



# The Four Corners

## Genealogy Committee Meets

### Special points of interest:

- President's Letter
- Do You Recognize This Person
- Speaker Schedule
- Microfilm Reader/ Printer Update
- Queries
- "Swept By Fierce Storm"
- Liaison Reports

The society's genealogy committee met for the first time on 26 February 2003 to discuss strategies.

The committee's first action item will be to collect the genealogies of the society's members, index the names, and make the genealogies available to the membership. The committee decided on a combination of pedigree charts and family group sheets. We will use a five-generation pedigree chart. This will take us back through great-great grandparents. Then, we will ask for a family group sheet for each couple on the chart, assuming we have been able to identify all 16 of our great-great grandparents. Please mark "private" for dates on any people that are still living. We will have the forms we prefer available at the next general membership meeting. (For members a sample form is attached.) More information will follow.

Some time was spent discussing future projects. Already started is a project to do a reading of the Stockbridge cemetery (Oak Lawn). Once that is completed, we plan on moving on to the North Stockbridge Cemetery.

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Finally, some thought was given to the sort of genealogical library we might like to develop. Since so much of the information we might logically develop, such as census records or plat maps, are readily available elsewhere, we thought we might try to compile and make available area church records.

If you wish to have more information, or would like to help with any or all of these projects, please contact the committee chairperson, Yvette Hagan, at the society's email address:

stockbridgeareaghs@hotmail.com or by snail mail to the society at: SAGHS, Attn: Yvette Hagan, PO Box 966, Stockbridge, MI 49285.

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Richard Ramsdell

Let me start by saying I think we are making excellent progress. We have reached 36 members, but we would like to have more. If you think this is a worthwhile organization, don't hesitate to pass the word or invite a friend or relative (in my case, they are generally the same) to a meeting.

One of the comments I've heard several times at our meeting is: "My genealogy is completed." I would challenge you to set a higher goal. If your goal was to go back four generations, try going back five. My own personal goal is to take each line back to a foreign country. I'm a long way from that but still working on it. Or, have you brought each line current to the point where, for example, you could plan a family reunion.

Carole Callard presented a list of New Year's resolutions for the genealogist at our January Michigan Genealogical Council meeting. Carole was the speaker at our first meeting in September. Anyway, I thought I'd share some of her suggestions. Some fun and some serious.

Have you visited your research city? Have you collected obituaries for those no longer with us? How about writing an autobiography (and donating a copy to your society)? Are you corresponding with family members? Are you keeping a family scrapbook? One of the whimsical things Carole had on her list is to include pets or cars. This is something I hadn't thought about and I definitely plan on including Susie, our cat who lived to the ripe old age of 22 years and 26 days, in my genealogy. Just some thoughts to keep you working on this genealogical thing. I hope something appeals to you and happy hunting.

### Do You Recognize These People?

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

This edition's unknown person(s) is again from a collection of tintypes from this area. Do you recognize these people?



### SAGHS Board & Committee Chairs

#### Acting Officers

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

#### Acting Committee Chairperson

Genealogical	Yvette Hugan
Historical	
Fundraising	
Newsletter	Cynthia Grostick
Historian	Bruce BeVier
Social	
Membership	Betty Turner

## Speaker Schedule for 2003

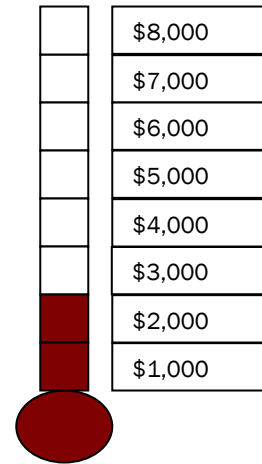
March 18	Shirley Hodges	Importance of Preserving Documents
April 15	Mary Griffes	Census
May 20	Sam Pardee	Sultana, Worst US Maritime Disaster
June 17	Dr. David Johnson	State Archives
July 15		Annual Picnic
August 19	Marcia McCreery	Effective Queries and Letters
September 16	To Be Determined	Annual Meeting
October 21	Dr. John Greene	Ewing Family Civil War Letters
November 18	Cynthia Motzenbecker	Preserving & Dating Photos
December 16	Tom Shehan	Researching Your Civil War Ancestor



## Microfilm Reader/Printer & Death Notice Update

The society is pleased to announce that we are another step closer towards a microfilm reader/printer for the Friends of the Stockbridge Library. The microfilm reader/printer is needed to be able to view the Stockbridge newspapers that were microfilmed two years previously. To make a donation, please send a check, made payable to the society, and mail to the society at: Stockbridge Area Genealogical/Historical Society, Attn: Microfilm Reader/Printer, PO Box 966, Stockbridge, MI 49285.

