



**HUBBARDSTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
**NEWSLETTER NUMBER TWELVE JANUARY-FEBRUARY, 2005**  
**Box 183, HUBBARDSTON, MI. 48845**  
[WWW.HUBBARDSTON.ORG](http://WWW.HUBBARDSTON.ORG)

**COMING EVENTS**

**Thursday, January 27, 7:00 p.m.**

Show and Tell –Bring your Memorabilia!

St. John's School @ 7:00 PM

**Thursday, February 24, 7:00 p.m.**

Mary Caris – “Colonial Recipes”-Taste Testing!

St. John's School @ 7:00 PM

**Thursday, March 24, 7:00 p.m.**

“Bill Burr” Greenville Daily News

Board of Directors Nominations

St. John's School @ 7:00 pm

**Thursday, April 28, 7:00 p.m.**

Mr. Schafer-Michigan State Archive

Board of Directors Candidates Roster

St. John's School @ 7:00PM

**Saturday, May 28, 11:30-3:00 p.m.**

Third Annual HAHS Meeting - Social,

Membership Drive and Election

Irish Stew Served-Donation Only!

St. John's Parish Hall-Hubbardston

So far today, God I've done all right.

I haven't gossiped, I haven't lost my temper,

Haven't been grumpy, nasty or selfish.

But in a few minutes, I'm going to get out of bed;

And from then on, I'm going to need

A lot of your help. (Anonymous)

**New Historical Society Location and Sign**

How fortunate can we be! In September we moved into our new display room at St. John the Baptist School and an anonymous donor presented us with a beautiful steel sign three feet by four feet to erect on the premises of this Michigan and National Historic Site. The sign is lettered in Irish green on a white background. Bud Datema has framed it and he and Jack Fahey will install it weather permitting.

We couldn't ask for more. HAHS is a tax-free organization and donations of pictures, books, clothing, memorabilia, etc are welcomed. For information e-mail any board member or call 989-584-3803 for directions. We can use book cases, tables, etc. to continue to arrange our collections. Our tentative scheduled hours of operation will be announced in February.

Your membership and moral support is especially important to us. Dues are payable by the year (\$15) or five year (\$60-one year free) at this time. Already close to 200 people have renewed. We now have 40 five year memberships. To keep your newsletter coming, renew now! We have been so graciously supported and encouraged by our wonderful membership and their faithfulness in attending our activities that it really is exciting. Attend our monthly meetings for a good time, great food and excellent presentations. We have the dream, the support, and the interest. Now we need the time to truly get our materials organized. With all of us working together, and your help, it will be done!

**HAHS Board of Directors e-mail addresses**

**Philip McKenna - [pmckenna@mcka.com](mailto:pmckenna@mcka.com)**

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**Randy Riley- [rriley@michigan.gov](mailto:rriley@michigan.gov)**

**Jack Fahey-Memorial Display- [jjalfahey@cmsinter.net](mailto:jjalfahey@cmsinter.net)**

**Pat Baese-dbaese@carsoncity.k12.mi.us**

A special note of thanks to members who have given gifts and donations as we proceed with organizing and collecting materials at our new location: Fr. James Bozung, Bonny Burns, Norman Burns, Don Bryant, Mary Caris, Bob and Katie Cashen, Bud Datema, Jack Fahey, Mary Jo Goodroad, Bud Howard, Frances Hybarger, Bill Kruger, Elaine Lutz estate, Phil McKenna, Julianne McKenna, Ken O'Grady, Virginia Rademacher, Margaret Shineman, Allen Stoddard, Mark Stoddard, Marie Sweet, and Nancy Woodcock to name just the recent contributors. We appreciate every one of our members and their complimentary notes, time, and e-mails which give us so much encouragement.

While driving in Pennsylvania, a family caught up to an Amish carriage. The owner of the carriage obviously had a sense of humor, because attached to the back of the buggy was a hand lettered sign... “Energy efficient vehicle: Runs on oats and grass. Caution: Do not step in exhaust.”

## Breathing New Life in the Hogan House

First I would like to thank the people of Hubbardston for making us feel welcome. While at a Herald reunion this past summer, my wife Mary and myself came across a house for sale at 221 S. Washington. Not knowing anything about it or who owned it; not knowing how much it cost; we took one look through the windows and fell in love with it.

Sitting on the porch and listening to the wind scream through the trees and the water flowing across the dam under the bridge, we came up with a plan to bring a breath of life into the house we would come to know as the 'Hogan House.'

I remember coming to Hubbardston in the 50's as a city kid from Detroit and how I loved it staying with my Aunt Billie and Uncle Puss (Albert) Cunningham. Sitting there on the Hogan porch I remembered BB gun fights, walks through the cemetery at night, looking for pop and beer bottles along the road so we could cash them in for two cents a bottle. I remember having the Cunningham boys to goof off with: Rick, Mike, Tim, Denny and Bill.

We would also stay at my Aunt Midge and Uncle Joe Fahey's on their farm. Those cousins were older and I know they thought we city kids were nuts. We wanted to bring the cows in for milking, plow the fields on a big tractor, play in the hay loft, and eat all the oatmeal and fresh bread that we wanted. I want to thank you for all my great childhood memories.

As we sat on the porch I thought how many times I walked past the Hogan house and never even noticed it. And now I own it! It's funny how your priorities change the older you get. My roots are very important to me now.

