



The Gogebic Roots Quarterly Newsletter

The Gogebic Roots Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 5 Issue 5
July 2006

In This Issue



GRGS UPDATES
GRGS Research Room

Free Online Research
Sites

The 5 W's of Genealogy
Records

Local Historical
Societies

Revolutionary War
Research & FUN

Planning a Family
Reunion

Request for help

The Gogebic Roots Quarterly Newsletter is a publication of the Gogebic Range Genealogical Society, Inc. The Newsletter is published quarterly in January, April, July and September. We are located in Ironwood, Michigan, USA. Our mailing address is P.O. Box 23, Ironwood, MI 49938.

Our Officers are

Gary Harrington, President
Diane Egan, Vice President
(Open position), Secretary
Eddie Sandene, Treasurer
Carol Schleker, Membership
Dwight Filippini, Cemeteries
Tim Egan, Librarian

Your Newsletter editor: Connie Noyes
Our website is www.gogebicroots.com
website is hosted by



Silverleaf Incorporated

216 E. Aurora Street
Ironwood, MI 49938
(906) 932-7394

Membership dues are based on a calendar year starting with the date of enrollment. The expiration date of your membership is shown on your membership card. If renewal of the dues is not received by the expiration date a reminder is sent. The reason for this is twofold. First and foremost we value your membership and hope you continue to support us. Secondly, our Bylaws state that a member in arrears 30 days after the anniversary date shall be removed from the rolls. Please keep in mind that one reminder only is required in this same section of the Bylaws and is sent in hopes that your membership continues without a lapse. If any member has a question regarding this please feel free to contact us.

Thanks for your continued support.

GRGS RESEARCH ROOM

Update from the President

Gary Harrington

I want to update our members and others on two areas of interest. First, we are making strides in

completing our GRGS room in the Bessemer Heritage Center. We are fortunate to have a place to call our own and thank the Bessemer Area Historical Society for allowing us to lease the room.

www.mattsonworks.com/bessemerhistoricalsociety

Board members recently met to map out a diagram of where we intend to place our microfiche reader, computer, print/scanner/copier, library materials and other items. We want to press on and have the place half-way presentable and usable before the July 4 holiday when many visitors stop by the Heritage Center on their annual pilgrimage back to the area. We will have the micro-fiche reader with vast amounts of information from Finnish church parishes and places as well as various sources in England. We won't have the GRGS room completed. However, it will be well worth your time to stop by to see what we have. GRGS Board members will be available at the center. If you know when you will be in town, please contact us ahead of time (through our website) to let us know when you will be in the area. We will make every effort possible to have someone available to help with your family research.

We have received many questions concerning when we will have the local cemetery information on line. We expected to be much further along at this time, but have discovered that the process is more involved than realized. We have been working with city clerks. We hope to have the data available as soon as possible, but have no projected completion dates. On the brighter side, everyone who has requested help with cemetery searches seems to be pleased with our response. Our website cemetery list is not where we want it, but when you contact us we will get the information you want as soon as possible. We are rapidly gaining the reputations for "going above and beyond" in helping.

INFORMATION EXCHANGE

At a recent board meeting, the Gogebic Range Genealogical Society discussed means by which members could exchange family information. Everyone agreed there was a need for this service, as it seems we spend an inordinate amount of time conducting business, necessary as it is, but not enough time helping each other discover lost gggrand- parents, cousins, princes and scoundrels (most of us have them, even if we don't claim them) from our past. Board members really get excited when we can help our members add information to their pedigree charts. To get things rolling, we invite members to submit any family genealogical information you care to share, as well as requests for information on surnames of interest to you. Send your information/requests to:

**Gogebic Range Genealogical Society
P. O. Box 23
Ironwood, MI 49938**

We will publish your requests in the quarterly newsletter. Hopefully, this will get things rolling.

THE U.P. GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY WORKSHOP

On October 29, 2005, I attended the first of hopefully many annual U. P. genealogical workshops, graciously hosted at the Peter White Library by the Marquette County Genealogical Society. Seven or eight societies shared ideas on how to increase interest in genealogy. One example of the benefit of improved communication between Yooper genealogists was the discussion of the debut of the documentary movie, *Fire and Ice, The Winter War of Finland and Russia*, shown at the Ironwood Theater. Those of us viewing the documentary and lacking Finnish heritage had a longing for finding a long lost cousin in Helsinki. This was a first class production. Make an effort to see it and you won't regret it!

