



HUBBARDSTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER NUMBER NINETEEN, NOVEMBER, 2006
Box 183, HUBBARDSTON, MI. 48845
WWW.HUBBARDSTON.ORG

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Allen Kelly-Calendar and Fall Social
Bud Howard, Jack Stoddard, Allen Kelly, Shaun O'Grady-Nominations

Schedule of Events

November 5 Sunday Breakfast 8:30-11:30 Post 182
November 11-Veteran's Day-Hunter's Ball
Post 182- 9:00 p.m.-1:00 Open to the public.
November 16-HAHS Holiday Celebration-3:00-8:00 p.m.
Craft Show! Come and get into the holiday spirit!
Everyone Welcome! Meeting held at Parish Hall
December-January-HAHS moves to Community Center
March 22-General Meeting-Open House 7:00 p.m.
Come explore our new Museum Room, Research Center!

Great Gift Idea! Hubbardston Heritage Recipe Collection and Lore -by Joanne Burns Howard and Mary Stoddard Caris, \$14.95 ea. We have limited copies left. Hubbardston Genealogy 1780-1930 by Peter Burns and Joanne Burns Howard, \$29.95. (Multiples-\$15 each) All proceeds go to the Hubbardston Area Historical Society. **Special offer until they run out-both books for \$30.** Order today for Christmas! 400 copies were sold in May. Available at HAHS Museum Room. Or call 989-584-3803 or at HAHS, Box 183, Hubbardston, Mi. 48845

The Senility Prayer

Grant me the senility to forget the people I never liked anyway, the good fortune to run into the ones I do, and the eyesight to tell the difference.

Just before the funeral services, the undertaker came up to the very elderly widow and asked, "How old was your husband?"
"98", she replied. "Two years older than me."
"So, you are 96," the undertaker commented.
She responded, "Hardly worth going home, is it?"



Some of the Simons family from Pewamo at their September 30, 2006 reunion at the Fowler Conservation Club, with HAHS charter members Terry and Mary Ellen Simons Burns. Brother Jake, front right, on his first outing since his tragic auto accident last summer. On the left are Jake's wife, sister Joanne and her husband Jay Schafer (who, by the way was a tenor in my choir at St. Michael's in Grand Ledge for about ten years). We wish Jake continued improvement.

Crafters, Bakers, Story Tellers, please reserve November 16th for the HAHS Holiday Celebration Our show is from 3:00- 8:00 p.m. so 'food' will be available and we can get into the holiday spirit. There is no fee for reserving a table. Call 989-584-3803 to reserve a space. Set-up is from noon-3:00. Bring your goodies to show, to sell, take orders or to eat and socialize. Bring your friends and your cards. 'Irish Raffle' tickets on sale! Meeting and introductions at 6:00.

Hubbardston's New Community Center

What happens when a perfectly good school is standing unused. Ambitious and creative people get on the bandwagon, join the village council and make a change in venue. The school and grounds, nature center and ball field were purchased for one dollar. Volunteer co-chairs are Nancy Burns and Carey Richards with Lynn Bennett Stowell (989-981-6420) as room rental coordinator. Reservations may be made for family, wedding, anniversary, holiday, or other activity rentals after November 1, 2006. There are eight pods and two large rooms plus 3 connected rooms (which will eventually hold the village offices) in the building.

Opening November 14, (and each Tuesday thereafter) Ann Fahey's "Little Tyke's Story Hour" will be each Tuesday from 10:00-11:00 a.m. with Stories, Crafts, and Song. Suggested ages are 3 to 5 year-olds. Parents are welcome and encouraged to participate. Call 989-981-6717 for more info.

The Hubbardston Area Historical Society will occupy the large front east room, **“Two Na Na’s Boutique”** will occupy an east pod and tentatively the Garden Club another. Two west pods are tentatively being considered for Duane Fahey’s High Speed Internet and a Lending Library. There are four pods and one large (former library) area still available. A team of volunteers has the gym open for area youth on a limited, supervised schedule at present. Monthly community and fund-raising activities are already scheduled and with the cooperation and support of the citizenry, the building which your tax dollars built will be a community asset. The building is in excellent condition, has ample parking and is handicapped accessible. Call 989-981-6420 for information about your particular need.

The Pickle Barrel House-Pat Munger

Pat Munger is president of the Grand Marais Historical Society but more important for us to know is that for many years ‘Mrs. Munger’ was the fifth grade teacher at Hubbardston Elementary School. The former staff members meet regularly in Grand Marais as well as locally to sustain their friendship. Thanks to Pat’s enthusiasm and talent, the Pickle Barrel House, built in 1926, is now owned by the Grand Marais Historical Society, has been renovated and opened during the summer of 2005. For more information on Grand Marais, go to www.grandmaraismichigan.com.

When people ask where Grand Marais is, we like to answer by saying, “It’s a little piece of heaven just south of Lake Superior.” This small village first appeared on a map in 1744 when French voyageurs apparently intended to use the idiomatic meaning “Peaceful Harbor.” However, the literal translation means “Great Marsh.” Grand Marais does have a beautiful harbor, but no marsh. The settlement of Grand Marais really began when the government recognized the deep water in the harbor as a safe haven for ships during a storm and established Grand Marais as an official ‘harbor of refuge.’