From my great grandfather James Herald who in the 1850's farmed 40 acres in North Plains Township, to my grandfather Edward (Ned) Herald who was caretaker for St. John the Baptist Parish, to my mother Rose Herald Dyke who taught in rural schools – to me, and the present. There is a sense of pride to me for being from the village of Hubbardston. Now I am a home owner and my circle is complete.

I want to thank my Aunt Billie Herald Cunningham for letting me stay with her and telling me about the Hogan sisters; Bertha and Clara. I want to thank Janet Nurenburg Dailey for sharing stories about Clara Hogan and what a wonderful neighbor she was. Thanks to Pat Baese for finding the plot map of the house, pictures of the Hogan sisters, letting me call her and answering a million questions. And also my two sisters, Cheri Velliky and Nancy Poulin for not letting me give up my dream; telling me to hurry up and get it done so that they can stay there. Bill Cunningham Construction was my right hand man and I couldn't have done it without him. Pat Hogan put to rest what happened to the tub, toilet, sinks and doors for the inside of the house. I can't wait to meet you this summer. And finally, my great wife Mary, who wants to live the Hubbardston dream with me – summer's only.

As I sit here writing I can't help but think of my late brother, Marshall Dyke who would have been the first one here with all of his tools. We would have had all of the inside walls down by now. He was always ready to help fulfill people's dreams. Love Ya, Bro!

So if in passing by the Hogan house at 221 S. Washington Street you see new life starting to take shape, stop in, say hello, have a cold one and tell me all about Bertha and Clara Hogan.

Your summer neighbor from Phoenix, Arizona, Dennis Dyke.

*Denny is the son of Rose Herald Dyke (sister of Bernita (Billie) Herald Cunningham) and his family spends time each year visiting Aunt Billie at 618 S. Washington Avenue, the Gilleo-Herald family homestead. A warm welcome Denny, and you'll find great people, unexpected excitement from time to time, beautiful lazy summer days and an amazing number of activities for a little 'burg' like Hubbardston. Thanks for your contribution to the HAHS newsletter. Ed.*

For those of you interested in designation and/or preservation of historic buildings or sites, this is an excellent web-site for information:

<http://www2.cr.nps.gov/tps/care/goodguides.htm>

Today I wish you a day of ordinary miracles: A fresh pot of coffee you didn't have to make yourself. An unexpected call from an old friend! Green stoplights on your way to work or shop! A good sing-a-long song on the radio, and your keys right where you look! I wish you a day of happiness and little bite-size pieces of perfection that give you the funny feeling that someone is smiling on you. I wish you a year of peace, happiness and joy. (Berta Nieman Lalomia, Jackson, Mi.)

## "Land Records in Ireland" by Kyle Betit

Many of our Irish ancestors were tenant farmers or leased their land from a landowner, or indirectly from a 'middleman.' There could be several layers of middlemen engaged in subleasing, between the individuals who actually owned the land and your ancestors. Landholding arrangements affected economic prosperity, the nature of farming, inheritance and emigration patterns. One type of lease common in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, having great potential for genealogy information, was the "lease for lives." A "lease for lives" stays in effect as long as the specific person(s) named in the lease is still living. The "lease for lives" was also important because if you held such a lease and your land was of enough value, you had the right to vote as a "freeholder." You can find extensive information about freeholders and voting records on these web sites: <http://ireland.progenealogists.com/freeholders.htm> and <http://globalgenealogy.com/globalgazette/gazkb/gazkb68.htm>. One of my favorite web sites is [www.irishabroad.com](http://www.irishabroad.com). This site gives you a variety of interesting choices of information.

Our prayers are offered in loving memory of Alexander Fife, five years of age, grandson of HAHS Charter Members Bill and Judy Fife. Alexander was issued his heavenly angel wings on December 17, 2004. "And he shall gather the lambs in His arms and hold them close to His heart." "I have set a rainbow in the clouds and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and thee and the earth." Genesis 9:13.

**It takes a minute to find a special person, an hour to appreciate them, a day to love them, but an entire lifetime to forget them. (Joy Eiseler, Laingsburg, Mi.)**

Mildred B. (Kochensparger) Esch, 84, passed away October 18, 2004 at her home. She married Arthur Esch on June 8, 1940. She was a dedicated wife and mother who loved sewing and cooking for her family. She was a member of St. Martin De Porres Catholic Church in Perrinton, Mi. She is survived by a son, Fred and three daughters, Rosemary Randall, Rebecca Krouse, and Virginia Erickson; 15 grandchildren, 27 great grandchildren, a sister Jennie Ludwick of Muir and many step- great- grandchildren. She was buried in St. John the Baptist Cemetery. Memorials may be sent to Carson City Hospice in Mildred's name. She was a beautiful lady, a wonderful friend and a Charter Member of HAHS.

**It's time to renew your memberships for the 2004-2005 season. The due date of your membership is on your address label to the right corner. One year-\$15. Five years-\$60, with one year free. Keep your newsletter coming by renewing before the end of January.**

### **Carson City Library Renovation Complete**

A contribution to the Carson City Public Library, a non-profit organization, is considered a charitable donation and is tax -deductible. We are currently urging library supporters to make a contribution to our "Funds for the Future" to help ensure a secure future for our library. Look for the names of our generous donors in the "Book Marks" section of the Carson City Gazette. For more information, e-mail the library at: [car@llcoop.org](mailto:car@llcoop.org) (Beth O'Grady, Carson City Library Director).