Our board meetings are held on the 2nd Saturday of the month from 10 am to noon at the Bessemer Historical Society. Everyone is invited to attend.

Finland Institute of Migration

<http://130.232.32.230/index.php>

The Emigrant Register was established in 1989 for genealogists and the descendants of Finnish Emigrants. Includes passport records, passenger records of the Finland Steamship Company (Suomen Höyrylaiva Osakeyhtiö), and information on Finns deceased abroad.

Digital Library of Virginia

www.lva.lib.va.us/whatwehave/

More than 2.2 million original documents, photographs, and maps Virginia and West Virginia. A database of Virginia patents and grants from 1623-1992, 6,000+ family Bible records, and an index of pre-1800 Virginia wills and administrations.

FREE FORMS & CHARTS TO HELP WITH RECORD ORGANIZATION

www.familytreemagazine.com/forms/download.html AND MORE

www.searchforancestors.com/genealogyfreebies.html

Parlez-vous français ?

Sprechen Sie Deutsches?

Parlate italiano?

Translations at:

<http://babelfish.altavista.com/>

Some county history

www.gogebic.org/history.htm

Metishistory www.telusplanet.net/public/dgarneau/metis.htm

Le Dictionnaire Tanguay

www.rootsweb.com/~canqc/tanguay.htm

A major source for early French-Canadian genealogy, the *Dictionnaire Genealogique des Familles Canadiennes*, seven-volumes of early French-Canadian families published by Rev. Cyprian Tanguay in the 1800s. It covers families from about 1608 to about 1760.

Canadian Genealogy Centre

www.collectionscanada.ca/genealogy/

it contains the database of immigrants who received Canadian naturalization certificates, and the Upper and Lower Canada Marriage Bonds plus more.

Native American Genealogy

www.genealogybranches.com/nativeamericans.html

A wealth of information on America's Native American tribes, includes indexes to various rolls and research tips.

Ancestors on the Great Lakes? Read Volume II or If You are into Great Lakes history read Volume I

www.halinet.on.ca/GreatLakes/Documents/HGL2/default.asp

A link to another great read;

www.greatlakespilotpreview.com

Or pick up a paper copy of
The Great Lakes Mariners

The 5 W's of Genealogical Research

Where? What? Why? When? Who? (OK-you probably also need to ask How?)

As I unravel my genealogical puzzle, left for me to solve by previous generations, it has become very evident that for every answer I am able to locate, I also receive another question. A lot of the answers and questions are found on documents which I like to call primary resources. That means, a document created at the time history was happening, not created from someone's memory years later. Of course, the first question to be answered is;

- **Where can I find those documents?** Often, a family member has some in their possession. Birth, marriage, death, baptism, driver's license, graduation diploma, confirmation, social security card, photographs, adoption information files, guest book for important events; these are all documents that someone living today has.

The family bible is sometimes considered a secondary resource as one would need to validate that the information was entered at the time it actually happened. Otherwise, you need to search the records at the courthouse of the last known residence for that person. A check of nearby cemeteries or a call to the sexton or city hall where the burial, cemetery plot records are kept is also helpful. The plot owner's name is also useful. The wide use of the internet provides many useful indexes on the internet for searching. (Keep an inventory of the documents you find, when, where and for what family member.)

- **What information does this document provide?** Is it accurate, did the family version differ from what I see recorded? Hopefully, you will be able to gather a few documents, resources that correlate with the information or at least don't present too much of a puzzle. (By the way, get organized with your records from the beginning so you don't have to be like me and ask where and what did I do with those documents? I have provided you with web sites for this.)
- **Why is the document trail leading me to what seems to be a dead end?** Unfortunately, when people tended to be of many different ethnic backgrounds, surname spellings were re invented or the name entirely changed to something else. And then again, even though the paper trail proves the relationship, people can deny it due to great differences of opinion, such as the civil war or even just a divorce. When this happens, you need to thoroughly search through census records for people who have been neighbors or relatives in other records as well as the actual person you want to locate. Oh yes, sometimes the records were there but are now missing from a natural disaster such as the courthouse burned down or someone else beat you to them and ah hum, permanently misplaced them.
- **When?** This is going to have a lot to do with your organizational skills, keep a timeline of where the person was, what events were happening in their life, their family. This will be a great visual for you to use to decide other places and things to search for. You can also prepare this on a map to see the moving your family has done.
- **Who?** Keep a family group sheet for each family, include everywho and anywho who you either believe or know is part of the family. You will find them listed on documents as witnesses, guests, survivors, care takers and possibly neighbors. Please make sure you use archival quality materials to label and organize old family photos.
- **How?** In a manner that keeps you and your records organized. I still like the 3 ringed binder and forms. Some people are totally immersed in the technological world and have all the information on computer and external memory devices. Or if you aren't much for paper, you may prefer to verbally save your information as audio on a (what?) cassette recorder or a video in a format you think is going to be around for a while yet.