Death notices have been compiled from these newspapers through 1918. Names that appeared in the papers from the 1880s to 1910 are on our website at: [www.rootsweb.com/~misaghs](http://www.rootsweb.com/~misaghs) along with an order form. The cost is \$5.00 for the first name and \$2.00 for each additional name per form. Half of the proceeds will be used for the microfilm reader/printer.



## QUERIES

I am looking for any information on the following people and anyone who knew them. I have photos.

1. Alfred **SWANSON**, born in Sweden 8/1864, came to the USA in 1886 and later settled as a farmer in Stockbridge, Michigan.
2. Alfred's wife was Emma C. Swanson, born in Sweden 1/1867, lived at least into late 1940s in Stockbridge, Michigan. Could have had a brother named Gus

Alfred and Emma's three children:

1. Edward E. Swanson 11/1898 - ??? farmer in Stockbridge, Michigan. Bachelor, then married after age 50 to widow.
2. Anna Sophie [Swanson] 3/1900 - ??? married to unknown man, divorced, later married a Mr. Smith. Anna had one daughter, Margie, born about 1930. Margie's maiden name unknown.
3. Maybelle C. [Swanson] born 1902 - ??? married to unknown man, two children: boy born about 1932, girl about 1935.

My email address is: [swanson@hisurfer.net](mailto:swanson@hisurfer.net)

I am looking for info on August H. **HIPER** who was listed in the 1930 Stockbridge census. The main thing I am looking for right now are death dates. August was born May 1, 1874 in Darke Co., Oh. Son of Henry and Matilda Fisher Hiper. His first wife was Ota A. Clapp b. Sept 22, 1873 in Darke Co. OH. Daughter of Allen and Sarah Kerst Clapp. According to the 1930 census his wife's name was Abbie D. Hiper and she would have been born about 1888 in IN. August was living in Fort Wayne, IN in 1924 but don't know when he left there or when or where he remarried. Any information you can give me would be very much appreciated.

My E-mail address is [jeanperkins@earthlink.net](mailto:jeanperkins@earthlink.net)

I am looking for any information on the **EWING** family from Stockbridge. Willing to share information.

Also looking for information on William **WESTFALL** who was born in New York in 1836 and is buried in the Oak Lawn Cemetery in Stockbridge. His first wife's name was Maria and his second wife's name was Sara. He is the son of Levi Westfall.

Any information on either family would be greatly appreciated.

My e-mail address is: [dean1956@hotmail.com](mailto:dean1956@hotmail.com)

## Web Sites

### Oral Histories

MI Oral History Association	<a href="http://www.h-net.msu.edu/~moha/">www.h-net.msu.edu/~moha/</a>
MI Women's Hall of Fame Oral Histories	<a href="http://members.tripod.com/mwfame/oral.htm">members.tripod.com/mwfame/oral.htm</a>
World War II Oral History	<a href="http://www.tankbooks.com/">www.tankbooks.com/</a>
After the Day of Infamy	<a href="http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/afcphtml/afcphtml.html">memory.loc.gov/ammem/afcphtml/afcphtml.html</a>

### Beginning Genealogy

Bureau of Land Management	
National Archives & Records Administration	<a href="http://archives.gov/research_room/genealogy/index.html">archives.gov/research_room/genealogy/index.html</a>
The United States Army Air Forces	<a href="http://armyairforces.com/">armyairforces.com/</a>

### Preserving Genealogical Documents

National Trust for Historic Preservation	<a href="http://www.nationaltrust.org">www.nationaltrust.org</a>
Library of Congress Guidelines	<a href="http://lcweb.loc.gov/preserv/careotr.html">http://lcweb.loc.gov/preserv/careotr.html</a>
Preserving Photos	<a href="http://www.genealogyforum.rootsweb.com/gfaol/resource/PPPhoto.htm">http://www.genealogyforum.rootsweb.com/gfaol/resource/PPPhoto.htm</a>