### **We Salute Our Special Senior Friends**

Louisa Weitz is a pre-schooler at Palo Elementary in Ionia County. For 'Make a Difference Day' she baked some decorated sugar cookies and took them to her great-great grandmother **Gerry Boomer, who was 101** years old on October 27, 2004, and lives in Hubbardston. Gerry is in terrific health and makes it out to the local activities.

**Jeremiah "Jerry Burns" celebrated his 86<sup>th</sup> birthday** on December 18 with a card shower in his honor. He had three of his seven sons visit him for the day and along with his wife of 60 years (on May 8, 2005), **Louise Koenigsknecht, (who was 87 on April 4)** had a beautiful birthday celebration. Jerry has been a community volunteer and civil servant for most of his life. Louise is always the sweetest lady ever. They're the best friends anyone could have!

**Mary Catherine Hogan Sheaffer, was 86 on August 15,** still lives independently, takes care of the lawn machinery, makes it to church every Sunday and is full of energy. **Ed O'Connell** of St. John the Baptist Parish also is 80 and a regular at church functions. Rose Keiffer is 91 years old and Elda Bohlen is 90 years of age. Both are members of St. Mary's parish in Carson City. But I can't forget my faithful choir member, **Rose Cunningham Clark who is 81** and our cheer leader. No one loves choir more than Rose. She and her whole family are HAHS members.

**Rosaline McMillan, was 83 on March 2** and is a faithful member of HAHS. Both she and Rose were beautiful models for our Fall Social at the Tuscan Masonic Lodge.

**Josephine Heliker Burns was 90 in August,** lives alone, takes good care of herself and is current with all of the news. She tells me she really enjoys the newsletters.

**Ford Burns, Carson City Funeral Director until the 1960's is now 92** years old and in perfect health with wife Lucille by his side. They are both charter members of HAHS. They are out and about and enjoying every minute.

Living in Crystal, Michigan, **Andy Sayers celebrated his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on October 30 in excellent health.** He still maintains his four acre lawn, picks up leaves with his lawn tractor, and weeds around his pond. To satisfy his sweet tooth he makes pecan rolls and no bake fudge. "I've had one tremendous life - and that's only the first hundred years. Who knows what will happen in the second hundred?" he said. He was married almost 70 years to Helen Jones Sayers who died in 1998 at the age of 95. With no health problems, perfect blood pressure and a good memory, we wish Andy Sayers Godspeed!

**Helen Burns, another charter member of HAHS was 97** years old last spring and has for a regular visitor, her younger sister **Frances Burns Hybarger, age 89.** Maybe it's the weekly visit and a few 'euchre' hands that keep the mind pert. Frances drives from Lake Odessa to Hastings to see her sister.

**Louis Herald celebrated 90 years in April, 2004.** He lives alone, is very active and enjoys visits with his friends.

**Father "Bill" Reitz** gave us an example of "commitment to profession" when he **retired from his weekly "priestly duties" in September. He will be 85 on January 22, 2005.** He is living at St. Ann's Home in Grand Rapids and attends every church event in Hubbardston and Carson City thanks to Pat and Janet Riley Burns and John and Sharon Churchill Schafer.

**Carroll O'Connell,** the senior member of St. Mary's Parish in Carson City **celebrated his 95<sup>th</sup> birthday** and continues painting beautiful pictures. He and wife **Virgie (84)** take good care of each other. **One favorite activity over the years at the local KC monthly meetings was a game or two of euchre with good friends. Carroll, Jerry Burns, Ed Herald and KC Chaplain Father Reitz made up the foursome.**

I know I will miss some of our seniors, but you know we love you all and give thanks every day for your good health and the many contributions you have made to your communities. Readers send me the info I have and I welcome your input for our newsletter!

How do these seniors keep going? We lost our dad, Joe Burns at age 96 in 1996. A visit to the doctor at age 95 determined a heart valve problem. He told me, "I need new parts and they don't have my model!" Our mother, Eva Welsh Burns was two months into her 99<sup>th</sup> year when she died in February, 2000. I remember her so well saying, "When I sit up on the side of the bed each morning, I swear I'll never take a step - and the first one just about kills me, the second step is easier and then I know I can make it through another day." Do you suppose it could be this clean cold Michigan air that promotes such longevity? Or is it just good plain hard work! God bless all of you and continued good health.

**Bob Hope on turning 90: "You know you're getting old when the candles cost more than the cake!"**

**Bob Hope on turning 100: "I've done benefits for ALL religions. I'd hate to blow the hereafter on a technicality!"**

During a church service the minister paused and said, "Brothers and Sisters, we are in great difficulty; the repairs for our roof will cost twice as much as we expected and we need \$4000. Any of you who can pledge \$100 or more, please stand up." At that moment the substitute organist played "The Star Spangled Banner." And that is how the substitute became the regular organist! (Jack Billings)

### **The "Gaelic Tradition" Is Alive in Hubbardston**

When Shaun O'Grady married Beth Bunning, we knew they were a perfect couple. But when their first baby arrived, we realized that the heritage was blessed with a boost. Their little daughter was named Aoife (Eefa), and a beautiful child she is. In October, their first son arrived and his name, Oisín (ah-sheen). If you have read any of Morgan Llewellyn's books on Irish history, you well know the stories of these persons in Irish lore. Congratulations and 'Right On' Shaun and Beth. Your Irish grandmothers, Loretta O'Grady Cowman and Mayme Stoddard O'Connell are smiling in heaven, I'm sure!