LOCAL HISTORICAL SOCIETIES AND GREAT FAMILY RESEARCH RESOURCES

Local museums that can also provide help with genealogical research include; Ironwood Historical Society-museum is in the Depot. Bessemer is mentioned in the GRGS research room article. Ramsay is known as Bessemer Township. Wakefield also has an interesting museum. Hurley, Presque Isle, Mercer are in adjoining Wisconsin while Bergland and Ontonagon are in Michigan. They are all close by so perhaps there are records of family in those areas. Marenisco Township Office has a wealth of old photos, other documents from the cemetery www.marenisco.com/Cemetery.htm While researching, make sure to visit the city offices, courthouses, cemeteries, libraries, local newspapers, post offices, visitor centers, coffee shops and remember to browse through the local telephone directory to see if anyone is listed with the surname you are tracing. Old school records and yearbooks can sometimes provide additional clues. Churches and funeral homes also keep records and may have some additional information for your questions that you are trying to answer.

Please don't forget about the information available on our web site and also this one; www.mattsonworks.com/ It often helps to place an ad in the newspaper or if you can catch a call in live radio show-do it that way. Very likely someone who is listening remembers the surname you are trying to learn more about.

Photo is of the Gogebic Range Tamburitizans. We'd love to hear from and about ethnic heritage groups on the Gogebic Range.



Sarah Smiljanich, Bob Blaskowski, Gertie Michaels,
Dan Jurakovich, Sr., Danny Jurakovich, Virginia Pavlovich,
Mary Nelson, Mike Pavlovich, Mike Orlich, director.

Before and After the Revolution



of 1776

(By Joe Carlson)

My name is Glen McGill. I was born in Scotland in 1730, the son of Scotch Catholics. My family & I were driven out of Scotland because of the potato blight and because of the intolerance of the Protestants. Like my father, I was a farmer and a carpenter. When I was 23, I married and had one boy child. Being somewhat adventurous, my wife and I took to the wilderness with our son, now 8 years old, making my living by doing odd carpentry jobs and living off the land. In 1760, we left Pennsylvania for New York and settled in Waterford. I was hired by Alexander Bryan to do carpentry on his inn about two miles north of Waterford. Things in upstate New York were getting a bit "tensious", if ye know what I mean.

There was an uprising at Fort Edward because of murder of Jane McCrea on July 27, 1777, by Indians allied to British and Gen. Burgoyne.

Anyhow, Redcoats, Tories and Sons of Liberty men visited Alex's inn. But, we was so discreet that we was trusted by the British. Due to this trust, American General Gates appointed Alex to the dangerous duty of spying on the British troops near Fort Edward. He asked me to take part in this venture because I guess he thought I had plenty of experience in the wilderness. And he was right.

We entered the British camp of Burgoyne and stayed until we learned of the British plan to cross the Hudson River at Stillwater and surprise the greatly outnumbered American garrison. On September 15, 1777, we was discovered and chased on horseback for three days. We was forced to abandon our horses and hide in a river with only our mouth above water, narrowly escaping detection.

We managed to report our findings to General Gates, which allowed the Americans to prepare for the engagement of September 19, 1777 and ultimate victory on October 7, 1777. This encounter came to be known as the Battle of Saratoga and the turning point of the American Revolution.

We got the needed information, but was found out and chased on horseback for three days. Forced to abandon our exhausted horse, we hid in that river with only our mouths above water for nearly a day. When it became dark, we was able to escape.