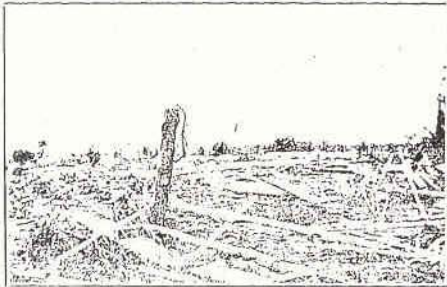
## UPCOMING EVENTS



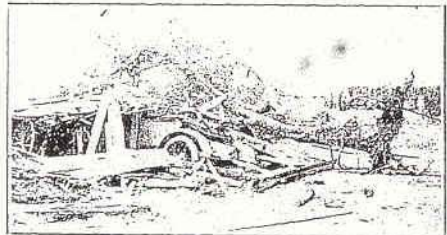
March 18	<b>SAGHS</b> , Guest: Shirley Hodges, Preserving Documents
April 5	<b>Abrams Genealogical Series</b> , Using Vital Records, Library of Michigan, Cost \$10
April 12	<b>Library of Michigan</b> , Finding MI Land Owner Maps, at Library of Michigan, Cost: Free
April 15	<b>SAGHS</b> , Guest: Mary Griffes, Census Records
April 26	<b>Library of Michigan</b> , Beginning Genealogy, at Library of Michigan, Cost: Free
May 20	<b>SAGHS</b> , Guest: Sam Pardee, Saultana Disaster
June 14	<b>Library of Michigan</b> , Paper & Print Preservation, at Library of Michigan, Cost: Free
June 7	<b>Abrams Genealogical Series</b> , Researching Your Female Ancestor, Library of Michigan, Cost \$10
June 17	<b>SAGHS</b> , Guest: David Johnson, Archives of Michigan
June 28	<b>Library of Michigan</b> , Ancestry Plus, at Library of Michigan, Cost: Free

For more information on Abrams Genealogical Series or the Library of MI series, please contact Randy Riley or Carole Callard from the Library of Michigan at (517) 373-1300.

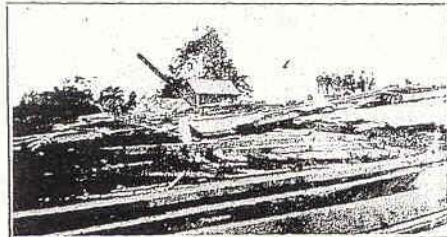
Taken from the July 2, 1914 edition of the Stockbridge Brief-Sun.



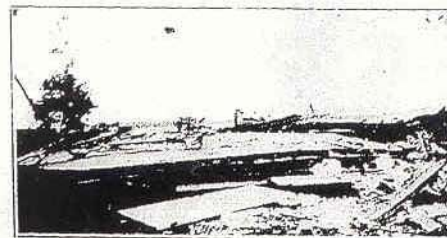
Remnants of Arthur Munger's House



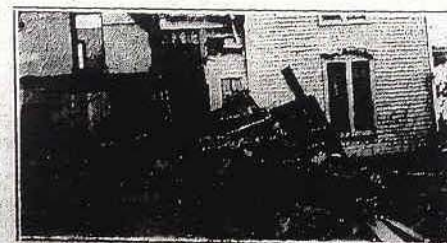
Remnants of Arthur Munger's Barn



Hugh Sweet's Barn where Six Cows Were Killed



The Old May House, Occupied by John White



A Corner of Wirt Barnum's \$6,000 House

STOCKBRIDGE, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, JULY 2, 1914

# SWEPT BY FIERCE TORNADO

Worst storm in history of Michigan does over \$200,000 damage to buildings, crops and timber in this section

**MANY HOMELESS. FEW INJURED NONE KILLED**

Country is strewn with wreckage for miles around. Roads impassable from fallen timber. Telephone lines and poles down

The most destructive cyclone

The most destructive cyclone in the history of this part of the state passed just south of the village limits about 6:30 o'clock last Saturday afternoon, leaving in its wake almost indescribable destruction to buildings, crops, stock, fences and trees.

The first indication of the approaching storm was the distant thunder heard in the west, and seemed to be traveling northeast with a stiff east wind blowing. The black and brass-colored clouds suddenly shifted and began racing south, and when almost directly west of the village seemed to unite with other currents of wind and started southeast.

Elmer Nott's large new barn was blown down, the roof of the same going directly over the house.

Claude Morehouse's barn was blown down.

The next place the funnel-shaped cloud seemed to descend was in Hawley's woods, where trees were twisted in every shape, several falling across the railroad breaking the telegraph lines and delaying train service until the track could be cleared. The second growth grove on the Mitter farm was also ruined.