## **We Take A Look Back - Pewamo!**

"Maybe we ought to give it back to the frogs.

That was the opinion of Pewamo's first businessman, Hiram Blanchard, regarding the site of the little village located along the tracks of the Detroit and Milwaukee Railroad. Pewamo's early history was mostly a story of determination overcoming handicaps. The lure of the rich farmland brought settlers to the Clinton area in a steady stream. In those days, hardwood forests were lumbered off or systematically burned to open up land for farming.

The first settlers around Pewamo, John Gee and Thaddeus O. Warner of New York State arrived about 1834, meeting William Hunt and William Burgess in Lyons. Hunt served as a guide to find a suitable location for a farm. Much of the land was a swamp and difficult to traverse. Gee returned to New York, sold his property and returned to Pewamo to set up a saw mill on Stoney Creek, just west of the present village. Much of the lumber produced here was used in early construction in the area.

With the coming of the railroad, Pewamo blossomed into a village. The location of the depot and fueling station doomed any other villages planned nearby. In 1857, Hiram Blanchard built a store and a house. That same year A.F. Bell, one of the early purchasers, surveyed the village. Bell, however did not record the plat until July 25, 1859, the date used to set up the centennial celebration.

Pewamo residents found a ready market for the seemingly inexhaustible supply of hardwood in the area. The railroad was the catalyst for new and improved roads. Over the next decade, the population grew and Pewamo had its first industry, a wagon and carriage factory. A stave factory followed in 1869 and in 1870 a grist mill was founded. By 1857 Pewamo had a post office and twenty years later, the first newspaper, the "Pewamo Plaindealer" was published. Blanchard was moved to say that if the frogs occupied most of the village they might as well have it. Yet, the mounting demand of the railroad for fuel overcame the bad roads, swamps and other swampy drawbacks. Pewamo received its name at the suggestion of J.C. Blanchard who knew an Indian "Chief Pewamo" with whom he used to hunt along the Grand River. Blanchard later met Chief Pewamo while traveling through Canada and the chief was delighted to learn that a village had been named after him in his native home of the Grand River Valley.

Mrs. Daisy Pierce related a humorous story about Chief Pewamo that happened when her husband Byron, as a young lad was on an outing with his family to the Hubbardston Fair in 1873. Chief Pewamo had asked the Pierce family for a ride to the fair. Comfortable in the back of the wagon, the chief began indulging in 'firewater.' He continued to drink from his jug as they visited the various attractions at the fair. Horse racing was always the 'Big Event' of the day. As the race proceeded around the track, the crowd became fearful and apprehensive as they saw the Indian chief standing on the track, giving out loud war whoops as he wildly swung his tomahawk. The horse race was broken up; folks fled to their wagons and took off for home. The Pierce's were hoping to get away without Chief

Pewamo, but he caught up to them and jumped in their wagon. He hadn't harmed a soul, but to the embarrassment of the Pierce's, he practiced his war whoop all the way home.

## **Some Pewamo Trivia**

There is a humorous story about a farmer who came to town with his first automobile after a lifetime of driving horse and wagon. He somehow accidentally drove over Nick Blauwiel who grabbed the bumper and was dragged some distance before the bedraggled driver managed to stop the vehicle. Nick was understandably not happy and he said, "Why didn't you stop?" At which time the farmer replied, "Well, I yelled 'Whoa!'"

## **Stunt Man Joe Winkler**

Stoney Creek Inn, built in the early 1930's was the site of two of Joe Winkler's famous death defying stunts. Word spread and crowds gathered to witness the feats. The story is remembered as this: There was a small building erected especially for Joe's first act. Joe was in the building which had been soaked with gasoline. The plan was; start the motorcycle, then start the fire and get out fast. There was one small problem. When Joe tried to start his motorcycle, it backfired igniting the building much sooner than planned. Joe's quick reaction and exit on his bike resulted in only minor burns. The next act, following, was Joe's jump out of a hot air balloon with his parachute. One minor problem; he landed in Stoney Creek. As remembered by one of the residents, "First he was nearly burned to death and then he nearly drowned." Exciting!

**William Rudd** and his daughter Rose Rudd McCowan started the first funeral home in Pewamo in 1884. John Koster became his partner in 1908, but after several years gave up the undertaking business and started a bakery!

In 1964, the mayors of Pewamo and Detroit swapped jobs for a day. **Pewamo's mayor, Jack Davern, became mayor of a city with 1.6 million citizens while Mayor Cavanagh of Detroit became honorary mayor of Pewamo's 415 citizens.**

On November 29, 1954, there was a special election held to determine whether the village should acquire a water supply and distribution system. Of the 164 votes cast, there were 150 "yeas" and 14 "no". The estimated cost of the project was \$125,000. (Pewamo High School Project, 1997, property of Jack Stoddard)

Go west young man, go west. Did you know that the state of North Dakota led the nation in per-capita personal income growth last year with an 8.8 increase? Personal income grew from \$26,852 in 2002-\$29,204 in 2003. That ain't all bad! (American Profile, Nov.2004)

**Ireland's oldest person Margaret Dolan has died peacefully among family at the age of 111. (Irish abroad.com)**

## **Irish Marriage Blessing**

May God be with you and bless you. May you see your children's children. May you be poor in misfortune; rich in blessings. May you know nothing but God's happiness from this day forward and forevermore.