Lumbering was the first big boom in Grand Marais and by 1890, 177 people lived in Grand Marais. But the town’s population jumped dramatically almost overnight. Alger Smith Lumbering and milling, the Manistique Railroad in 1893 all united to boom the population to two-thousand people. With as many as twenty-two boats in the harbor being loaded with lumber on any given day and on Saturday nights when all the lumberjacks were in town, there would be three or four thousand people. (This is a similar story to our own town of Hubbardston.) By 1915 when the white pine was ‘done’ the companies literally pulled up the railroad tracks as the last trains left town and Grand Marais was a community of two-hundred citizens once more. Soon commercial fishing became the second big boom and by 1920, the economy was much improved but as Lake Superior gave much to the townspeople, it also took many lives.

In the 1920’s William and Mary Donahey arrived, bringing with them the syndicated cartoon that ran in newspapers across the country called “Teenie Weenies!” Monarch Food Company used the cartoon characters to advertise their food. Monarch produced many items including pickles in little

barrels. So in 1926, Monarch Food Company decided to build a cabin size pickle barrel on the shores of Sable Lake as a surprise for Mrs. Donahey. The Donaheys spent six summers in the Pickle Barrel but with the constant flow of sightseers decided to move the pickle barrel to Grand Marais. In 1972 the National Park Service bought most of the lakeshore between Munising and Grand Marais and created Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore. Several historic buildings in town are now owned by the National Park Service including the Lighthousekeepers Museum and the Maritime Museum. The national lakeshore is also home to Sable Falls, Sable Dunes, the Log Slide, Sable Point Lighthouse the two Grand Marais Range Lights...The town is truly a four seasons escape for tourists...Camping in the spring, ‘Splash In On the Bay Fly In’ in June, Fourth of July parade, Music and Arts Festival in August, the hardwoods ‘splash of color’ in the fall precedes the caravans of snowmobiles in wintertime. The second week in February is Cabin Fever Weekend and the Upper Peninsula Dog Sled Championship makes an overnight stop in town. Whatever the season, ‘Grand Marais is nature in abundance.’ (Pat Munger, Michigan History Magazine, March-April 2005) FYI: There is an excellent article in this same issue about Willow Run bomber plant in Ypsilanti. Go to www.michiganhistorymagazine.com

Dream Achieved

From the time she began playing soccer as a four-year-old, Kaitlyn Burns always had a goal: not to let a ball get into the net while she was the goalie in the area youth league.

Kaitlyn, the granddaughter of HAHS charter members Pat and Janet Riley Burns of Carson City, Mi. began playing soccer because her friends did, she loved the competition, and she discovered she possessed a bit of talent.

The North Star Soccer Club is an elite level club made up of girls from Northern Michigan. They compete in the Michigan Premier League (which consists of the best teams and soccer players in the state) from Detroit, Lansing, Kalamazoo and Grand Rapids. Kaitlyn tried out and made the North Star Team (for her age level) when she was in sixth grade and continued with them throughout high school. During her club career she traveled around the Midwest playing in tournaments. In 2004 she traveled to Norway, Sweden and Finland to play. This exposure to quality soccer teams, coaches and cultures provided an excellent education for soccer and life.

Kaitlyn also played for her high school, Traverse City West, for three years. She earned all region and all conference honors as a senior. It was in her senior year that she began to realize that her dream of ‘playing college soccer’ could come true as various schools contacted her after scouting her games. Ultimately she signed for an athletic scholarship to Aquinas College in Grand Rapids. It is a deserved, challenging and exciting reward for Kaitlyn to play for the “Saints” and a profound experience for her parents and family; Bryan and Kristy Burns, Geoff, Rachel and Maire as they sneak away from their duties to watch her play. Right on, Kaitlyn. We’re all proud of you!

Don’t argue with an idiot; people watching may not be able to tell the difference.

Thanks to our members for their recent donations:

Kieran O'Brien-pictures, albums, 1902 treasure
Marilyn Fitzpatrick-1924 scrapbook
1877 Church inventory-remounted by Mary Caris
Billie Cunningham-ancient sewing tools-books
Shirley Allen-Light fixtures from Cowman -Holbrook Store
Bud Howard-refinishing of enclosed glass cabinet
Janet Dailey-Large Dining Table, chairs and Hutch
Don and Sharon Bennett-Treasures from Madeline
Ruth Riley-articles and pictures
Shirley Rinckey-Methodist Church History
Col. Walter "Nick" Geller-Family History and Autobiography
Barbara Rogers Billings-History of the Corey Family and
Autobiography of Iva Hildebrandt Rogers written at age 94.
Jack Stoddard-newspapers, articles and obituaries
Peter Burns-Fish Creek Baptismal records from 1864
Russ Howard-ancient newspapers-huge oak table
Leo Fitzpatrick-family history and posters
Thanks to everyone for their oral history as we visit each week
over lunch. All on display at Community Center Room, Dec. 2006

How come we choose from just two people to run for President and 50 for Miss America?