L. Bowdish's barn and Sumner Bird's barns and sneds were reduced to kindling.

The Sharp Sisters' new house was unroofed, their barn blown down and their horse killed.

T.A. Berry's large barn was so badly twisted out of shape that it may have to be rebuilt.

Arthur Munger and father were in the barn and had just finished milking when the wind struck and tore the building in pieces and scattered it in adjoining fields. Mrs. Munger was in the house with the two children, and they were blown through a window out into the orchard. Mrs. Munger sustaining some severe cuts and bruises, and went to the home of her brother, where she has since been confined. The house and contents were a total wreck.

The home of Henry Ackley was completely demolished, the clothing was torn off the women and all their household goods either blown away or completely ruined.

The roof was blown off Wirt McClain's brick house, the glass blown or broken from all the windows, and the barn scattered in every direction.

### “Swept By Fierce Storm” continued

The Scouten barn, the house and barn on the Hugh McIntyre farm, barns at Ferd Bowdish's and Peter Worden's were destroyed, and Hugh Sweet's large new basement barn collapsed killing six cows in the basement.

Beginning at the Dan Denton farm, on the road between Williamsville and Unadilla, practically every house and barn were either completely demolished or badly twisted.

Besides the awful havoc made with buildings, the fields and roads were filled with fallen and twisted timber, telephone and wire fences, scraps of boards and broken timbers, roofing, etc., and gangs of men began working early Sunday morning making the roads passable.

All day Sunday the roads were lined with all sorts of conveyances going to and coming from the various points where the fury of the wind seemed to be the greatest, and while those who escaped loss from the wind are rejoicing over being out of the path of the storm, we all deeply sympathize with our unfortunate neighbors and friends, and sincerely hope it may never be our lot to witness such a sad scene again.

As far as we have been able to learn those suffering loss carried insurance, which will partially cover it. Our people should remember that the unfortunates not only lost their homes, but also lost their clothing, etc., and in nearly every home in the village is clothing, bedding, pieces of furniture, dishes, etc., stored which would help those who lost everything, in again starting housekeeping. Everyone can now do a little first-class missionary work right here at home. This also is meant to include our sis-village, Unadilla.

At Eaton Rapids, one person was killed and nine others hurt in the storm which swept across the township, besides the undecipherable damage to crops and buildings destroyed.

The village of Petrieville is almost a total wreck.

The storm in Livingston county, especially Unadilla Village, was equally, if not more destructive, flattening orchards, crops, houses, everything in its path, pivoted evidently on Unadilla, and swept off to the southeast. During the three minutes the storm was at its height, the outside air pressure fell with the characteristic rapidity of a tornado, and houses literally blew up instead of collapsing.

The brick Presbyterian church was leveled to the ground, the belfry of the Methodist church blown off and the building partially destroyed. The Presbyterians have made arrangements to hold regular services in the hall over the store for the present.

The resident section, south of the road, was practically a total wreck.

At the home of Dan Denton, the family took refuge in the cellar. The hired man, Rice, was caught under the floors when the walls fell outward and his collar bone was broken. He was dragged to safety by Denton's two daughters. The house and barn were wrecked.

The home of John Webb was destroyed and Mrs. Webb nearly bled to death from a cut on the head.

The barn and orchard of R. Gorton were destroyed. Otis Webb lost a barn, Al Pyper lost house and barn, the \$6,000 house of Wirt Barnum was ruined along with his barns and orchard, Mr. Barnum, his wife and four children were in the house when it went down. He received a cut on the head. The children were slightly scratched. Others who sustained injuries are Ed May, Mrs. Harris, Watson Lane, John Ray, Helen Watson, and Billy Pyper.

Other buildings hit were old Livermore house, Obert house, Gorton's mill, Harris house, Jas. Barton barn and garage, Watson Lane house and barn, besides several small buildings and sheds all practically destroyed.

Wires to Unadilla, Pinckney, and Gregory were down, and there was no way of obtaining information except by automobile.

## LIASON REPORTS (News From Different Local Groups)

### *Williamston Enterprise* Index Project

John Castle, Ingham County Genealogical Society

The Ingham County Genealogical Society are indexing the old *Williamston Enterprise* newspapers published from 1886 through 1899. The papers were loaned by the Ingham County Community News, the successors of the ICN, and were microfilmed in 1999. The original *Enterprise* newspapers were given to the City of Williamston. The city then placed the newspapers in the Williamston Public Library.