## Remember 'Corduroy' Roads?

With the frost leaving the ground, it caused the break up of roads in the spring. Buggies and wagons would sink deep in the mud and only the logs laid side by side in the roadbed across the road would allow them to be passable. McKenna Road in the low ground east of O'Brien Road to Hell Street (Cowman Road) was an example to be experienced into the 1940's. Sections of Cowman Road North give your car a jousting even today with the spring break-up. In those days the road building crews included friends like Harold Cunningham, Phil Rogers, Peter McKeone, and Matt Dailey. Borden Road west of Hubbardston was a jolting experience until the mid 1950's. Highway 57 west of Carson City was a gravel road 'chatter bump' catastrophe into the 1940's. Joe Burns, being a rural 'cream carrier' for all of the counties covered by Dairyland Co-operative Creamery in Carson City, had every one of these troublesome roads memorized and avoided them like the plague in early spring. Cell phones didn't exist and wrecker service was a premium as well as cost prohibitive. Think about 'corduroy' roads the next time you experience a 'pot-hole' and thank your lucky stars that's all it is!

### Notes from readers:

The picture you directed me to on page 96 – I took of mom and Elaine (Dailey Lutz). If you can read the inscription on Auntie's sweatshirt it says "First Impressions" which I was a 50% partner in a tack shop in the 1980's. Oh, how time flies, but thanks for including it. ...thank you for the signed copy of "Hubbardston Genealogy." Anyway, thanks for being a part of my life. (Gerry Ellen Cunningham, Holly, Mi.)

Thank you, thank you so very much for your thoughtfulness and kindness. The pictures are wonderful. I will treasure them, and the stories also. I did not receive these pictures until Tuesday after the meeting. Sam and I took a ride to meet with Maureen Arens and we visited Hubbardston on August 27, 2004. I am planning to return sometime before the snow falls. I would like to visit with you. I will let you know. You probably know that my Aunt Bertha and Clara's home has been sold. How great for it to be loved again. I enjoyed visiting Hubbardston. It brought back some childhood memories. I walked across the bridge and visited the cemetery. I am also still enjoying your books. (Berta Nieman Lalomia, Jackson, Mi.) *Alberta is Virginia Hogan Nieman's daughter. Virginia died hours after Berta was born. Dennis Dyke son of Rose Herald Dyke purchased the Hogan home in the summer of 2004.*

Enclosing my membership renewal. I enjoy reading the newsletters. Keep up the good work. (Dick Burns, Rolling Hills Estates, California)

Thanks for contributing to the Montcalm-Ionia Magazine. I had just returned a book on Mackinac Island, a beautifully illustrated book in watercolor, when I opened the new issue and found the Mackinac Island Fudge recipe. At the end of the story, the boy and his family had bought fudge to take home. I hadn't ever heard before that they call tourists there "Fudgies!" When I saw the recipe I decided this would be a good extension on the book, something he and I could do

together. He sometimes gets lost in the middle with two older and two younger siblings. I gathered the materials and tonight he and I shooed everyone else out of the kitchen and made fudge. He stayed right with me, stirring and watching the whole time...I hope this will be a brick in a whole houseful of good memories for him. (Barbara Ford, Greenville, Mi.)

Your special gift (of money for our new windows) was appreciated very much. Thanks for being so thoughtful. The brothers of the Tuscan Lodge #178 wish to thank the Hubbardston Area Historical Society for the donation for the window in the renovation of the lodge, the former Hubbardston Methodist Church. Members of the lodge have installed the windows in the lower level. Feel free to use the lodge building at anytime. It makes a community stronger when groups work together. (Karl Harter, Secretary, Tuscan Lodge # 178, Hubbardston, Mi.)

Enclosed is my check to renew and cover membership for the next five years. I really enjoy the newsletter and each issue stirs memories of growing up in Hubbardston. We really were blessed and surrounded by so many loving people. Thanks for all you have done to foster these memories. (Jeanne Cusack Berry, Bloomfield Hills, Mi.)

We are enjoying the genealogy book very much. Gratefully, (Florence Behan, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.)

I am sorry I have not written to you soon. I have lots of excuses but none are valid. Accept my check for \$100 for my dues and book and use the rest to further the great work you people are doing. Regards to all. (Ken O'Grady, Spring Lake, Mi.)

What great information! Talk about detail. Thanks for the book. This will be enjoyed by generations to come. (Dave Cowman, Caldwell, Idaho)

Thank you so much for sending my book. I really enjoyed reading it. I was hoping to get to Hubbardston this summer, but with the kids out of school, there has been too much going on to allow me to take the trip. I will try to get there in September. Thank you again for all your fine efforts to tell us the story of our beloved Irish ancestors who sacrificed so much to preserve the faith and pass it on to us. (Ray McConnell, Saginaw, Mi.)