One Sunday a pastor prayerfully asked his congregation to consider giving a little extra offering in the collection for some much-needed repairs. He told them that whoever gave the most would be able to pick out three hymns. After the collection was gathered, the pastor was shocked to see a \$1000 bill in the basket. He was so excited he told the congregation and asked the donor to come to the altar so he could say a personal thanks. A very quiet, elderly and saintly lady all the way in the back shyly raised her hand and slowly made her way to the pastor. He told her how wonderful it was that she was so generous and asked her to pick out three hymns. Her eyes brightened as she looked over the congregation, pointed to the three handsomest men in the building and said, "I'll take him and him and him."
(Porcupine Press)

Bill Barker-Assistant Principal at Lakewood

Bill Barker is the son of HAHS Charter Member, Geri Wright Barker (deceased) of Clarksville. He is a 1986 graduate of Lakewood High School, grew up in Clarksville and now lives in Lake Odessa with his wife Shari and three children Adam, Olivia and Emily. He earned degrees at Albion and Western Michigan University. His motto, "Maintain an atmosphere where kids can learn and teachers can teach."

Congratulations to HAHS Charter Members Jack and Barbara Billings on their 60th wedding anniversary in September. Happy 80th birthday to Barb on October 15. 'Friends' restaurant, owned by her daughter and family, on 28th St. in Grand Rapids was the party site.

A very sincere thank you to Elberta Gage:

for selling close to 40 recipe books for us in the past two months. Elberta told me, "I just keep six of them by the cash register and I don't have to do a thing. People come in to pay for their produce, pick up a book to thumb through and buy it." Elberta took six to twelve books each week and was always calling to tell me she was down to one and needed more. Now that she has sold so many she said, "Joanne, now I need three more books for Christmas gifts for my family." She would not hear of taking a discount for them. We will miss the Country Basket. Bill and Elberta in their late 60's and early 70's feel the need to cut back. However, we hope that they will continue to be available for goodies and information as they have been all of their lives. You are appreciated, Bill and Elberta.

**Wouldn't you know it...Brain cells come and brain cells go,
but FAT cells live forever!**

Arthritis Remedy-Cure

In an ancient cookbook Mary Genevieve Read, a Charter Member of HAHS found what she was looking for and didn't know it existed. She has had a tough time with back problems in the last few months and feels like most of us do about heavy pain medication. It interferes too much with doing our daily chores including driving. Mary tells me she tried it and it really works.

1 small frozen Concord (purple) grape juice

4 tablespoons. Pectin (Sure-Jell (powder) or Certo

Add water to the frozen grape concentrate to make 1 quart of juice. Stir in the pectin. Store in refrigerator. Each morning drink 4 ounces of the mixture (stir or shake it first).

"Do NOT drink more than 4 ounces," cautions Mary.

Mary told me that after two days she started to feel better. This is very similar to what Geri Boomer drank each morning. She called it "Jogging in a Jar." Geri's recipe called for equal parts of grape and apple juice. She drank 4 ounces each morning. **I'm not saying it works, but Geri died just a few days before her 102nd birthday.** Sounds pretty good to me!

A very old man lay dying in his bed when he suddenly smelled the aroma of his favorite chocolate chip cookies wafting up the stairs. He gathered his strength, lifted himself from the bed and slowly made his way out of the bedroom and down the stairs, gripping the railing for dear life. With labored breath he gazed into the kitchen and were it not for death's agony, he would have thought he was in heaven. There, spread out on the kitchen table, were literally hundreds of his favorite chocolate chip cookies. Was it heaven? Mustering all of his strength his aged and withered hand made its way to a cookie at the edge of the table, when it was suddenly smacked with a spatula by his wife. "Stay out of those," she said, "they're for the funeral!!!" (Janet Dailey)

My sister has a life-saving tool in her car designed to cut through a seat belt if she gets trapped. She keeps it in her trunk. (Jack Billings)



Hubbardston Native and Charter Member Shirley Caesar Allen displays the Irish quilt she made last winter in Florida for a fund-raising raffle to be held May 26th, 2007. Call 989-584-3803 for tickets.

Godspeed, Dear Friends:

Mary Sue Burns Raycraft, 54, died August 21, 2006; born November 29, 1951 in Carson City, Mi., the daughter of Jack and Beulah (Seiferd) Burns. Mary Sue worked for the State Police in Communications and as a Technician for the State of Michigan. She was preceded in death by her son, Nicholas and brothers, Jack (John) and Jim Burns. Surviving are her husband of 26 years, Greg Raycraft and step-children, Wendy (Jeff) Marcero and Paul (Jenny) Raycraft, six grandchildren; devoted and loving sister and brothers, Joan (Paul) Christides, Terry (Vicki) Burns, Denny Burns, Tony (Debby) Burns; in-laws, Ray and Ilene Raycraft, Kelly (Albert) Fifield, Kim (Duane) Bohnet and Susan Raycraft, many nieces and nephews and so many good friends. Mary Sue, Joanie and Terry were frequent visitors to relatives remaining in Hubbardston where they enjoyed good times and lasting friendships. Rest in peace, Mary Sue!