On September 19, 1777 the Royal army advanced upon the American camp in three separate columns within the present day towns of Stillwater and Saratoga. Two of them headed through the heavy forests covering the region; the third, composed of German troops, marched down the river road. We spotted Burgoyne's army in motion and notified Gates, who ordered Col. Daniel Morgan's corps of Virginia riflemen to track the British march. About 12:30 p.m., some of Morgan's men, me included, brushed with the advance guard of Burgoyne's center column in a clearing known as the Freeman Farm, about a mile north of the American camp. The general battle that followed swayed back and forth over the farm for more than three hours. Then, as the British lines began to waver in the face of the deadly fire of our numerically superior Americans, German reinforcements arrived from the river road. Hurling them against the American right, Burgoyne steadied the wavering British line and gradually forced the Americans to withdraw. Except for this timely arrival and the near exhaustion of the Americans' ammunition, Burgoyne might have been defeated that day. Though he held the immediate field of battle, Burgoyne had been stopped about a mile north of the American line with his army roughly treated. Shaken by his "victory," the British commander ordered his troops to entrench in the vicinity of the Freeman Farm and await support from Clinton, who

was supposedly preparing to move north toward Albany from New York City.

For nearly three weeks he waited but Clinton did not come. By now Burgoyne's situation was critical. All this time, we kept our eye on Burgoyne. Faced by a growing American army without hope of help from the south, and with supplies rapidly diminishing, the British army became weaker with each passing day. Burgoyne had to choose between advancing or retreating. He decided to risk a second engagement, and on October 7 ordered a reconnaissance-in-force to test the American left flank. Aply led and supported by eight cannon, a force of 1,500 men moved out of the British camp. After marching southwesterly about three-quarters of a mile, the troops deployed in a clearing on the Barber Farm. Most of the British front faced an open field, but both flanks rested in woods, thus exposing them to surprise attack. By now we knew that Burgoyne's army was again on the move and at about 3 p.m. attacked in three columns under Colonel Morgan, Gen. Ebenezer Learned, and Gen. Enoch Poor. Repeatedly the British line was broken, then rallied, and both flanks were severely punished and driven back. Gen. Simon Fraser, who commanded the British right, was kilt as he rode among his men to encourage them to make a stand and cover the developing withdrawal. Before the enemy's flanks could be rallied, Gen. Benedict Arnold -who had been relieved of command after a quarrel with Gates- rode onto the field and led Learned's brigade against the German troops holding the British center. Under tremendous pressure from all sides, the Germans joined a general withdrawal into the fortifications on the Freeman Farm. Within an hour after the opening clash, Burgoyne lost eight cannon and more than 400 officers and men. We believed that victory was near. Arnold led one column in a series of savage attacks on the Balcarres Redoubt, a powerful British fieldwork on the Freeman Farm.

After failing repeatedly to carry this position, Arnold wheeled his horse and, dashing through the crossfire of both armies, spurred northwest to the Breymann Redoubt. Arriving just as American troops began to assault the fortification, he joined in the final surge that overwhelmed the German soldiers defending the work. Upon entering the redoubt, he was wounded in the leg. Darkness ended the day's fighting and saved Burgoyne's army from immediate disaster.

That night the British commander left his campfires burning and withdrew his troops behind the Great Redoubt, which protected the high ground and river flats at the northeast corner of the battlefield. The next night, October 8, after burying General Fraser in the redoubt, the British began their retreat northward. They had suffered 1,000 casualties in the fighting of the past three weeks; our losses numbered less than 500. After a miserable march in mud and rain, Burgoyne's troops took refuge in a fortified camp on the heights of Saratoga. There, our force that had grown to nearly 20,000 men surrounded the exhausted British army. Faced with such overwhelming numbers, Burgoyne surrendered on October 17, 1777. By the terms of the Convention of Saratoga, Burgoyne's depleted army, some 6,000 men, marched out of its camp "with the

Honors of War" and stacked its weapons along the west bank of the Hudson River. And that's my story. Nowadays, I'm a frontier tracker, my wife and trusty flintlock at my side. We made it to Michigan, and trekked to the northern reaches in the early 1800s. A God-forsaken place if I ever seen one, but the Indians are friendly, food is abundant and beavers are plenty.

