 125th Anniversary book

Dating Tombstones

What type of gravestone marks your ancestor's grave? Though you can get an idea of when the stone was placed by the composition of the stone and the type of lettering, here's a guide to gravestones:

- **Before the 1650s**
Graves were marked with either wood or field stones — that is, uncarved, rough-cut rocks and boulders. If anything was cut into the stone, it was generally the initials of the deceased and perhaps the year of death. You can find field-stone markers dating into the 1700s, as well.
- **1660s to 1850s**
Tombstones were made from sedimentary rock, such as red or brown sandstone or limestone, and dark slate. Sandstone and limestone weather easily. Slate is more resistant to weathering and pollution and shows less wear, despite being exposed to the sun and severe weather. Slate does flake and peel easily, however. Inscriptions were carved in Roman lettering. Wooden markers or crosses were also used.
- **1800s to 1850s**
A gray-blue slate came into use. Inscriptions started appearing in italic script lettering. Unfortunately, italic script weathers badly, and hairline strokes practically have disappeared. The numbers seven and four may all look like the number one. The numbers three, eight and nine might be difficult to distinguish, as well. In the 1840s, Roman lettering returned to popularity, perhaps because italic script was more difficult to carve.

Excerpted from "Your Guide to Cemetery Research" by Sharon DeBartolo Carmack, \$19.99. Reprinted here with permission from the publisher, Betterway Books. Available in bookstores or online at: <http://www.familytreemagazine.com/specialoffers.asp?EMgcr050103>

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Pictures taken at the Oak Lawn Cemetery in Stockbridge.

The Stockbridge Area Genealogical/Historical Society

Post Office Box 966
Stockbridge, MI 49285
e-mail: stockbridgeareaghs@hotmail.com
Website: www.rootsweb.com/~misaghs

THE STOCKBRIDGE AREA GENEALOGICAL/HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Post Office Box 966
Stockbridge, MI 49285
stockbridgeareaghs@hotmail.com

Yes, I'm interested in joining the society.
I have enclosed a check for (to be effective
September 1, 2003):

- Individual—\$15.00
- Family—\$20.00
- Corporate—\$25.00

(Name)

(Address)

(City, State, Zip Code)

(E-Mail Address)

Yes, I would like to purchase the following
items. I have enclosed a check for the
the correct amount:

_____ Note Cards (cream) - \$7.00

_____ Book Bags - \$10.00

Please make your check out to the
Stockbridge Area Genealogical/Historical
Society and mail to the society at the above
address.

If you just wish to make a donation to the
reader/printer, please make note of that in
the memo section of your check.