And just three weeks later:

Vicki Burns, Dimondale, MI., aged 58, passed away September 11, 2006 after a long and courageous battle with breast cancer. Vicki was born March 28, 1948 in Eaton Rapids, Mi., the daughter of Dean and Mary (Kinyon) McConnell. Vicki is survived by her husband Terry; mother, Mary Walling; two sons, Sean (Shawna) Burns, Kevin (Stacey) Burns; one sister, Cindy (Jim) Bauerle and four granddaughters. The funeral was held at Palmer Bush Funeral Home, Delta Chapel on September 14 with Father Jim Eisele officiating. A very touching tribute to his mom was delivered by her son and by co-workers who charted her very caring lifestyle.

Irma Koivu McCrackin 84, died Friday September 1, 2006 after a lengthy illness at her home in Carson City. She was born May 25, 1922 to Frank and Seline Koivu, both of whom were immigrants from Finland, in Ramsey, Mi. She attended Bessemer High School and in 1944 graduated from Chicago University with a Bachelor's degree in Nursing and went to work at Cook County Hospital. Irma came to Carson in 1951, became an employee of Carson City Hospital at the request of Don McKenna and stayed for 37 years as Administrator of Nursing on the night shift. She married Joe McCrackin on February 14, 1953. She is survived by her husband of 53 years; three children, Mike

and Jan McCrackin, Maureen and Dave Helman and Tom and Deb McCrackin; and ten grandchildren. A beautiful funeral service with all of the grandchildren participating and memorable tributes by her children, was held on Sunday afternoon, September 3 at Lux-Schnepp Funeral Home. A very special luncheon (Irma planned it herself) was enjoyed at St. Mary's Parish Hall by her multitude of friends and family. Memorial contributions in Irma's name may be made to Carson City Hospice, Schools, Public Library or American Cancer Society.

Life is but a brief moment. The years go by quickly and old age arrives suddenly before we have an inkling. People desire so many things and waste their days in vain. Some yearn for gold, others for power, yet others for glory and a higher station. But when death's moment nears and they look back at the lives they've lived, they realize they have been happy only during those moments when they have loved. (Borje Vahamaki)

Ellen Mulvaney 86, of Lansing passed away on August 28, 2006. She was born in Hubbardston on August 21, 1920 to George and Maggie Smith McKenna. She married John Mulvaney on May 22, 1948 who preceded her in death in 1997 after 49 years of marriage. She was a member of St. Mary's Cathedral Parish, a volunteer at the rectory, Mother Teresa House and Lansing Hospice. Daughter Mary and granddaughter Megan preceded her in death. Surviving are four sons, John (Jan) of Holt, Jim (Judy) of Lansing, Raymond of Dimondale and Brian (Kay) of California; five grandchildren, three great-grandsons, five brothers; Patrick, Lewis, Gene, Bernard, Jerry; and two sisters, Mary and Katherine. The funeral was Friday September 1, 2006 at St. Mary's Cathedral at 10:00 a.m. with burial at St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Mother Teresa House. Msgr. George Michalek preached a beautiful homily citing Ellen's talents and her beautiful life of commitment to family, faith and community. Humorous anecdotes lightened the hearts of the family and friends present to honor the memory of a lovely, very special lady and a loyal friend.

The McKenna family had to endure yet another loss on September 9, 2006, when Walt McKenna's wife Shirley, aged 70, passed away at her home in Mountain Home, Arizona. She was born on December 30, 1935 in Eaton Rapids Michigan to Daniel and Mary Jeremy Shinaver. Walt died in 1978. Surviving are four daughters and six grandchildren. Shirley was one of ten children, all deceased. Burial was September 15, at Chapel Hill Memorial gardens in Lansing.

Jim Burns, 57, of Palo died August 3, 2006. He was the son of Owen Charles Sr. and Mae Braman Burns. He was employed by AFLAC Insurance Co. for twenty-six-years. He married Debra Cobb on November 4, 1972. He worked at the Ionia Reformatory for several years and for the last eight years, he rescued cats. He was preceded in death by two brothers, Daniel and Chuck Burns Jr. and a sister Virginia Burns. James is survived by his wife Debra, six children and three grandchildren. Memorial services were held Sunday, August 6th at the Palo United Methodist

Church. Memorials may be made to the beautiful 150 year-old Palo Methodist Church or the Cancer Society.

Jim and Debra were special friends and caregivers of Elaine Dailey Lutz for years until her death. They were wonderful to her, saw to her needs, took her visiting with them, and carried out her wishes and final plans for her funeral. (We worked together on Elaine's funeral visitation and burial.) Jim was a caring and sensitive soul who endured chemotherapy without a complaint and accepted his short-lived diagnosis with courage. Our sympathy to Debra and his family.