I'm killing three of four birds with one stone. Pay my dues (five year) and I have to get that newsletter. I read every word of that last one; sending you the nice article about our son Steve; and a Christmas card. A real 37 cent bargain! We're doing quite well. I'm doing cardiac rehab three times a week, helping Helen with the cooking which I enjoy and generally happier than ever with life as it is. I still can't believe all the happenings that are reported in your newsletters in that sleepy little town on Fish Creek. Our love, (Bonny and Helen Burns, Michigan City, Indiana)

I really appreciate the updates in the Hubbardston Area Historical Newsletter and the Genealogy Book. I am the youngest son of John Joseph Fahey, brother to Jack Fahey, Mary Belen, Sheila Churchill, Bob Fahey and the late Patty Sheaffer. I graduated from St. John the Baptist High School in 1961. From 1962-1966, I was in the US Air Force serving in Turkey and Omaha, NE. From 1967-1996, I served with the Michigan Dept. of State Police. I retired in 1996. I am Past President of Michigan International Association of

Arson Investigators and currently a Private Investigator investigating fires for insurance companies across the states of Michigan and Ohio. Now, the reason for this letter. In your last newsletter you have an article from Maryrita Weiss from Grand Rapids, Mi. Her great-grandfather (James T. Fahey 1862-1939 and my great-grandfather Dennis M. Fahey 1864-1932 are brothers. That would make us some sort of cousins. I need to make contact with her. Thanks in advance. **(Jim Fahey, Lapeer, Mi.)**

I feel like the mad hatter. I'm late, I'm late. Two fishing trips to Canada and working on my son's (Scott) home in Wheaton, Ill. helped put things on the back burner. I enjoy the newsletter and I'm looking forward to reading the "Blarney Book." You go girl! **(Mike Burns, Muskegon, Mi.)**

Agnes (Cusack) sent the book to me for my birthday and I was so fascinated with it, it was a couple days before I put it down. My brother Hank Cusack who is 87, picked it up one day while he was visiting me and he didn't want to leave it so I ordered one for him, too. You've done a great service to all of us who grew up in that wonderful Irish tradition. So many great memories! Keep writing. You do a great job. I also loved the book, on St. John the Baptist church where I was baptized, confirmed, made First Communion, Confirmation, attended 12 years of school and was married in that beautiful country church. Thanks for preserving our heritage for us. We were given a great birthright from our fore-fathers and I'm so happy someone is capturing it in print for coming generations. **(Juanita Cusack Quinn, Tulsa, Oklahoma)**

I'm sitting here listening to Ford's (Burns) tapes. They are so great. It is so wonderful to have friends and relatives who work so hard to create a great future. Hubbardston is so blessed. Charlton Park is doing an archeological dig where they believe there was a two room building which housed the Methodist Church. I've been invited to come out and dig with them. There is lots of poison ivy around. I'm undecided but we'll see. It seems a Rev. Hickey ministered to some 40 Indians till 1855. Charles Wizack of Ann Arbor, maybe spelled Wussert, has written an Indian History. Thanks for a great day at your home. **(Mary Stoddard Caris, Hastings, Mi.)**

Please renew my membership in the HAHS. Your newsletter is wonderful. When it comes, I feel as if I am holding a piece of Hubbardston and 'Home' in my hands. It was such fun growing up in Hubbardston. Our visits home are wonderful. My husband, LaDell enjoys the newsletters as much as I do. Thank you so much. **(Mary Jo Cusack Goodroad, Brandt, South Dakota)**

I'm a bit tardy in getting my renewal fee in. Every issue of HAHS is a joy to receive. It's amazing how many people far and wide have had ties with the little town. Since I am way over here on the west side of the state, I don't get back to Hubbardston very often but do hold precious memories of it. In Christ's love, **(Fr. James Bozung, Spring Lake, Mi)**

I am signing up for five years because I forget to renew. Besides, I learn so much each time the newsletter comes. Just think of everything I would miss. Yes, the Mrs. Joseph Lawless is my grandma. She and Grandpa lived with us most of my life in Ionia. I do not know Jane Bower, but Jane is a strong name in our family; in fact I have a sister

Jane. Do you have any way I could get a copy of the picture she spoke of? I would love to see it...Once again let me tell you how good it was to see you this summer after fifty plus years. Oh, do you remember Vera Hartwig, who lives in Portland and was teaching about the same time you were? Her mom, Ella Lawless was also a sister of Agnes Bower. Small world? Keep in touch. **(Joie Spencer, Muskegon, Mi.)**

I will put a check in the mail today for my books. My mother is 84 years old. I am enclosing a picture. My grandmother Mary O'Connell McConnell is the first woman in the bottom row. She would have been 22 years old. The rest are her classmates at eighth grade graduation, taken in 1907 before she married Raymond P. McConnell. Mom has very fond memories of her life in Rosebush, Mi. and I have been listening carefully to her stories these past few years because it seems that her generation is slowly disappearing. There are only three of the ten children left in the McConnell family – my mother, Ray McConnell's dad, Richard, age 73, and their sister Virginia Cotter, 86. As kids we would travel to Michigan every summer and have a big McConnell family reunion. They all have been very dear to me and I am so interested in their lives only wishing I had figured that out years ago. Anyway, I am extremely grateful to you for all of your hard work and I know both my mother and me (and my four siblings) will thoroughly enjoy your book. Thank you, thank you, thank you! **(Mary Pothén, Minneapolis, Minn.)**

### **Clinton County Historical Society**

The Clinton County Historical Society located on Brook Road in Dewitt Township, just north of Lansing, has been in official operation since 1980. Previous to that, a group of interested genealogy and history buffs met for years in private homes until they finally got organized and founded the present Clinton County Historical Society. They are open two days a week – Monday and Tuesday from 9:00 am-4:00pm. Their resident genealogist is present only on Tuesdays, their busiest day when they have four or five member volunteers on hand to assist visitors. They are open on Thursday and Friday from 2:00pm-6:00pm with two volunteers who spend that time filing, categorizing and updating new materials. Kim Sperry, Treasurer, and Carole Henry attended the HAHS Annual meeting in Hubbardston in May, 2004, purchased our recent parish history and genealogy book publications and told us about their operation. They are now receiving our newsletters at their official mailing address: Clinton County Historical Society, P.O. Box 174, St. Johns, Mi. 48879. When queried about the business activities of their society, the reply was, "The biggest job is filing materials and keeping materials up-to-date and available to visitors." That is the prime purpose for the Thursday and Friday operation.