Robin Grattan, a friend from Pennsylvania, is indexing the four reels of microfilm and extracting names from eleven broad areas, such as: vitals, correspondents, probate, real estate transfers, etc.

The index will give the names as they appear in the newspapers along with the year, month, day, page number, and column number of that issue.

Initially, we will publish a hard copy of the index that will be donated to the Library of Michigan and the Williamston Public Library. In time, we expect to post the entire index on the Ingham County Genealogical Society's website.

### Township Records Completed in 2002

John Castle, Ingham County Genealogical Society

The Ingham County Genealogical Society finished the year 2002 having microfilmed the records and documents from four Ingham County Townships and one Village. The townships are: Onondaga, Ingham, White Oak, and Alaiedon. The village records are of Dansville, located in Ingham Township.

The above records were placed on 38 reels of microfilm. A complete set was donated to the Library of Michigan, in Lansing, and a complete set was donated to the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, IN. The third set can be viewed in the society's reference room which is located on the second floor of the Mason Public Library in Mason, Michigan.

The society is hopeful to microfilm records and documents from Wheatfield, Vevay, and Aurelius Township of Ingham County in 2003. Support funding for these projects was received in a Grant from the Abrams Foundation.

### Death Without Record Michigan Genealogical Council

The Michigan Genealogical Council Project is accepting registrations for persons who died in or before 1900, and left no Michigan official record. Persons may be registered who lived in Michigan, had lived in Michigan and died elsewhere, died in Michigan and were not usual Michigan residents, or were children of lifetime Michigan residents.

For more information, an application, or acceptable sources of proof, please visit the Council's website at: [www.rootsweb.com/~mimgc](http://www.rootsweb.com/~mimgc)



## New Michigan Militia Book Published Michigan Genealogical Council

*Michigan's Early Military Forces: A Roster and History of Troops Activated Prior to the American Civil War*, compiled by Le Roy Barnett, Ph.D. with histories by Roger Rosentreter, Ph.D. is in the production stage at Wayne State University Press and is expected to become available in January 2003. This thoroughly researched work includes rosters of many thousands of Michigan men who were participants in the conflicts mentioned above or were activated, even if they were never called to battle.

Due to MGC support, the cost for one book for each member society will be \$21.00. Our board has approved and ordered this book and should receive it by this spring.

## Library of Michigan Cemetery Sources Database

The Library of Michigan today unveiled the new Michigan Cemetery Sources database, offering genealogists, historians, and researchers online access to information about cemeteries in Michigan. The database, located at <http://michigancemeteries.libraryofmichigan.org> or [www.michigan.gov/hal](http://www.michigan.gov/hal), identifies the location of over 3,700 Michigan cemeteries and lists sources at the Library of Michigan where the researcher can find the names of those buried in each cemetery.

The database is searchable by cemetery name, county, township, specific location, and keyword. The record for each cemetery contains detailed information about its location and whether the Library of Michigan owns a transcription of the cemetery. A transcription is a listing of persons buried at a cemetery, taken either from cemetery records, or copied directly from headstones. Transcription sources may also include sexton's records, obituaries, or other historical information. For more information visit their website listed above.

## CONCERNS OVER CANADA'S CENSUS RELEASE

Canada's Industry Minister Allan Rock and Minister of Canadian Heritage Sheila Copps announced the release of the 1906 Special Census of the Western Provinces late last month. Many Canadian officials considered the release a victory for family historians, genealogists, and researchers all over the world due to a battle that's been raging over the public release of any Canadian censuses taken after 1901. While the release of the 1906 census is a step in the right direction for family historians, the Canadian government still has to determine how it will proceed in releasing census information in the future.

Recently, the Canadian Parliament received a proposed bill that calls for the release of all 20th-century censuses 92 years after the census was taken. Only those who have a "need to know"--including historians and genealogists--will gain access after 92 years. The same censuses wouldn't be made available to the public until 112 years after the census date. One specification to this bill is that the informants would have to permit public disclosure of their information. If they don't specify otherwise, their information will never be released. Scanned images of the 1906 census schedules are accessible online at [http://www.archives.ca/02/020153\\_e.html](http://www.archives.ca/02/020153_e.html).

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## 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  
www.rootsweb.com/~misaghs

Yes, I'm interested in joining the society.

I have enclosed a check for:

- Individual—\$10.00
- Family—\$15.00
- Corporate—\$25.00

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Address)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(City, State, Zip Code)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Phone Number)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(E-Mail Address)

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.