Randy Churchill, 51, died of injuries he received when his ATV flipped on a gravel road during a towing accident at 1:15 p.m. on July 20, 2006. He died at St. Mary's Hospital in Saginaw. Randy was born September 10, 1954 in Greenville to Maurice and Marilee Fields Churchill. He married Alice Schrauben at St. Mary's Church in Carson City on April 25, 1981. Randy was preceded in death by a brother Ron and a nephew Jacob Churchill. He is survived by his wife, Alice; a son Matthew; a daughter Jessica; his parents; brother Gary and Amy Churchill; and sister-in-law Tammy Churchill. Funeral services were held to an overflow crowd at Lux-Schnepp Funeral Home in Carson City at noon on July 24, 2006. Close to five-hundred friends and neighbors who attended the funeral were served dinner at St. Mary's Parish Hall. On September 20, 2006 friends and family gathered for a simple 'spreading of the ashes' ceremony and to commemorate the memory of their good friend, hunting buddy and 'always there when you needed him' neighbor. Our deepest sympathy to the family in their loss.

Joe Riley, 82, husband of Ruth Parks Riley and father of Carol, Mike and Sam Riley died on July 15, 2006. Joe served his country in WWII and was a longtime member of Post 182 American Legion. His complete obituary may be found in the November, Post 182 newsletter.

Jack Stoudt, 87, of Muir and veteran of World War Two left us on September 19, 2006. He and wife Eileen were avid supporters of everything 'Irish'! His complete obituary can be found in the November, Post 182 newsletter.

Patrick O'Brien, nephew of charter member Kieran O'Brien, was called to his eternal rest on Sunday October 22, 2006 after a long battle with cancer. Kieran requested this obituary tribute from 1883.

Mary O'Brien, eldest daughter of Michael and Julia Needham O'Brien was 14 years old when her brother John was born. With 7 children in the family and 4 more to follow in the coming years, Mary immediately felt a strong bond with this tiny new baby. Throughout their lives they remained good friends. After graduation from high school, John decided to follow his older brother, Msgr. James Edward O'Brien into the priesthood and left for the seminary to study. However, John developed Rheumatic Fever, which was untreatable at the time and he died at age 27, at his home on O'Brien Road west of Hubbardston. Before he died, he penned these thoughts to Mary in her

memory book, which were so heartfelt, it seemed appropriate to offer as a prayer for Patrick today.

Dear Mary,
We may write our names in albums; we may trace them in the sand. We may chisel them on marble with a fine and skillful hand. But the pages soon are sullied. Soon each name will fade away. Every monument will crumble as all earthly hopes decay. But there is another album full of leaves of snowy white, Where no name is ever tarnished; but forever pure and bright. In that book of God's Album, may your name be penned with care. And may all who here have written; write their names forever there!
Yours as ever, John O'Brien, July 22, 1883
What is old is new. Love for treasured family never changes, never ends. "What is once loved is ours forever. We take it home in our hearts and nothing – ever – can take it away. (Keisha Cashen read this tribute at the funeral)



Billie Herald Cunningham celebrates her 80th Birthday on September 9, 2006 at Post 182 with her family. The club was filled, the food was delicious and friends had a wonderful time reminiscing with stories, pictures and gifts.

Belding Fills Key Position

Samuel Andres of Belding, son-in-law of HAHS charter member Bea Bozung, was hired as City Finance Director and Treasurer. Andres worked in Greenville for Electrolux (the world's largest refrigerator factory) for nearly four decades. Andres, 58, will receive a salary of \$65,000 and will begin work on November 6, 2006. (Amanda Leitch, Daily News)

Chris Bozung-"Luthier" A Memorable Afternoon

On a very hot Tuesday afternoon in August, 2006, Chris Bozung; a tall, southern-speaking, guitar-picking man; his wife, Dixie and their children Daniel, Hannah and Kate 'wowed' an enthusiastic group of 50-75 Hubbardston Area Historical Society visitors with their music and genial banter in the Parish Hall. Chris is a guitar master craftsman from the Nashville, Tennessee area. Never had we heard a guitar sound so melodious as when he rendered a few songs on his mother, Bea's, hand-crafted (by Chris) creation. Chris started his (own) business in 2002 and now has a 12 month waiting list. He has made about 450 guitars thus far in his career and materials for a basic creation, start at \$650. Style, choice of wood, in-lays, and special adaptations are all part

of his superior technique. His guitars sell for from \$2800 - \$6500. A Roy Rogers tribute guitar bearing Roy's signature sold for \$25,000 and Chris has two more of them in the works. "There's a lot to it, but once you learn, you don't forget it... I've been blessed because the tone I like is a tone everyone likes," explained Chris. He has fashioned many elaborate art guitars for Grand Ole Opry stars Porter Wagoner, Hank Snow, Del Reeves and Billy Walker. He has so many repeat customers, that his days are fully scheduled. His wife Dixie accompanied him on vocals and with her stand-up bass while the 'little ones' were completely at home among the audience. "I never in my life thought I would be doing something like this," Chris said. "I don't know where things are going to carry me." A quiet, gentle man, Chris inherited remarkable creative talent from his father, Alvin and grandfather, Henry Bozung. His mother was his inspiration for learning to play guitar (by ear) as from earliest childhood he listened to her sing and strum her favorite hymns and ballads.