It is hard to understand how a cemetery raised its burial cost and blamed it on the cost of living.

A fine is a tax for doing wrong. A tax is a fine for doing well!  
I started out with nothing and I still have most of it.

It is said that if you line up all the cars in the world end to end, someone would be stupid enough to try and pass them. Middle age is when broadness of the mind and narrowness of the waist change places. People want the front of the bus, the back of the church and the center of attention.

### **Potter's Field, St. John the Baptist Cemetery**

On a Sunday in October, about 30 people gathered to witness the blessing of the infant's burial sites north of St. John the Baptist Cemetery. Gary and Bernadette Fletcher, Pat and Don Baese, Darryl Schafer, Nancy Woodcock and a committee of workers under the tutelage of former sextant Gene Bozung, opened a path, installed beautiful bronze statues of children in playful poses, reset the two adult monuments and cleared the area of debris without disturbing the beautiful rustic setting where dozens of 'babies in distress' were laid to their final rest previous to pre-natal and well-baby centers being established. Without the 'saving waters of Baptism' the infants were given a special place of internment. This summer, when the beauty of nature is at its peak, take a stroll just north of Cliff O'Grady's lot and journey through childhood as you walk the trail to the burial plots. It has to be consoling to the families to know their deceased infant siblings, located in this more remote location are now included in the consecrated St. John the Baptist Cemetery, a change since Vatican II. Special thanks to Parish Administrator Nancy Woodcock for her caring concern and leadership on this project. (See the complete story of 'The Potter's Field' in [St. John the Baptist Parish on Fish Creek, the Beginnings](#), by Joanne Howard, 2001)

### **Barns of Bloomer**

Presented by Tom Haradine for our October, 2004 Meeting, this was enlightening, filmed in color and documented completely. It entailed many years of work and some delicate strategy to enter and film all of the farms in the area. They dealt with very cooperative people. The goal is to salvage some of the local Americana. The trend today is pole barns and huge round bales of hay and straw. The small farm of yester-year is passing. Farms today have to be a managed business to be financially sound. Therefore, saving the barns is one small effort in an attempt to save a "look of the past." The story of the harvesting, filling the rafters, roping the pulleys, record levels of hay per wagon, dealing with impossible heat, insulating with bean-pods, foundations of strategically placed rocks, storage of oats, and staunching cows for milking before the hey-day of the 'super farms' all involved having good sound barns. Many tales of the shenanigans acted out (just to have a break in the back-breaking labor), growing up on the family farm make sweet memories and tall tales. Thanks Tom for a wonderful story and it was so-well illustrated. The visitors and members alike thoroughly enjoyed your presentation.

### **Close Shave**

The November-'Holiday' Historical Society Meeting was delightful. "If anybody is scared of blood, please leave," barber Allen "Punk" Kelly advised as he brandished his straight razor. No need to worry! Punk Kelly has 42 years of experience as barber of Carson City following in his father's footsteps. Stan Kelly began the barber trade in Carson City in 1943 inside the former Carson City Hotel. "Tonsorial Delight," a straight razor shaving demonstration on Duane McCracken of Crystal and Bud Howard of Sheridan, proved to be bloodless. Kelly brought with him a collection of barber paraphernalia including the booklet, "Laws and Rules Governing the Practice of Barbering" containing regulations going back to 1893, and an ancient cash register weighing about 50 pounds which registered up to \$1.90. Kelly's Barber Shop in Carson City still has barber chairs from 1929, which he re-chromed 15 years ago. He remembers when the price of gasoline was 16 cents and a haircut and shave were "two-bits" - 15 cents for the haircut and 10 cents for the shave. Today the price has risen to \$10 a haircut and \$9 a shave.

The oldest man Punk ever shaved was 104. He told of cutting hair in prison cells, homes, bedsides, hospitals, funeral homes and morgues. "I've had kids wet their pants in the chair. I've had kids hit me. I've had kids with nosebleeds. But I've done more damage to myself than to any of my customers." Kelly had bowls of steaming hot water to prepare the 'hot towel' application prior to the shave, and lots of soapy sudsy lather to brush on before the shave.

"Don't talk when he gets up close to your neck. And don't swallow because of your Adam's apple," advised Bud Howard who was the second customer of the evening.

The audience was treated to 'chocolate and pecan delights' with their coffee and hot chocolate to celebrate the 'holiday' meeting of the year prior to the business and entertainment session. Tables were filled with a display of everything imaginable related to the early barbering years. Our exciting young Carson City Gazette editor, Elizabeth Waldon stopped by with her photographer from the Greenville Daily News. The result - participants in the 'close shave' demonstration have been royally besieged as a result of the publicity. Our appreciation to Barber Allen Kelly for a great program!