During the Revolutionary War, settlers in Michigan favored British rule and often raided American settlements. At the end of the war in 1783, Michigan came under American control. Detroit and Fort Mackinac did not surrender until 1796. In 1787, Michigan became part of the Northwest Territory. In 1805, the Lower Peninsula and the eastern part of the Upper Peninsula became the Territory of Michigan.

The story above is really not about me, but rather it is about my "persona", that part that I play at reenactments and rendezvous. Reenacting is a big part of owning a flintlock. My wife & I, history buffs extraordinaire, can put on our period costumes, and play the part. Last July, the Midwest Rendezvous was held in Ontonagon. Row upon row of old pre-1840 and 1700s tents and teepees with their individual camps filled the grounds at Ontonagon. Visit www.coppercountry.com/gallery/Midwest_Rendezvous_2005

Web Sites for More Exploration of the Revolution

Michigan Society Sons of the American Revolution www.sar.org/missar/links.htm

History Central www.historycentral.com/Revolt/

The History Place www.historyplace.com/unitedstates/revolution/index.html

A PBS Special: Liberty www.pbs.org/ktca/liberty/

Rendezvous and reenacting, visit www.smoke-fire.com/ and www.nrlhf.org/

And also www.reenactor.net/colonial/rev_war/units_ami.html

- ✓ Be sure to read; *1776*, by David McCullough. *1776* is not an historical narrative that bogs itself down in minutiae or incredible detail. There are no lengthy discussions of troop maneuvers or combat casualties. Instead, the reader is introduced to real people who may not be the best-known heroes of the revolution but are important participants in the war effort.

And: Silliman, Sue Imogene, comp. *Michigan Military Records, the D.A.R. of Michigan Historical Collections: Records of the Revolutionary Soldiers Buried in Michigan, the Pensioners of Territorial Michigan, and the Soldiers of Michigan Awarded the Medal of Honor*. 1920. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1969.

Summer Time Is Great For Family Reunions!

(Sometimes known as Hootenannies; defined as a get together providing vittles and fiddles.)

If you are elected to plan a family get together, become a delegater-yes, delegate different parts of the job to various family members. Don't do it all by yourself. You will probably end up with extra company staying at your house anyway so....try not to have too much work to do. Also, if you plan it in a park or campground it can have a less formal feel. (Some families have an Uncle John who can't participate as he will be fishing-well then, have it on a pontoon boat so he has no excuse.) Make sure it has facilities for various ages and sizes of folks, including handicapped individuals. **Delegate:**

- 1) T-shirt designer, person to order, pay for, collect monies, pick up the t-shirts and hand them out.
- 2) Someone to design and send out the invitations to all the big branches and twigs of your tree or forest. Depending on available time, money and technology-there are telephones, emails, and we still have the pony express, it just depends on how big and spread apart your family is. Include directions on how to get to the site.
- 3) Entertainment committee-any games, home movies, autograph sessions, etc-make sure they keep the youngsters busy so the older folks can sit and reminisce without too many interruptions. Video or audio tape those reminiscing sessions. Watermelon football? (Maybe karaoke, if no one plays the fiddle.)
- 4) Photographer- everyone has at least one in the family who is armed with a camera.
- 5) Name-tag identification committee. Pre-print by hand, on the computer or have family members design their own upon arrival.
- 6) Head of each branch to bring a display of their side to share with all the other branches, a family tree chart with identified photos to show how y'all fit together.
- 7) Do a potluck as even this can be planned ahead for who brings what and how much. Plan for beverages, plates, cups, napkins and utensils.
- 8) The park scout-someone who goes and talks to park management or wherever it is to be held to reserve the amount of space you will need. This person can also go there ahead of time with a crew of folks to get set up, table cloths, extra chairs, signs to mark your territory, etc.

MOST IMPORTANT: REMEMBER THIS REUNION'S SO Y'ALL HAVE FUN!

On August 19, 2002 we received the following letter;

I have an old post card that goes back to 1926. It says E.A. Orme's store & post office, Marenisco, MI. Someone has inked in an arrow to the window on the second floor. I was wondering if you have any people coming from the above town, regulars that could tell me if this building is still standing. It couldn't be a very big place? My father, T. Sherman Golden started as #1 carrier in Galena, Ill. And I wonder if he came up to Marenisco in 1926 for some reason. Thank you so much. Ruth Mitton 1832-53rd Street Moline, Il 61265