St. Matthews Church in Franklin, Tennessee has been Chris's family church for 15 years. To raise money for parish building and repair projects Chris recently donated his best guitar to date, a D-45 style made with rare Brazilian rosewood with Pearl and Abalone inlays, engraved roses, Ebony bridge and Waverly tuners valued at \$6500 for the silent auction which began on July 1, 2006 and ended on August 1, 2006. The bidding was conducted exclusively by E-mail. It took seven days just to prepare the inlays. Because of his personal attention to detail, Chris is a year behind on his orders. For more info visit www.cbguitars.com on the web.

We all remember how Eve Burns loved the Tigers! On their 70th wedding anniversary, husband Joe said, "She's been managing the Tigers by radio for years!" On Saturday October 21, 2006 as the Tigers faced the Cardinals for the first game of the World Series, grandson Scott Schmitt placed a Tiger flag on his Grandma's grave in tribute to her efforts. . Right on, Gram! Maybe next year!

After starting my diet I altered my drive to work to avoid passing my favorite bakery. But, I accidentally drove by this morning and saw all of those goodies. So I prayed, "Lord, it's up to you. If you want me to have one of those delicious goodies, create a parking place for me directly in front of the bakery." Sure enough, on the eighth time around the block, there it was. God is so Good!

Congratulations to Dr. Joe Burns, son of Charter Members Terry and Mary Burns, grandson of Joe and Eva Burns on his new position as Adjunct Professor of Engineering and Senior Research Director of Michigan Technological Research Unit (MTRI) at Michigan Tech. University. Joe attended Michigan Tech in Houghton Hancock, Mi. for two years, received his B S degree from MSU and completed his post graduate work at U of M. Joe, Patty and their three children; Ian, Mary Margaret and Zachary reside in Ann Arbor, Mi.

'McCree Guest House' Founder-Ginny Smariege

Ginny Smariege lives at Snow's Lake in summer and Florida in winter. Her neighbors are Rita Cunningham Huhn and Sharon Datema. Ginny and Joanne Howard taught fifth grade together in Lansing at Pleasant View School for twenty plus years and are close friends. Ginny has volunteered at the HAHS Museum Room and is a loyal supporter of HAHS. She retired from McCree house in 2005 at the age of 80. In 2001, on the 10th anniversary, she was honored for her 'special efforts' to build and maintain this 'haven for the afflicted.' This is an abbreviated account of that honor taken from the State Journal on September 5, 2001. In her final years there, she counseled parents of terminally ill children. She's one in a million!

It's all in a day's work for the resident manager of the 15 room guest house that serves families of patients at Ingham Regional Medical Center. Ginny Smariege has worked at McCree Guest House for 10 years – as long as it has been open. The house offers a comfortable, affordable place for people to stay while loved ones are in the hospital.

Ginny Smariege became 'House Mother' at McCree House after years of chairing the 'fund-raising' efforts to create the home in Lansing for parents and families of terminal patients. For thirty years prior to her retirement, Ginny taught inner-city schools in Lansing. Always a warm and caring person she naturally accepted an invitation to counsel parents of terminally ill children at Ingham Medical Hospital after her retirement. She saw the need for housing for these devastated parents and true to her nature, took on the challenge. Smariege has been there for each and every one of the ten years the house has been open – and for the fund-raising campaign to make the dream a reality. "She's kind of the heart of the house," said Joan Bauer, director of volunteer services at the hospital. "The smiling, gray-haired great-grandmother feels a responsibility for every inch of the gabled red-brick house."

The retired teacher and mother of three started volunteering at the hospital decades ago, in the lounge where families awaited word of their loved ones in surgery. Her next assignment was working with children who suffered from cystic fibrosis. She over-hauled the ward to meet the needs of all of the children of all ages. "Give me a list of what you want," I told them. "It was mostly TV's, VCR's and videos which were just getting popular in the 1980's."

A counselor suggested selling popcorn to earn money for the equipment. Using a red cart with yellow wheels, she started selling popcorn for 50 cents a bag. "We cleared \$900 in one week," Smariege said. "I made the kids come down with me and help. They came with their IV poles attached. They were wonderful."

Smariege was also instrumental in running the hospital's patio and grill eatery. She was president of the hospital's auxiliary and looking for a project when the guest house idea came up. Joan Bauer, Denise Copen and Smariege teamed up to launch a campaign to raise \$1.8 million to build a house on a piece of hospital owned property. The auxiliary raised \$900,000 with much of the money coming from the hospital's gift shop and the hospital employees donated \$100,000. The rest of the money came from community donations. "We sold everything that we could