### **Exceptional People, Exceptional Medicine**

#### **Stephen Burns, MD, Board Certified in Orthopedic Surgery.**

Sports have played a significant role in Stephen Burns's life. It began in grade school and continued at Marquette High School where he lettered in baseball, basketball, cross country, and track. Later he played baseball at Notre Dame. As an orthopedic surgeon, Dr. Burns enjoys giving back to young people as they pursue their passion for sports.

Each Saturday morning, Dr. Burns tends to aches, strains, and pains of young athletes at "Bump Clinic." He adapted this tradition from his days in residency at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit. Athletes are examined on a first come-first serve basis, at no charge. Many evenings during the school year, you'll find Dr. Burns at a high school sporting event. Close to the action, he is ready to tend to injuries or emergencies - just in case.

Dr. Burns believes that sports can reinforce real life lessons. "Sports teach young people how to follow rules, manage time, and contribute as a team member. Sports also promote overall health, as well as healthy competition," he says.

At courtside, in the training room, or the operating room, Dr. Burns strives to be the best. His competitive fire and drive for excellence were nurtured through his experiences in sports. He selflessly gives back to the community that he acknowledges has given so much to him.

As both a physician and role model for young athletes, Dr. Burns is proof that exceptional people are truly the best medicine. **(St. Anthony Memorial Health Centers, Michigan City, Ind. "The Beacher," Dec. 9, 2004)** *Stephen is the son of Bonny (and Helen) Burns of Hubbardston. Raised on the family farm on O'Brien Road, Bonny has a brother, Jerry Burns and sister, Julia Burns Esch. All three are charter members of HAHS and contributing members in all aspects of our historical society endeavors. We truly appreciate their support and loyalty as we develop our plans and programs. Ed.*

### Wedding Bells for Jennifer

We are so fortunate to have on our historical society board, all talented and wonderful people, but in addition, some beautiful and vibrant young people and Jennifer Churchill is one ambitious and capable young lady. Her schedule is amazing and so productive. We are indeed fortunate to have her and others like her. She is a HAHS Media Specialist, works at the Mid-Michigan Health Department, is editor of Ionia Montcalm Magazine, author of 'Wilma's Way' (Lansing State Journal) and submitted a wonderful 'Hubbardston' story to Michigan History Magazine last March. They not only published it, they had pictorials along with it. She is the author of All You Need to Know About Woodworking which is selling fantastically and is available on [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com). So we were so happy for her as she planned her wedding. To acquaint you with Jennifer; she is the granddaughter of Larry and Charlotte (Slocum) Cunningham of Hubbardston heritage and Tom and Lucille (OConnor) Churchill of Carson City.

On October 2, 2004, Jennifer Churchill and Ryon John List of Greenville were married in Millington, Michigan at St. Paul Lutheran Church, about 10 minutes from Frankenmuth. Their reception was at the Black Forest Banquet Center and they honeymooned at a winery estate on Leelanau Peninsula, a log cabin on Drummond Island and a bed and breakfast in Manistique. They both work for The Daily News in Greenville and share a mutual love of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and the books of Michigan writer James Harrison. Her dress was simple and strapless and a gift of her dad from Becker's Bridal in Fowler. Lori Peterson of Ionia played the harp during the ceremony while six bridesmaids and groomsmen completed the bridal party. The most interesting part of the reception was a German tradition Ryon's family always does at weddings, which involved the bride and groom being placed in chairs and hoisted in the air by strong men (hopefully), while a special song is sung in German about lifelong happiness.

### Heritage Album-Pages in Time

This is a wonderful gift idea for any one of your children or grandchildren. You start with the birth of the person to whom it is presented and then go through their lives. Go

back through the generations adding photographs, birth certificates, marriage licenses, land records, military records, etc. and a story that is written about the people from the past. The following is an example of points to include.

"These pages in time will in some way help you to understand how each person portrayed here played a part, large or small, in who and what you have become today, ....Your third great grandfather, 161 years ago brought his young family to a new and strange country. Your great grandmother lost her young husband and was left with five children, plus one on the way to raise. Your great uncle gave his life in World War Two so you could be free. Your cousin died in Vietnam defending our country's standards. Through many hardships, love and laughter these people shaped your life...I hope that through this album you will begin to understand the legacy that they gave you through their lives...develop ultimately a pride in yourself and what you have become." (Bonnie Jackson, Lake Odessa, Mi.)

We all have family stories. Some of them start in this country a long, long time ago and others start here very recently. But they are all important and all of them shape who we are as individuals and as a nation. We all had ancestors in other countries too, and those cultures have shaped us as well. (Adapted from Family Tree Talk, Jim Moses, Sentinel Standard, June, 2004).

Those interested in Membership in the H.A.H.S. should complete the form below and send it with \$15 annual fee for one year or \$60 for a 5 year (one year free) membership, made payable to Hubbardston Area Historical Society. Send to: H.A.H.S. c/o Joanne Howard, Box 183, Hubbardston, Mi., 48845. **Memberships run June through May.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_ ZipCode: \_\_\_\_\_

HomeTelephone: \_\_\_\_\_

E mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

List surnames you are researching: \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: All information may be published in upcoming newsletters unless you indicate in writing otherwise

**Hubbardston Area Historical Society**  
**Bud and Joanne Howard**  
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