sell or raffle off that was legal,” said Smariege. She watched over details as the construction commenced insisting on a two car garage. She wanted each room to have its own bathroom so already stressed families wouldn’t have to walk down a hall to take a shower. “Everything that was going to cost more, I said, ‘I guess we’ll pop corn a little longer,” she said. The centerpiece of the house is its large kitchen, large windows, classic dining room tables and chairs. It has two of every appliance so more than one family can cook a meal at the same time. The cupboard is filled with canned foods families can heat up for a quick meal. Anything in the refrigerator without a label is up for grabs. Families are asked to pay \$30 a night for a room equipped with twin beds and roll-a-ways. Smariege volunteers to do their laundry, other household chores and staffs the house from 7a.m. to 9 p.m. weekdays. Change boxes at local Burger King restaurants raise \$20,000 a year to help keep the house operating. Sparrow Hospital has a Ronald MacDonald House which offers similar services to families of hospitalized children. Smariege is always there for guests, but she says they support each other too. “They come in and say, ‘I just came from ICU, and my husband is in there all wired up and he didn’t know me,” Smariege said. “Invariably, there’s another woman out there who says, ‘Oh, I know just what you mean.’ And they’ll sit there and talk and drink coffee.” Needless to say, Ginny found it very difficult to retire, but at age 80 felt it was time to cut down her daily hours of volunteering.

Visiting with her at Snow’s Lake last summer, I was amazed at the number of people who just happened by on their daily evening stroll to stop in and say hello. Most needed a minute of her time to hash over a concern for ‘whatever’ or to take her for a ride in their ‘golf cart’ for a chat. She has hosted the Pleasant View teacher’s annual reunion on her patio for the past two years. Nothing fazes her. Her flowers are a vision to see and she works on her landscaped mini-lawn every day. “She just seems to draw people to her and always makes them feel better about everything,” Welcome to HAHS, Ginny!

I think a hero is any person really intent on making this a better place for all people. (Maya Angelo)

Letters from readers:

Enclosed is an article about the Shriner’s coming to Grand Ledge. My granddaughter Heather Dwyer Perez just finished her internship at Sparrow Hospital and will be a Physician’s Assistant after Labor Day in Dr. Smith’s office in Grand Ledge. Keep up the good work for the Irish. (John Dwyer, Grand Ledge, Mi.)

Enclosed is my membership for five years. Thank you so much for the cookbook. I have really been enjoying it. I appreciate all your hard work and dedication. God Bless you and all involved. (Bonnie Kilcherman, Edmore, Mi.)

I wish to thank you for remembering us with your new book. I wish also to have you send one to our dear friend, Lorraine Cowman in Chesaning. I am sure she will be delighted as we were to receive it. I recently celebrated my 80th birthday and have been blessed with some of the afflictions which accompany these ‘golden years.’ Give Bud our regards. “How is that paving project going?”

(Ken O’Grady, Spring Lake, Mi.)

The projects to raise the thousands necessary for paving the Post 182 parking lot before winter sets in, continue. Thanks to you, Ken and others like you who have made a significant contribution to help the club achieve its goal.

The lotto and Fish Fry Dinners and raffles of various types are building our fund nicely. One day soon we hope!. (Ed.)

Thank you so much for your kindness in sending the Hubbardston Genealogy which arrived yesterday and the Recipe Collection which arrived today. Moreover, thank you and Peter Burns, Mary Stoddard and my wonderful cousin Phil McKenna, by marriage, and Julianne Burns for your passion for preserving all things wonderful about Hubbardston, that special place we all share. I’ve read nearly every word of the Genealogy and am learning much about my own family and fondly recall many names that my father Ben, son of Peter McKenna and Alice Rebecca Cusack, would mention. Enclosed are payment for both and my five-year membership in the HAHS to continue your good work. Warmest regards, (Jill McKenna, Suttons Bay, Mi.)

My son saw my book and decided he would like one. Don’t know whether you received my e-mail but I would really like to know about the 1988 Schrauben cookbook mentioned in the piecrust recipe sent in by Ruth Parks Riley. I am really enjoying your cookbook. After I received it, I sat in my recliner and read it for two hours. The history of Hubbardston, Irish culture, blessings and recipes were interesting to read. My husband Lawrence would have enjoyed it. When we went to Ireland, he liked it so much he would have liked to stay there. I enjoyed especially reading the recipes of your mother and Mag Dailey. She came to help me after I came home from the hospital with my babies. My kids loved her dearly, but when she spoke, they jumped. In 1950 Lawrence took Mag and my mother to St. Anne’s in Canada. What a pair! Her wit and story telling was the greatest. They both climbed the stairs on their knees hoping to cure their arthritis. I’ve taken a lot of trips and cruises, but that one was most memorable. She was a dear friend. (Helen Schrauben Kavanagh, Lansing, Mi.)

It was so good to see so many of my old friends on Memorial Day in Hubbardston. Helen and Ray both have health problems but they got to enjoy the afternoon with Dugan and myself for a reunion for what is left of the McGinn family. Marion, with the help of her children put on a five-course meal to the delight of the extended family. We watched the Irish Dancers with special interest as Dugan’s grandchildren participate and they thrilled us with their outstanding talent. Their leader and teacher must be as proud as I certainly was. It was good to see you at the club and reminded me of the great conversations I had with your parents. I always reminded them that I was born in their home by the church in 1922. I got the cookbook and it was great to see the pictures, especially the class of 1939 and that they are all still living. Keep up the good work. (Jack McGinn, Sarasota, Florida)

It was nice that you brought the attention to Chris’s skills. He was quite overwhelmed. We both thank you so much. I learned a few things listening to him, too. (Bea Bozung, Hubbardston, Mi.)

Chris Bozung, your son, is a wonderful person and a terrific talent. It was a joy for all of us to listen to him. We'll probably continue to fill his schedule whenever he visits Michigan. Nice family. (Ed.).

Your books and newsletters are keeping us all together. I hope my kids get infected. Steve's son Patrick played golf with me in a Lion's Club scramble and had the longest drive out of 40 men. I don't play often because of my back but I told them at the club that "If I never play again, I'll die happy because of that drive!" We would like to be there for some of your social events, but let's face it. It gets harder to do. We love you. (Bonny and Helen Burns, Michigan City, Indiana) Again, thank you so much for sending the books. I hope you know how much people enjoy your books and all the work you both have put in to them. Keep in touch. (Joie O'Connor Spencer, Muskegon, Mi.)

Joanne, could you find out for me whatever happened to a chest of ledgers that Clarence Benedict had in his cabin across from the school. Alvin Bozung and I used to visit with 'Peanuts' and he often showed us these log books. They had the temperature and weather of the day; anything that happened or what he was working on at the time and I think they are priceless. Can you track them down for the Historical Society? (Ken O'Grady, Spring Lake, Mi.) *I am working on it as we speak. If anyone has info, please contact Joanne at 989-584-3803.*

My daughter came home from school with the assignment to 'do a family tree.' I got online on ancestors.com, found an Ellen Shiels in Michigan, and a reference to Hubbardston. It led to the web-site and I started reading your newsletters. The ad for the Genealogy Book and the phone number led me to call you. I need all the info I can get. (Marie McErlean Hunter, New Jersey) *Thanks for your interest, Marie. The books and materials have been mailed to you and are on the way. We have Pete Burns and Jack Fahey on this and soon you'll have everything. (Ed.)*

Enclosed is the picture of Walter O'Neil and T.J. Hogan as young men, along with our dues. (Bud McKenna, Okemos, Mi.)

Thanks to Anita Herald Heppard for the Irish Colleen Doll for our HAHS May Raffle and selling the Hubbardston Heritage Recipe Collection for us at her Beauty Shop. Anita is a regular at our prayer service and coffee hour as well, along with Rosie McMillan, Bea Bozung, Janette Sanborn, Helen Tait, Billie Cunningham, Nancy Woodcock, the Kenny Schafer's, Quint and Agnes Cusack, Bertha Toth, Ann and Jack Fahey, Helen Beahan, Agnes Schneider, Mrs. McClintock and friend, Bud Howard, Jack Stoddard, Mary Caris, Marie Sweet, Kieran O'Brien, and whoever happens by for the day. We are so grateful for your interest and loyalty. And the donated items are a treasure!

Overcoming Computer Intimidation

Why can't getting a computer be as simple as pressing a button or inserting a blank piece of paper behind a row of iron keys? Just ten years ago, the internet was fairly new to consumers. Computers were no where near as powerful as they are today. Fifteen years ago computers were rare. Thirty years ago they were something relegated to futuristic novels and science fiction films.

Thanks to recent developments in design and technology, **computers are as just as confusing as ever...** Most seniors enjoy the computer for the e-mail feature which is an inexpensive way to keep in touch with family and friends. Others want to keep up with the world. Here are some helpful websites for seniors.

www.aarp.org –American Association for Retired Persons
www.seniors.gov –First Gov. for seniors
www.govbenefits.gov –government benefits
www.ssa.gov –Social Security Association
www.healthfinder.gov –health information
www.google.com –search engine
www.fraud.org –help identifying and preventing fraud
www.consumers.gov –government consumer website
(Senior Lifestyles, April 29, 2006)

It's hard to make a comeback when you haven't been anywhere. (Wickenburg, Arizona)

Ionian Sentinel Standard- September 11, 1896

Four men hailing from Crystal, drove a wagon into the barn of John Fahey, in Bloomer Township about 2:00a.m. and loaded up 41 bushels of wheat and started for market. Fahey, when he went into the barn that morning, noticed on the floor, a pile of wheat, about a cupful that leaked out of one of those bags when filling and his suspicions being aroused, he looked into the granary and discovered his loss. He at once looked for wagon tracks, sent out the hired man, took Thos. Hogan in the buggy with him, and started toward Ionia. They overtook the wagon at the Prairie Creek bridge, about two miles from the city, greatly to the surprise and dismay of the thieves, who surrendered the plunder and were glad to pay Mr. Fahey liberally for his trouble. No arrests have been made as yet. (Jack Fahey)



Rita Cunningham Huhn presents her father, Harold Cunningham's collection of pictures, articles and items to the HAHS Museum Room display, including his very first drum. With her is Molly Dailey and our resident genealogist, John "Jack" Stoddard on whom we depend for everything!

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